



ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - 8 DECEMBER 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to join Year 5 and some Year 6 pupils at University College for Carols by Candlelight on Thursday evening last week, the singing from our children was beautiful and the atmosphere was very festive. Thank you to Mrs Robinson and Mrs Hoetmer for organising and preparing the children for this.



It has been wonderful to welcome many of you in to school for our work sharing events over the past few weeks and the children were very proud to share their work with visitors and myself and Mrs Black. I have also been impressed with the children making soup over the past two weeks for The Gatehouse, the children could talk eloquently about how this is an act of service to our community and the staff and visitors to The Gatehouse have been very grateful for our donations during this wintertime.

This week, we also welcomed our School Improvement Partner in to school to meet with the senior leadership team and look at teaching and learning across the school. He commended us on our excellent SATs results, ambitious staff team and the wonderful caring ethos that the pupils demonstrated. I feel very proud to be headteacher of St Aloysius'.

I hope that you will be able to join us for our Nativity on 12th December and our Carol Concert on 18th December - more details in the Diary Dates below.

Wishing you all a happy and holy Christmas, when it comes.

Mrs Hannah Tebb, Headteacher

Classroom News

This week, **Tigger Class** have begun to explore composition in Maths by focusing on the concept of 'wholes' and 'parts'. By investigating their bodies and familiar toys our young mathematicians have begun to understand that whole things are often made up of smaller parts and that a whole is, therefore, bigger than its parts. Our core story has been the enchanting tale of the Jolly Postman. Inspired by the Jolly Postman, the children have written letters to their friends, families and even Father Christmas! These letters have sparked curiosity about the journey their letters take after they've been dropped in the postbox. In RE, we are learning about getting ready for Christmas during Advent. We are trying to be more like Jesus by being helpful. They have all made Advent promises to help people during Advent. The Tigger's have been in full swing, channelling their energy into the rehearsals for our upcoming nativity performance. From mastering songs and dances to learning their lines with impeccable timing, these young stars have been putting their hearts into every practice. The anticipation is building, and we can't wait for you to witness the magic unfold in person.

As we step into the season of Advent, **Oak Class** have been exploring the symbolic meanings of each candle. Our reflections began with the candle of Hope, encouraging Year 3 to ponder how they can embrace hope and trust in God. Father Benedict has also joined us to deepen our understanding as we prepare for our first Holy Communion in the upcoming Summer Term. In Music, Year 3 have embarked on a sonic journey with panpipes and body percussion, creating enchanting rainforest-inspired melodies. Oak Class is conquering multiplication and division challenges with gusto! We've been delving into multiplication and division facts, focusing on the times tables 2, 3, 4, and 5. The students are exploring various techniques, including the use of arrays, to solidify their understanding. Some Year 3's have also been creating their own problem-solving questions. In English, we are preparing for our deforestation debate. Oak Class have been practising the use of rhetorical questions and imperative verbs to craft compelling arguments for and against deforestation. Despite the lack of sun, Oak Class have explored the importance of sun safety by discovering ways to protect themselves from the sun's rays. Finally, in the spirit of giving back, Oak Class cooked up some delicious vegetable soup to donate to The Gatehouse community.



The last few weeks in **Acorn Class** have been busy and filled with fun! Last week we continued our learning about people who help us, focussing on firefighters. The children loved pretending to be firefighters, building their own fire station and using phones and hoses to role play emergency scenarios. We then moved on to learning about the changing season to winter; outdoor learning in the colder weather has proved exciting, we have explored how ice is formed and making our own 'winter nature' icicles to hang up and read stories such as 'Percy the Park Keeper - One Snowy Night.' As part of RE and learning about advent, the children decorated a wreath and made a huge advent calendar as part of preparation for the coming of Jesus. Within the season of Advent we are trying to do good deeds - one of which was making soup for The Gatehouse Soup Kitchen, the children worked collaboratively, chopping up potatoes, carrots and onions to make a delicious smelling batch of carrot and coriander soup. We have also been working hard to learn the story of Jesus' birth and all the songs for our nativity performance next week.



Ash Class have had a really busy couple of weeks. We made vegetable soup last week for the Gatehouse which was gratefully received on a very cold evening by the lovely staff. The children were great at peeling onions and carrots and the soup tasted delicious! We also researched the help that the Gatehouse provide to people in our community. This week's crafting has been around creating our class Advent Wreath. Each child added a piece of greenery and we talked about the symbolism linked to the wreath. In Maths we have been learning that multiplication is commutative and tested this when multiplying three numbers. The children have written their own myths and legends based on the River Thames this week. They have worked really hard to include language which emphasises the style. I have read stories about monsters, dragons and princesses! In RE lessons we have started our unit on Advent. The children have researched the Jesse tree and thought about why it is important for Catholics. Our Music lesson this week was based around a song about Martin Luther King. The children were able to recognise the styles of reggae and rap in the song and are learning to perform it. In Art lessons the children are adding the finishing touches to their watercolour landscapes based on a beautiful Oxford sunset a couple of weeks ago. In PE lessons we are continuing to focus on hockey and agility.



Willow Class have shown great resilience, support and enthusiasm these last few weeks in school and on our year 6 residential. The children really enjoyed going on residential to Kilvrough Manor, developing independence, gaining confidence and challenging themselves. The week was full of fun outdoor activities including canoeing, rock climbing, caving and den building that worked on the children's communication, cooperation and teamwork. All the children got really involved over the week making their beds, keeping bedrooms tidy, setting and clearing the table for meals, serving the food and organising equipment. At school in English, we have been writing a series of diary entries based on what we did on the residential. In Maths, we have been finding fractions of an amount and solving different fraction problems. In RE, we have been discussing why prayer is an important part of Mass and finding out about some prayer customs in other world religions. The class really enjoyed making soup this week to help those who are in need this time of year.



This week in **Fig Class** we have been enjoying our new book *Pattan's Pumpkin*, writing book reviews and exploring the author's choices of vocabulary and how these can be used when we write our own traditional tales next week. The children have continued to enjoy recommending books to the rest of the class in our class recommended reads box which is lovely to see. In Maths we have finished our unit on 2D, and 3D shape which the children have enjoyed exploring and finding out about the shapes properties. We will now move onto looking at different reasoning questions for subtraction and place value to make sure we are confident in explaining and show our workings. In Science we have continued to enjoy doing our investigations, this time we were exploring which materials were the best to bend, stretch and squash which also enabled the children to show off some brilliant teamworking skills. In RE we have been continuing our unit of Advent, we have written instructions to make an advent wreath and looked at and sequenced the story of Zechariah and the visit from the angel. In Topic we have continued to look at human and physical features in cities, we compared features in London and New York and using this knowledge could tell that there are more human features in cities. We have continued to enjoy gymnastics in PE and it is lovely to see the children's confidence develop with this, we are all looking forward to our lessons after Christmas.

Fir Class have been continuing to learn about subtracting numbers using number lines. They have enjoyed practising our Christmas play with the Tiggers and Acorns. They have put in lots of hard work to make it great for the parents and are loving practising the songs! They made soup for those less fortunate than us. Some of the children chopped vegetables and some poured lentils and tomatoes into the big saucepan. In English, the children have been very excited about *Alice in Wonderland*. We have enjoyed having tea parties, writing diary entries as Alice and making Cheshire cats! The children have sequenced the story and have been very excited to find out what happens next. They have learnt about the 7 continents in Topic and finding out about which animals live in different parts of the world. They have started learning about Advent in RE and how we can prepare for the birth of Jesus. They made a class Advent Wreath and learnt about why our prayer cloth changes to purple.



In Bay Class, our final writing unit of 2023 has been based on the book 'Survivors', which is a series of short stories about people who have survived incredible circumstances.

We will finish the unit by writing our own narratives. This week, we've been



focusing on how to add suspense to our writing, and have produced impressive excerpts showcasing short sentences, specific word choice, and unanswered questions, to name a few features. I look forward to reading our final stories! In Maths, we are currently looking at angles.



We've classified, estimated, measured, and drawn them. We quite liked using protractors for the first time! Our Advent unit has begun with a focus on Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John (the Baptist). We also made a beautiful Advent wreath to help us prepare for Christmas. On Tuesday we made soup for the Gatehouse. We have begun our Rube Goldberg



projects in DT and will spend time in the next week and a half troubleshooting and engineering them until they can complete the task we designed them to do!



CLICK ON THE POSTER TO BOOK YOUR CHILD'S LUNCH

Diary Dates

Tuesday 12th December - Nursery, Reception and Year 1 Nativity at 9.30am and 2.30pm

Wednesday 13th December - Pantomime trip - Jack and the Beanstalk - Reception - Y6 pupils

Thursday 14th December - School Christmas Lunch - book via the link sent out

Monday 18th December - Y5 & Y6 Carol Concert at School at 6pm

Wednesday 20th December - Last day of Term. Finish at 1pm

Tuesday 9th January 2024 - Start of Spring Term for pupils

Monday 15th January 2024 - Deadline for Reception Class 2024 applications through Oxfordshire County Council portal

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 = **93.7%**

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.

PARKING REMINDER

Please remember to park safely, within the white boxes on the roads that surround school. Please do not park across our neighbours' driveways or on the double yellow lines or the zig-zag lines outside the school gates. Thank you for your support with this.

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](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/when-can-my-child-return-to-school/)
(www.nhs.uk)



ST. ALOYSIUS' SCHOOL



WE ARE A NO NUT ZONE

OXFORD HAWKS HOCKEY CLUB

CHRISTMAS CAMP 2023 NOW OPEN!

**OPEN TO MEMBERS &
NON-MEMBERS!**

SWIPE

21st - 22nd December Oxford Hawks
Hockey Club, OX2 8EQ

Aged 5-16, From Beginner to Performance



Baby & Children Second Hand Clothes Charity Sale

9.30am - 12pm Saturday 9th December
at The Old Schoolhouse, Hertford Street, Oxford OX4 3AJ



In aid of War Child charity - seeking to protect and advocate for the safety of all children in conflict zones.

Mince pies and mulled wine on the day. Donations of home made cakes welcomed for cake stall sale, please bring along on the day. Volunteers to help run the stall warmly welcomed - please contact zoe@studioberman.com

All parents, carers, grandparents and children welcome