



ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a positive start to the academic year and it has been wonderful to welcome new families to our school community, as well as to welcome back familiar faces. We started the year with a whole school Mass in the hall to celebrate Our Lady's birthday on the 8th September. Our assemblies this half-term are focussed on the virtues of 'Grateful and Generous' and we are talking about ways that we can be grateful and generous, both at school and in our homes.

As we start the new academic year, I would like to remind you that holidays should not be taken during term-time and that any leave in exceptional circumstances forms must be sent to the office at least 3 weeks before the planned absence. Thank you for your support in prioritising good attendance for our pupils. Please also remember that if your child is too unwell to attend school, this must be reported to the school office promptly each day of their absence.

Mrs Hannah Tebb, Headteacher

Classroom News

We have had a great start to **Fig Class** with lots of fun 'getting to know you' activities for the children to settle back into school life. We have been sitting at big tables more to do our learning and having lots of great discussions when we are sitting on the carpet. In English we have been recapping when and where we use capital letters and full stops in sentences. The children have really enjoyed correcting Miss Vernon's mistakes. We have also been planning for our recount writing all about our favourite day during the summer holidays. We have been doing a lot of reading with various books as a class and individually during our book clubs after lunch where the children enjoy reviewing their books and recommending them to the rest of the class. In Maths we have started looking at number lines, why and how we use them. We have been spotting missing numbers on number lines from 0-20 and estimating where numbers will be. The children are looking forward to starting their place value unit next week. We have also started our science unit this week which is animals including humans, the children enjoyed looking at the adult animals and their offspring to then draw and write about for themselves. This week in Year 2 has been lovely and the children have settled in really well after the summer holidays hearing about all their exciting adventures has been very exciting for me and the rest of the children.

A Prayer for the New School Year

Heavenly Father

At the start of a new school year, we give you thanks for the work of all schools

We pray for all children starting at new schools, and for those returning. Help them to explore what they can achieve, and give them confidence to play their part in shaping our world.

We pray for all those who work in schools. Care for them as they care for our children.

We pray for all governors of schools. Grant them wisdom and sound judgement, and help them to keep children's well-being at the heart of everything they do.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

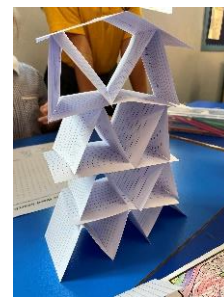
Amen



Bay Class have had a strong start to Year 5! Already we have completed our first DT project where pupils designed and made their own money bags. These will be used throughout the year to hold the classroom money that the pupils earn. We have also made beautiful self-portraits. We did some writing to go along with them connected to the Bible verse Psalms 139:13-14 and children reflected on how they were 'fearfully and wonderfully made'. These are going to make a wonderful display in the corridor! In Maths, we've made good progress into our place value unit, learning numbers all the way up to 999, 999. To start our RE unit on creation, we looked at creation myths from different people groups, as well as the two creation stories in the Bible.

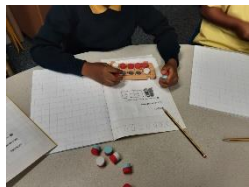
The first two weeks have been very exciting in **Acorn Class** as we all settle into Nursery. We have been so impressed by the children's enthusiasm to explore and learn about their new setting! The Acorns are enjoying playing with new children and starting to make new friends. We have been working on developing our sharing and communication skills through play and the children have enjoyed using resources inside and out. Every day we have been singing songs and reading familiar stories, we are also developing our daily routine and learning how to pray as part of this. Thank you to all parents who attended our 'Meet the Teacher,' if you were unable to attend then please ask a member of staff for the handouts that contain key information about Acorn Class routines and our online learning log, 'Tapestry.'

Oak Class have seamlessly integrated into the new school year showing excitement and exploration. We kicked off the year by engaging in icebreaker activities, where we shared our common interests and collaborated to construct a tower of cards. Oak Class demonstrated great teamwork and learnt new things about each other! Furthermore, in RE, we immersed ourselves in the inspirational life of Mother Mary and marked her birthday with heartfelt activities. Oak Class have also been researching the great work of St Aloysius and have created fact files to present their knowledge. In our Maths lessons, Year 3 have been diving into the world of numbers and place value. They've been busy learning how to partition numbers up to 100, helping them build a strong foundation for more challenging questions. This term has taken us into the enchanting world of "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe." The students have been captivated by C.S. Lewis' writing, describing the front cover in vivid detail, and making exciting predictions about the adventures through the "War Drobe in the Spare Oom". As we embark on our exploration of our new topic, "Rainforests," Oak Class have been utilising their atlas skills to locate places around the world. They are excited to learn about the vital role rainforests play in our world!

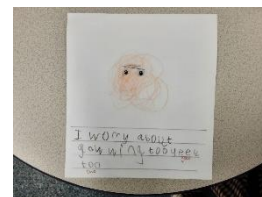


It has been wonderful welcoming the new **Ash Class** back to school! The children are really enjoying their new upstairs classroom and have taken to their new roles and responsibilities really well. In English lessons we started to read our class book 'To the Edge of the World'. The children have looked at maps and located the Outer Hebrides which is where the story is set. We have also been looking at lighthouses and how they work via some non-fiction books in preparation for the children writing their own explanation text next week. In Maths we started with place value; looking at numbers up to 10,000 and making sure we understood the value of each digit. The children then placed numbers up to 1000 on blank number lines. Our topic this term is Rivers, Mountains and Seas. We started by revising knowledge about where Oxford is in relation to other major cities in the UK. Next week we will look at the coastlines of the UK. The children have created some wonderful self portraits with half of the portrait being made up of hobbies, likes and dislikes. We are looking forward to creating a vibrant corridor display with them. During RE lessons this week the children have been thinking about what it means to be created in the image and likeness of God whilst revising the story of creation - some really thoughtful answers. A very busy and productive first 9 days of term!

The **Fir Class** children have had a busy first few weeks. They have enjoyed exploring their new classroom and play playground. They have listened to lots of stories and enjoyed talking about these and acting them out. They especially liked acting out the story of 'Little Red Riding Hood' and dressing up as the different characters. We discussed how the character might be feeling at different points in the story. The children have talked about some of the



rules we need in Year One to make our classroom a happy place. The children came up with some ideas which we shared with the class. We read Ruby's Worry and made our own worry monsters. The children talked about some worries they might have now they are in Year 1. In Maths they have been doing lots of counting, sorting objects and counting them.



Willow Class have made a lovely start to the first term. The pupils have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity in our Topic on natural disasters, finding out about different types of natural disasters. In Maths we have been exploring, writing and representing numbers up to ten million. The class show great interest in our class book 'Floodland', making predictions and discussing the setting and characters. In English the children have written letters from the perspective of a character in the book. The pupils like experimenting with drama devices to explore the characters thoughts and feelings. We have started our topic in Science on electricity, looking at where electricity comes from and how we use it. The class enjoyed using the laptops to find out about our class saint St Thomas More and sharing it with the rest of the class. In collective worship in class we have been reflecting on the word Creation and what it means to them. Willow class hopes everyone had a lovely summer break.

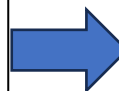
Welcome to all those in **Tigger Class** who have joined us from Acorns and a warm welcome to our newest Tiggers! All the children have settled in really well and I am already seeing wonderful examples of good sharing, kindness towards others and playing as well as helping to tidy up and following the new routines of our day, which is great to see! As well as exploring all the classroom has to offer, we have been enjoying the outside play area and making the most of the warm weather (and occasional shower!) We have also been practising our carpet sitting, switching on our listening ears and enjoying stories and songs, for which there has been no shortage of willing volunteers! We have just started our first topic "Marvellous Me" and the children have been making some lovely family books to start off their Busy Books! They are also painting some beautiful portraits to decorate our classroom! The children showed great calmness and listening skills when we practised our own fire drill this week so all in all we are off to a great start!



PE shirts are available to order on School Gateway in the following house colours:

- Ashmolean - Yellow
- Bodleian - Blue
- Radcliffe - Red
- Sheldonian - Green

Parent pays on School Gateway



School confirms payment received



School checks size and hands the t-shirt to child

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 = **96.7%**

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.



Remember to follow us on Twitter for more regular updates!
[@AloysiusSchool](https://twitter.com/AloysiusSchool)

Diary Dates

Monday 16th October - School photographs

23rd to 27th October - HALF TERM

Wednesday 1st November - Whole School Mass in the Hall

Wednesday 8th November - Flu Vaccinations

Thursday 9th November - Y6 Junior Citizen

27th Nov - 1st Dec - Y6 Residential

Friday 8th December - Whole School Mass at The Oratory

Wednesday 13th December - Pantomime trip

Wednesday 20th December - Last day of Term

Tuesday 9th January - Start of Spring Term for pupils

PLAYGROUND AFTER SCHOOL

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.

INFORMATION FOR YEAR SIX PARENTS (click below)



Make an application to secondary school

Parents of children born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 (inclusive) need to apply for a secondary school place for September 2024.

ST ALOYSIUS CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL

AFTER SCHOOL HOCKEY CLUB

PROJECT
2000



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

MONDAYS
3.25-4.25PM

ASTRO

£60 - FINANCIAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE

START: 18/09

END: 11/12

[CLICK HERE to complete the registration form and confirm your place!](#)



MJMusicServices

Progressive professional, fun, positive tuition at your school.

Is your child interested in Piano tuition?

We are offering the first **Months** standing order payment free to any new starter.

Yes completely FREE!!!!

All tuition books and diaries are also supplied free of charge by the service.

To obtain a form simply e mail

MJmusicervicesOx@gmail.com

complete it and send it back. A scanned e mailed

copy is fine as long as the signature is clear.

PARKING REMINDER

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

WE HAVE HAD COMPLAINTS FROM ST MARGARET'S ROAD RESIDENTS. 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.

UK Health
Security
Agency

NHS

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION
[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)