



ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - 2 FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today we celebrated the end of Christmastide by lighting blessed candles and listening to scripture in our celebration assembly for the feast of Candlemas. Our Chaplaincy Prefects also helped take down our Nativity scene and replace the prayer cloth with green to mark the return to Ordinary Time. We have continued with our focus on 'loving' and 'compassionate' over the past two weeks with assemblies led by our Year 4 and Year 6 classes based on our termly virtues.



Last Saturday, it was wonderful to witness some of our Year 6 pupils receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please keep these pupils in your prayers at this time.

Mrs Hannah Tebb, Headteacher

Classroom News

Oak Class have enthusiastically delved into the pages of our class book, "The Wild Way Home." The suspense woven into the narrative has become a source of enjoyment in the classroom, as Year 3 eagerly explore the adventures of Charlie in the mystical Mandel Forest. Oak Class have produced wonderful pieces of writing continuing the story with expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials. In RE, we have been looking into the role of St Francis of Assisi in aiding others' understanding of the Christmas story. In addition, Oak Class have been actively participating in Holy Communion lessons with Father Benedict. These sessions have provided a space for contemplation and discussion, allowing us to explore the intricate relationships between God, Jesus, and Mary, deepening their spiritual understanding. In Maths, Year 3 has been exploring the relationship between multiplication and division, honing their problem-solving skills. The emphasis on using inverse calculations to verify answers adds a layer of depth to their understanding. DT this term has taken a delicious turn as Oak Class kicked off their food unit with the creation of a vibrant fruit salad. Impressively, everybody showcased careful knife skills, demonstrating a keen sense of responsibility in the kitchen. In Topic, Year 3 has been delving into the dietary habits of the Stone Age, drawing intriguing



comparisons with modern-day foods. In Art, Oak Class have been looking at cave art and how to infer information from Stone Age Art. We even created our own hunter-gather scenes by using watercolours and pastels. Finally, Oak Class ventured (dressed as pirates and mermaids) to the Sheldonian Theatre to witness the

Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra's mesmerising performance. The selection of pieces linked to the ocean not only resonated with the students but also offered a unique opportunity to learn a sea shanty.



This week in **Acorn Class** we have been learning all about taking care of ourselves and our bodies, our current focus is handwashing. The children have been interested to learn about germs, where they come from and how they spread. They have all participated in handwashing routines this week and helped to make posters for our bathroom that remind us of the stages. We have been reading 'Doctor Dog' by Babette Cole and the children have found it equally fascinating and funny! We have started to discuss what food and drinks are good for our bodies and which ones we should try to eat less of, they also have started to think about why we should wash our bodies and our hair. The children have also enjoyed playing new sound games in phonics where they repeat rhythms back to the teacher using the claves. In Maths we have been using our 'fast eyes' to practise subitising amounts up to five, the class are becoming more confident recognising the number patterns on dice and have even begun to transfer their knowledge and play simple games of dominoes. In RE, we have been learning about baptism - we have enjoyed seeing photos from the children's own baptism services and role playing baptism using dollies.

In **Bay Class** English lessons, the children have continued the narrative after chapter 3 of Percy Jackson. The stories produced were varied, intriguing, and an excellent example of the writing skills we have worked on so far this year. Our new English unit focuses on Greek myths and has tied in beautifully with history as we've begun to explore stories surrounding Greek gods and goddesses. In RE, the children have been writing plays for parables that they will present next week. The groupwork displayed in this task has been impressive and shows the hard work we have put into our communication skills. Although it is quite challenging, the children have been learning to program MicroBits in ICT. Some of the tasks they've completed have included coding it to be a compass, play 'Rock, Paper, Scissors', and randomize like a die. We've been powering on through our unit on fractions. Since learning equivalent fractions, we've learned how to convert between improper fractions and mixed numbers, as well as learning how to add all possible variations of fractions and mixed numbers. It's remarkable to see their progress in a month and I look forward to continued progress through the remainder of the term. This term's art unit has us working to improve our mastery of ceramics. We began by looking at ancient Greek pottery and then researched some contemporary ceramic artists. We've also spent an afternoon working on our clay skills, such as rolling balls and snakes, pinching, and 'glueing' them together with the score and slip method. We're all very much looking forward to continuing our project and seeing what we are able to make!



This week in **Fig Class** we have enjoyed finishing our class read of The Iron Man and creating our own wanted posters for our iron person. We have moved onto looking at our new book called Float and creating freeze frames to immerse ourselves into the book. We have selected a new chapter book for this term called Oscar's Lion which we also enjoy reading throughout the day! In Maths we have moved onto division and multiplication, we have been using repeated addition and completing multiplication sentences. Next week we will look at the relationship between multiplication and division facts. We are enjoying the final lessons of gymnastics and this week have been using the ribbons to create dance routines which have been a pleasure to see. In History we have looked at the jobs of fire fighters during the Great Fire of London and how they are different now, which has made a lovely link to our visit from the fire service last term. In Science we have started our new unit of living things and their habitats. We have begun to identify different habitats and why some animals are better suited to their habitat than others. I have really enjoyed this week, being challenged by the children's homework and guessing the characters by their descriptions. There were only a couple that stumped me.

Fir Class have been continuing to learn about the value of numbers to 20. We talked about why they are 'teen' numbers. They have practised writing these numbers as words. The children have been using number lines to 20 to help them count on and backwards. They wrote 'missing' posters for Bunting, the lost toy. We have now begun our next unit in English which is stories by Julia Donaldson. The children discussed similarities between the stories we have read and what they enjoyed about them. They noticed that they rhyme. They also noticed the repetition in the stories which helps them join in with common phrases. The children have started learning about parables in RE. They learnt what a parable is and listened to lots of different parables such as, The Good Samaritan and The Lost Sheep. The children enjoyed learning the meaning of these parables and the lesson which comes with them. They particularly enjoyed acting out the story of The Good Samaritan in groups and performing to the class!

Willow Class have displayed wisdom and creativity over the last few weeks. In Maths we have begun looking at Algebra, following 1 and 2 step function machines to work out a calculation. The class continue to enjoy reading our class book 'Secrets of the Sun King' predicting what happens next and writing the rest of the narrative. In Science we have been looking at the human circulatory system, finding out about the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood in our bodies. The class continue to show enthusiasm in our Topic, finding out about what life was like in Ancient Egypt and creating some lovely pieces of artwork. In RE we are looking at Baptism, exploring and comparing the gospel accounts of the Baptism of Jesus. The pupils are enjoying learning volleyball skills and participating in seated volleyball games in PE. The class enjoyed preparing and presenting an assembly to the rest of the school on this terms' school virtues, loving and compassionate. We had a lovely celebration last weekend at the church for members of the class being confirmed.

In **Tigger Class**, our space-themed adventures have continued as we explored the stories 'Aliens Love Underpants' by Claire Freeman and 'The Way Back Home' by Oliver Jeffers. Inspired by these tales, the children have been actively involved in crafting and designing pants to trap aliens, rescuing aliens from slime, and even creating their own parachute to safely transport people from the moon. In Maths, we have been focusing on understanding the composition of numbers 5, 6 & 7, through lots of hands-on activities. They are doing a fantastic job of grasping the concept of composition and decomposition, understanding that numbers can be broken down into smaller parts. In RE, we are studying baptism and have talked about the importance of our names and the water that is used. Another fun filled, busy two weeks for Tiggers!

Ash Class have been really enjoying getting into our class book Beowulf. They drafted and wrote their own versions of the story last week and the way in which they were able to replicate the legend story telling style was really impressive. I asked them to look back at the last piece of narrative writing that they had completed around a completely different style of book, 'To the Edge of the World', and congratulate themselves on the way in which they were able to adapt their style of writing. They could really see the difference. In Maths we have been looking at formal methods for multiplication and division. The children have been using lots of hands on resources like place value counters so that they can really see what is happening when we multiply and divide numbers. In RE we have begun our unit on Moses, King David and the Old Testament. The children enjoyed listening to some of the psalms of David and have rewritten their own versions of Psalm 23 which are just beautiful and will be put on display in the corridor. In DT lessons the children have continued to look at designs for their reading light - thank you for all of the donations of bottles and boxes! In History we went outside and created a human timeline of British history which started with the birth of Christ and ended with death of Queen Elizabeth II. Some interesting misconceptions about when significant events took place which led to some great conversations and learning!

In PE, Ash Class has been working on getting their heart rates elevated with new fitness activities. They are particularly fond of the game "North, South, Central America" where they must listen carefully so as not to be tricked into running in the wrong direction. In computing, we are working on creating our own 'Choose Your Own' Adventure Stories. Students have come up with their own setting, characters, and plot and are currently mapping out the decisions their readers will have to make. Finally in Science, we are using instruments to learn about where sound comes from and how the different sizes of vibrations affect pitch and amplitude.

Diary Dates

Monday 12th - Friday 16th February - HALF TERM

Friday 23rd February - PTA Cake and Uniform sale (Fig Class)

12th - 15th March - Scholastic book fair in school

Week commencing 18th March - Parents Evenings

Friday 22nd March - PTA Cake and Uniform sale (Fir Class)

Tuesday 26th March - Year 2, 3 & 4 Easter Production

Thursday 28th March - Last day of Term - 1pm finish

Friday 29th March - Monday 15th April - EASTER HOLIDAYS FOR PUPILS

Monday 15th April - INSET Day

Tuesday 16th April - First Day of Summer Term for pupils

Monday 13th - Thursday 16th May - Year 6 SATs Week

Saturday 29th June - Year 3 First Holy Communion at The Oratory

Wednesday 24th July - Last Day of Summer Term - Finish at 1pm

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.

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)

ST. ALOYSIUS' SCHOOL



WE ARE A NO NUT ZONE

PARENT WEBINAR

NHS Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

Parents are the most important part of young peoples lives and hold the key to helping them. Let us, help you, to help them.

CAMHS
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SESSIONS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



SUBJECTS INCLUDE

- TEEN ANXIETY
- SELF HARM
- LOW MOOD
- HOW TO TALK TO YOUR DISTRESSED CHILD

WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/OXON/SIR/WEBINARS

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



ACORN NURSERY CLASS
(For 3+ Year Olds)

PLACES AVAILABLE

