



## ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024

### St. Aloysius' Vision Statement



**'Be ambitious for the higher gifts'**

**We are an exemplary school that provides a Catholic education to guide and support our children, whether Catholic or not, to fulfil their greatest potential and demonstrate love, faith and hope to all.**

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fabulous couple of weeks we have had at school! I cannot believe how close we are getting to the end of term with still so much learning and fun to fit in!

One of the highlights for me last week was taking the whole school to Mass for St Aloysius' day. It was a beautiful Mass and we were complimented by many parishioners on the children's singing and exemplary behaviour. A really proud moment for all of the staff. The children then enjoyed ice lollies courtesy of our PTA and an extended playtime. A really special feast day for all!

Visiting lessons over the past two weeks I have been so impressed with the engagement and enthusiasm in all classrooms and outdoor spaces (despite the heat!). I've watched PE lessons where skills are clearly progressing; visited the beach in Early Years; watched reasoning with negative number lines in Key Stage 2 and job description writing for being one of Jesus' Disciples in Key Stage 1! It has also been lovely to welcome parents in to share in their children's learning.

At this busy time of year our assemblies and Prayer and Liturgy in classes is based around reflection on the past year and looking ahead to transition. In Gospel assembly on Monday, our word of the week was 'calm' as we thought about Jesus calming the storm. Mrs Mancari-Rees led an assembly based on Pope Francis' letter, '*Fratelli Tutti*' which is about being called to love our global community.

Finally, some of your Year 3 and 4 children are receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion at The Oratory tomorrow. It will be wonderful occasion for them. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

*Mrs Karen Black, Acting Headteacher*

## Classroom News

**Acorns** have had a busy couple of weeks focusing on the theme of pirates. They started off reading the book *The Night Pirates* and then enjoyed drawing pirate pictures and dressing up. They then set sail in our pirate ship which was set up in the classroom. Some of the children were also very creative and made their own pirate ship outside using the crates, tyres and big blocks. As a class we have read lots of short rhyming poems from a Pirate poem book by Nick Sharett, they have enjoyed spotting the rhyming words and learning to join in with repeated phrases. The children have absolutely loved drawing their own treasure maps and decorating them with different objects. The children have linked their Maths with Art and have made some beautiful repeating printed patterns. In RE we have read the story of Noah's Ark and thought about all the different animals that might have gone on the ark and the children have made a rainbow and ark to remember the story. Finally there has been lots of water play, creating and making things out of different materials, climbing, cycling and scooting as well as eating our snack outside during this lovely sunny weather.

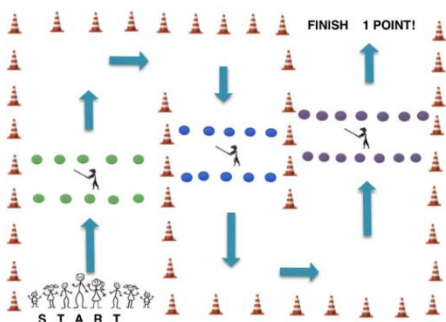


The **Tiggers** have had a busy couple of weeks continuing our Topic of Journeys. Last week the Tiggers went on Safari and learnt about some unknown African animals nicknamed 'The Ugly Five'. To go alongside this, the children painted animals in the style of Edward Tingatinga. Everyone really enjoyed the activity and the paintings looked great! This week in Tiggers, we have been reading the story 'Sharing a Shell' by Julia Donaldson. It's about some sea creatures that learn all about sharing and working together. It

also has linked perfectly with our Maths learning of adding one more to a number and sharing amounts between groups equally. The Tiggers have had lots of fun relaxing (and keeping cool) at our indoor beach and have learnt about lifeguards and how they keep people safe in the water. In Music, the children have been focusing on rhythm and have also been learning about different instruments, the sounds they make and how they work.



**Ash class** has had a great past two weeks! In Maths, we are just finishing up our statistics unit where children have been learning how to interpret data through graphs and charts. We even looked at our lunch orders and we were able to see how many people ordered each item. In English, we have just started learning about plays and script writing. The children were split up into their table groups and had to come up with their own short play based on an Aesop's fable. The children were given time to write their own scripts, come up with their own staging, create costumes, and perform for each other. It was so great seeing them work together and how each of them took charge in the different roles needed to complete their play. In PE, the



children learned a new fitness activity called Run the Gauntlet. The children had to start at one end of a track and get past 3 taggers to earn a lollipop stick at the end. Once the children earned 5 sticks, they could trade them in for a level 1 wristband. 5 more sticks, level 2 etc. until they get to level 6. They worked hard, did a fantastic job, and pushed themselves to level up! We also went to Aristotle Park to do a fitness game called Capture the Treasure where we got to test out our new flagbelts. The children seemed to enjoy the activity and did not realise they were

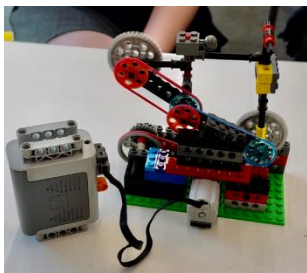
exercising because of the fun they were having. In Science, the children have been working on their digestive system projects where they are taping different organs to a t-shirt and labelling each organ. It has been a great couple of weeks and we are looking forward to finishing up the year very strong!

# Classroom News

I would just like to take the time to say how lovely it was to see you at the last work sharing of this academic year, I really hope you saw the hard work all the children have put in this year. In Fig class we have been enjoying researching and reading our new series of books ready to write a re-count of the lives of a famous person. It has been a joy to see the hard work that has gone into these. During class reading time we have started to read 'Matilda' which the children have really enjoyed and I know they will create some fantastic pieces for English in the coming weeks. We are continuing with time



this week in Maths, we have focused a lot on the clock face and telling the time in 5 minutes. We have enjoyed playing games to help us practise this skill of reading the clock. In History we have continued our hero's unit with thinking about what heroes will be like in the future and what qualities we believe they will have. In RE the children really embraced the trip to the Oratory and it was lovely to see them imparting their knowledge from our RE lessons on to Father Benedict. This week we are moving onto our final unit looking at 'The Mass' where the children have begun by understanding the importance of Pope Francis.



**Willow class** have had an exciting couple of weeks. The class really enjoyed going to St Edward's for the day, building Lego objects and having lunch at the school. In Topic, the children created a poster on a significant person from a diverse background and presented them to the other classes. In Science, the pupils have been finding out about Charles Darwin and his

theory of Evolution. We had a lovely day out at the Botanical Gardens, learning about classification, adaptation and evolution of different plants and having a picnic in the grounds. The class enjoyed finding information and writing non-chronological reports about Mr Cadbury. We have had secondary school teachers visit and



talk to the children about their next schools, helping the transition from primary school. In RE, the pupils have been looking at our school parish, finding out about its history and the roles that people have today. All the children have taken a very mature attitude to our RHE lessons based on growing up. The

class are working really hard in rehearsals and helping to make set and props for our end of year production of Peter Pan.



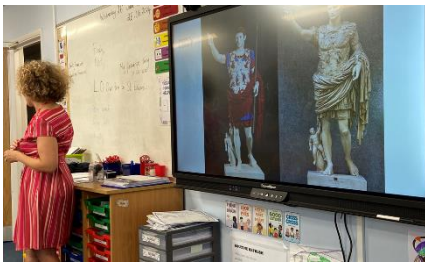
# Classroom News

**Year 3** has been diving into the creative world of newspaper art. Students have been exploring the possibilities of transforming everyday newspaper into unique and imaginative pieces of art. We have learned about upcycling and how we can take items that would ordinarily be put in the recycling bin and instead turn them into animal art. In Maths, we have started our penultimate unit on shapes. Oak Class has been exploring turns in both clockwise and anticlockwise directions, using their prior knowledge of time to describe quarter, half, three-quarter, and full turns.



This term has been especially significant in RE. Some of Oak Class participated in their first confessions, a profound experience marking an important step in their spiritual journeys. As we draw closer to their First Holy Communion, Oak Class has been showing diligence and reverence as they prepare for this Sacrament.

Our English lessons have taken **Year 3** on a historical journey to ancient Pompeii and the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Oak Class has been enthralled by the stories of this ancient city, learning about its history, culture, and the dramatic events that led to its preservation in volcanic ash. This topic has provided a rich context for developing their reading, writing, and comprehension skills. They have written diary entries from the perspective of Pompeii residents, created vivid descriptions of the eruption, and engaged in lively discussions about the historical significance of these events. Oak Class were also fortunate to have a guest speaker from an expert from the Ashmolean Museum.



In Science, **Year 3** has been exploring the fascinating world of forces, focusing on the concepts of push and pull. Through a series of interactive experiments and hands-on activities, students have been investigating how different forces affect the movement of objects. They have conducted experiments with everyday items, learning how friction, gravity, and other forces play a role in our daily lives. This unit has sparked curiosity and encouraged scientific thinking, as students pose questions,

make predictions, and observe outcomes.

Finally, Oak Class had a fantastic I-Bricks session at St Edward's. Everyone in **Year 3** showed perseverance and teamwork as they worked hard with their **Year 11** buddy. They also thoroughly enjoyed having lunch in their dining room and discovering the array of puddings!

**Year 5** have had an exciting couple of weeks with writing and planning our persuasive Big Write about climate change, which is our Geography topic. We have just finished our unit on the Apostles in RE and will be starting on Marriage and Holy Orders soon. In Maths, we have finished our unit on coordinates and have moved on to negative and positive numbers. We've also had a brilliant school trip to Dorchester for Festival of Voices, which we worked up to for months! **Year 5** are also working hard on our Peter Pan production, which we will be performing in 2 weeks. (Written by Aria and Martha)

**Fir class** have been writing letters to Noi, the boy from The Storm Whale. They discussed who we might write a letter to and what we need to include in our letters. The children have started learning about money in Maths. They looked at some coins and learnt about their different values. The children have begun to count money and make different amounts using coins. After learning about Mount Everest, the children used the computers to look at pictures of Mount Everest. They typed facts about it onto a Word document. The children made their own Mount Everest piece of art using paint and tissue paper. On St. Aloysius' day, the children were excited to walk to the church and enjoy an ice lolly with the rest of the school on the playground!

## Diary Dates

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June** - Year 3 First Holy Communion at The Oratory - 11am

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** - Whole School Transition Morning

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July** - Year 6 Science and Health Day @ Cherwell School

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July** - Own clothes day and 'Crazy Hair' day in exchange for a tombola prize

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July** - PTA Ice Lolly sale

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July** - Year 6 Leavers' party

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July** - PTA Summer Fair 1 - 4pm

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July** - New Chestnut parents meet and greet - 3.30pm - 4pm

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July** - Year 5&6 Production - 9.30am

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July** - Year 5&6 Production - 6.00pm

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July** - Sports Day

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July** - PTA Ice Lolly Sale

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July** - Leavers' Mass in School 2.30pm (Year 6 Parents welcome)

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 = 95.3**

As a school, we have developed 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 or on the double yellow lines on the corner of

St Margaret's Road. These road markings are there to keep our children safe when crossing the road and cycling to school.

Thank you for your support with this.

Our pupils' safety is of paramount importance.



*Oxfordshire County Music Service teachers offer lessons in violin, viola, cello, clarinet and saxophone at St. Aloysius. Lessons happen in school time and start from £6.40 per lesson. Free lessons may be available for children from low-income families or in receipt of some benefits. For more information or to sign your child up for lessons, visit [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/musicinterest](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/musicinterest)*



**Come and visit our library!**  
Open every Friday 3.30pm - 4pm



# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ACORN NURSERY CLASS  
(For 3+ Year Olds)

## SEPTEMBER PLACES AVAILABLE

For an Application Form

Please email

[office.3842@st-alloysius.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3842@st-alloysius.oxon.sch.uk)

Or visit our website

[www.stalloysius.net](http://www.stalloysius.net)

## ST. ALOYSIUS' SCHOOL



**WE ARE A NO  
NUT ZONE**

**FROM £47 PER DAY**

**ULTIMATE SURVIVAL**

**GO WILD FOR A WHILE!**

Exceptional survival day camps for 7 - 14 year olds during the May half term & summer at

**HILL END OUTDOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE IN FARMOOR**

Monday - Friday  
8am to 6pm

**ULTIMATEACTIVITY.CO.UK**

**ULTIMATE ACTIVITY CAMPS**

**GET SET FOR ULTIMATE HOLIDAY FUN!**

Exceptional activity day camps for 7 - 14 year olds during the summer at

**HEADINGTON SCHOOL IN OXFORD**

Monday - Friday  
8am to 6pm

**ULTIMATEACTIVITY.CO.UK**

## Uniform reminder

Please refer to our uniform policy which is on our school website. Children should not wear jogging bottoms or sports shorts to school. These can be changed into for PE lessons. Children should have a PE t-shirt in their house colour without any obvious logos for PE lessons.

Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

## WATER BOTTLES

Please remember to send your child to school with a named bottle which should be full in the morning.

