



ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - 16 JUN 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Tomorrow is an important day for our Year 3 pupils as a number of them will be making their First Holy Communion at The Oratory. Please keep these children in your prayers at this time as they receive the sacrament. It is an important time in our liturgical calendar as their First Holy Communion sits between the Feast of Corpus Christi, which we celebrated last Friday with Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, and the feast day of St Aloysius, which we will celebrate with a whole school Mass at The Oratory and the PTA have organised ice lollies for every child in the school to mark the day within our school community.



Thank you to all of the parents who offered their time and expertise to enhance our Science Week last week, the children were keen to share their new knowledge with me as I visited classrooms, and the practical activities engaged our learners and created a real buzz about Science around the school.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, St. Aloysius
Gonzaga, help me to be a saint.

ST. JOHN BOSCO

Our half termly virtues are 'intentional and prophetic' and we have been talking in school about ways that we can share our knowledge with others and make good decisions for ourselves and to help others within our school community. Perhaps you can have discussions as families about how the children can demonstrate these virtues at home as well?

I hope that you have seen the email this week regarding our Summer Term work sharing events and look forward to welcoming many of you into school for these to celebrate your children's excellent work.

Mrs Hannah Tebb, Headteacher

Classroom News

Oak Class have had a strong start to our final term. We loved our trip to the Woodstock Museum last week! We got to try on Roman clothes, view artefacts, and learn about Roman soldiers. It tied in perfectly with our study and led us into the second half of our unit where we are focusing on the impact the Roman Empire had on Britain. We loved seeing the Science posters our classmates made over half term, as well as seeing those brought in by other classes. In English, we have finished writing our brochures about Ancient Rome and are beginning our unit that will culminate with a newspaper report. We have started our unit on shape by looking at the properties of shapes and learning new vocabulary like horizontal, vertical, parallel, perpendicular. In RE, we are anxiously awaiting and preparing for our First Holy Communion on Saturday!



Since returning from half term break, **Tigger Class** have been enjoying learning about minibeasts. We have been on our first proper Outdoor Learning trip to University Park and found some fantastic insects, including a huge stag beetle which caused much excitement! We have been reading a selection of Eric Carle books: 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', 'The Angry Ladybird' and 'The Very Busy Spider.' The children have really enjoyed joining in with the repeated phrases and using puppets to retell these stories with their friends. In free flow provision we have enjoyed making spider webs out of loom bands and lolly sticks, crafting our own insects out of salt dough and pipe cleaners, using tweezers to gather plastic bugs from sheets of jelly and moving our bodies like insects in our PE lesson, including slithering through tunnels, climbing webbed nets and jumping and flapping our wings (silk scarves!) like butterflies. In Maths, we have been moving on from our work on number to studying measure. We have been measuring and comparing the lengths of our hands and feet using different loose parts such as multilink and counters. We worked together to create a class bar chart of this information and hung it up in our role play shoe shop which the children have loved engaging with. At the end of this week, we received a visit from Father Benedict who came to talk to Tiggers about the different aspects of Mass.



Bay Class have shown great interest and curiosity during Science week. The children made lovely posters based on a Science topic to share with other classes in the school. Over the week we conducted partner and class investigations on refraction, mixing oil and water, making a rainbow and the water cycle. In Maths, we have been finding and estimating volume and capacity using measuring equipment. In English, the class wrote different types of poems based on the theme of water. In RE, we are exploring the work of the Apostles, discussing the important message from Peter on the first Pentecost Sunday. We have been looking at how the global temperature has changed over time due to global warming in Topic. The class enjoyed performing at the festival of voices at Dorchester Abbey.



It has been a busy start to the final term in **Fig Class**. The children enjoyed presenting their posters in Science week and they worked hard on their Science projects over half term. They

did lots of different projects about the water cycle, different types of trees and a 'magic water' experiment. They did lots of Science experiments in class too and made predictions about what they were investigating. Some of the investigations they carried out included how to make raisins dance using sparkling water and still water and changing the colour of celery using food colouring. They were interested to see the mould on the lemon which we had left before half term. The children made boats out of tin foil and dropped coins in them to see how many coins it would take to make their boats sink. On Friday afternoon, the children made skittle rainbows! In

Maths, the children have started learning about time and enjoyed using the mini clocks to help them. They have been focusing on telling the time to o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. They have learnt about the minute hand and hour hand on a clock. The children were excited to start cricket on Wednesday morning. They practised throwing and catching and learnt why it is important to always keep your eyes on the ball.



Ash Class have made a fantastic start to the final half term of the academic year! Science Week was an absolute blast for Ash Class. We had the pleasure of hosting several guest



speakers who shared their knowledge on climate and bacteria. Our students were captivated as they participated in a range of water experiments, discovering the joys and surprises that come with scientific exploration. The posters created by Ash Class, ranging from gravity to fingerprints, were truly remarkable and showcased their



enthusiasm for the subject. In English, we have been exploring the art of persuasive writing. They have been crafting compelling arguments on why the Tudor times were superior, using persuasive techniques such as the power of three, rhetorical questions and imperative verbs to convince the reader. Ash Class has been delving into the concept of time in Maths. They have been learning how to convert between the standard 12-hour clock and the 24-hour clock format. It's fantastic to see them grasping this important skill and understanding the concept of timekeeping. In PE, everyone has been engaging in the world of cricket during PE. They have been honing their bowling and batting skills and have even taken on the significant responsibilities of being a wicket-keeper. In Computing, Ash Class has been immersed in the fascinating world of coding and debugging games. They have been exploring the fundamentals of computer programming and applying their problem-solving abilities to overcome challenges. Finally, Year 4 have been putting in tremendous effort to strengthen their multiplication skills and they completed the Multiplication Check earlier this week showing perseverance and determination.



The Fir Class scientists came back from half term full of scientific facts, ideas and numerous questions that we could not wait to explore. Thank you to all those who helped to make posters which we all enjoyed and learned from as the children explained their findings, ranging from facts about space, tides in the Oxford canal and star fish and jelly fish, just to mention a few. In class we took our role as environmental scientists very seriously as we found out about pollution in the Ocean and tried to make our own water filters that would effectively clean dirty water, like the water we see on our trips to the canal. The children



worked in pairs to compare filters made of various materials, such as; sponge, cotton wool, wood chips and sand. They compared their results with each other and then used their reasoning to explain their findings. It was a lot of fun and the children's reasoning and vocabulary was excellent. We also made raisins dance but that one is a magic teacher's secret that they might share with you. In Maths we continued to find fractions of quantities of objects and the children enjoyed our 36 fish tank challenge. Our functional writing detailed our experiment, predictions, method and observations. We are now moving on to explore directional language and placement using half and full turns. This fits perfectly with our Topic pirate map work. We have been very busy with sport as we now have a weekly Cricket lesson each Wednesday, PE on a Thursday and this week Football skills with Miss Pateman on Friday. Miss Pateman has been a valued addition to our class team as she completes a six week teacher training placement. Next week you will receive a letter about



our fundraising initiative in support of CAFOD. The children in Fir class will complete a sponsored, Skip, Spell and Sing challenge on Wednesday the 28th of June in class. The children will spend no longer than 15 minutes on each activity but all donations to CAFOD would be gratefully received.

We welcomed back **Acorn Class** to what is unbelievably the last term of nursery for some! Making the most of the sunshine (and torrential downpours!) and combining with our Science week, theme of 'Water' we have started off the term by exploring 'The Sea'. The children enjoyed experimenting with different objects to see if they would float or sink, predicting what would happen when we added warm water and salt to ice balloons and creating beautiful paintings with ice paints. We certainly discovered not only how useful water is but how versatile! Acorns have been particularly enjoying play dough ice cream making, bubble tea parties, a cool underwater cave and pirate role play along with lots more fun packed provision. Our focus book has been *Rainbow Fish*, a lovely story with a very important lesson to learn in it and the children were able to relate it to their own behaviour in class which was brilliant. In RE, we are learning core stories from the Bible such as the story of Noah's Ark and the story of the Loaves and the Fishes. We are also continuing our focus prayers every day and developing those to include prayers for people the children know, who are in need. In Phonics, the older Acorns have been recapping all the sounds they have learned so far and using those sounds to begin to segment and blend simple consonant vowel consonant (cvc) words. In group times, the children have been enjoying games involving moving to the beat of the drum and practising different voice sounds. They also enjoyed the mark making to music so much that we are continuing with that and enjoyed some big messy paint mark making this time! Our Maths focus has been representing number again following the half term break and I have to say I was really impressed with the knowledge they have retained. We have also been learning what 'subitising' means and playing our very own Acorns bingo! The atmosphere in class has been very lively and energetic in spite of the heat and I was extremely proud of how welcoming they all were to the new visitors on our Open Afternoon. A big well done Acorns!



This week **Willow Class** have been busy brushing up their knowledge in preparation for their transition into Year 7. In Maths we have been participating in lots of fun lessons like creating life-size bar graphs and exploring ratio with squash and water. Fitting with our topic of diversity, Year 6 also spent an afternoon visiting Year 2 to present PowerPoints on their diverse heroes. Their knowledge and enthusiasm was wonderful to see and they were excellent role models for Fig Class.

During the past two weeks Willow Class have been enjoying themselves with their student teacher Miss Cook. In Maths they have been doing things such as: the perfect ratio with squash, a human bar chart and an arithmetic scavenger hunt. Very fun! During English, Year 6 have been writing narratives based on their class book, *Wonder*. In their topic of 'Diversity', they are studying Early Islamic Civilisation and celebrating our diverse heroes with Year 2. Year 6 and Year 5 have started to rehearse their play, *The Wizard of Oz*, which looks promising!

By Ella and Eliza

ATTENDANCE

The Department for Education and OFSTED define 'good attendance' as 96% and above and this is a measure that is used to make judgements about the school during inspections.

Whole School fortnightly Attendance = **96.0%**

As a school, we are developing a traffic light system for monitoring attendance and will share our fortnightly figure in newsletters.

GREEN = 96% and above

AMBER = 92% - 96% *national average

RED = below 92%

We are committed to ensuring that your child receives the best possible education to prepare them for the next stage of their life. Each school day is carefully planned, and each lesson informs a wider programme of learning. Therefore, every lesson really does count. Your child is a valued member of our school community and every day missed is a day lost without them.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 21st June - Whole School Mass at The Oratory - St Aloysius' Day

Tuesday 4th July - Year 5 Work Sharing

Wednesday 5th July - Year 4 Work Sharing

Thursday 6th July - Acorn Class and Year 6 Work Sharing

Monday 10th July - Year 1 Work Sharing

Tuesday 11th July - Tigger Class Work Sharing

Tuesday 11th July - Year 5/6 Performances

Wednesday 12th July - Sports Day

Thursday 13th July - Transition morning

Thursday 13th July - Year 2 Work Sharing

Tuesday 18th July - Year 3 Work Sharing

Friday 21st July - Last day of Term - finish at 1pm

PARKING REMINDER

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM STOPPING ON THE ZIG ZAG LINES OUTSIDE THE FRONT OF SCHOOL OR BLOCKING OUR NEIGHBOURS' DRIVEWAYS.

WE HAVE HAD COMPLAINTS FROM ST MARGARET'S ROAD RESIDENTS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WOODSTOCK ROAD - PLEASE BE COURTEOUS AND THINK OF OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

PLEASE ALSO DO NOT U-TURN IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL GATES, PLEASE FIND A SAFE LOCATION TO TURN AROUND.

OUR PUPILS' SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY.

PLAYGROUND AFTER SCHOOL

AS THE WEATHER GETS WARMER AND THE EVENINGS LONGER, A GENTLE REMINDER THAT CHILDREN **MUST NOT** PLAY ON THE PLAY EQUIPMENT BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL. THIS IS BOTH ON THE BACK PLAYGROUND AND THE EARLY YEARS OUTDOOR AREA.

Fabric Scraps plea!

Mrs Hoetmer is looking for fabric scraps and samples that are not being used. If you have pieces of fabric 20cm or larger, please bring them to Oak Class or the office before **26th June**. Many thanks!



Under 6 to 8
COME & TRY GIRLS' RUGBY
 OXFORD HARLEQUINS
HAVE FUN



ALL ABILITIES ARE WELCOME!

HAVE FUN, MAKE FRIENDS & PLAY RUGBY WITH THE OXFORD QUINS GIRLS RUGBY TEAM.

UNDER 6 TO UNDER 8: DAYS & TIMES
 WEDNESDAY SESSION - 6PM-7PM
 SUNDAY SESSIONS - 9:30AM-10:30AM


LOCATION: HORSPATH SPORTS GROUND, OXFORD ROAD, HORSPATH, OXFORD, OX4 2RR

TO FIND OUT MORE OR REGISTER, EMAIL: GIRLSRUGBY@OXFORDHARLEQUINS.ORG




Come along as often or as little as you like (sessions are free)
 Qualified coaches
 Amazing family friendly rugby club in the heart of Oxford

Under 12 girls
COME & TRY GIRLS' RUGBY
 OXFORD HARLEQUINS
HAVE FUN





ALL ABILITIES ARE WELCOME!

HAVE FUN, MAKE FRIENDS & PLAY RUGBY WITH THE OXFORD QUINS GIRLS RUGBY TEAM.

UNDER 12's: DAYS & TIMES
 TUESDAY SESSIONS - 6PM-7PM
 SUNDAY SESSIONS - 9:30AM-10:30AM

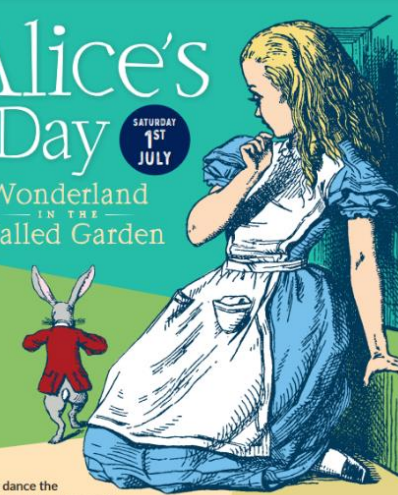
LOCATION: HORSPATH SPORTS GROUND, OXFORD ROAD, HORSPATH, OXFORD, OX4 2RR

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 Qualified coaches
 Amazing family friendly rugby club in the heart of Oxford



Alice's Day
 SATURDAY 1ST JULY
 Wonderland IN THE Walled Garden



Learn to dance the Lobster Quadrille, take part in the Queen's Croquet Match, or find out Who Stole the Tarts with WhatNot Theatre in three unique interactive performances

Scan here to book your tickets 

Performances on the Event Lawn at 11am, 1pm and 3pm by ticket only
 Botanic Garden open as usual
 For more information visit obga.ox.ac.uk

DYNAMOS CRICKET



This is our game.

Calling all 8-11 year-olds!

Dynamos Cricket is the next step for All Stars grassroots or the perfect intro to the sport for those new to the game.

Get involved this summer for 8 weeks of skills, games of Countdown Cricket and fun with friends.

Sign up today, at: dynamicscricket.co.uk

It all starts with... ALL STARS CRICKET



Give your little star an endless summer packed full of fun and friendship

All Stars Cricket is the best first experience for all 5-8 year-olds

Participants receive a personalised kit bag including bat, ball and t-shirt!

Sign up today at allstarscricket.co.uk 

Summer Reading Challenge 2023

Ready, Set, Read!

Get active this summer with a FREE children's reading challenge at your local Oxfordshire library!

8 July to 9 September 2023

Read library books and meet the Ready, Set, Read! friends, who are working together and using their skills to complete an obstacle course.

Finish the challenge and get your own medal and certificate!

Look out for fantastic new books and activities at your library!

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries
www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk





Remember to follow us on Twitter for more regular updates!
@AloysiusSchool

REAL KINGDOMS ADVENTURES



WARRIOR CAMP

Holiday club at Hill End

Role Play adventures

Week 1
 Mon 24th July - Wed 26th July

Week 2
 Mon 31st July - Wed 2nd August

Week 3
 Mon 7th August - Wed 9th August

Fantasy adventures for children aged 7 to 14 years old

9:30am - 3:30pm
 Single day £35.00
 Early Drop-off £10.00
 Late Pick-up £10.00

email info@greendragons.org.uk for more details text 07830084877

