



## ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - 13<sup>TH</sup> September 2024

### St. Aloysius' Vision Statement



**To Know. To Love. To Serve**

**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,

I am delighted to welcome you back to a new academic year at St Aloysius. It has been a really positive start to the term - I have been in classrooms, the playgrounds, the dinner hall and Breakfast and After School Clubs and every single child is settling back into routine, helping new children to our school and living out our school values. This leads me nicely onto sharing our new school values with you. They are linked to our school mission which is 'To know, to love, to serve'. Along with following our Jesuit Pupil Virtues, we now have values to focus on which are curiosity, determination, kindness, empathy, community and sustainability.

In Gospel assembly this week we heard about Jesus healing a deaf man. I asked the children to think about how they listen out for God's voice in their daily lives - their task is to listen really carefully! Mrs Mancari Rees and Mrs Kempton led assemblies for each key stage on Catholic social teaching and focused on human dignity. As I type I am really looking forward to our celebration assembly this afternoon which is a cumulation of all the hard work that goes on in the week.

We had an exciting delivery to school yesterday of 15 bikes. Huge thanks to the PTA for applying for grants to access these. I would like to make a plea for more volunteers to support our PTA. They do a brilliant job in organising events to raise much needed funds for our school, to enhance and enrich the curriculum and environment. Last year they helped us to fund Strings lessons for Year 4, 5 and 6 playground equipment, library books and renovations. There will be an AGM on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please come along to hear about plans for our school .



Wishing you a restful weekend,

*Mrs Karen Black, Acting Headteacher*

# Classroom News



In **Oak class**, we have started our Topic of 'The Rainforest'. We have learned about the Tropics and the Equator and we have started to consider what animals we would find in the Rainforest and created some for our display. In Science, we have refreshed our knowledge of what food is healthy and thought about the nutritional value of meals and how we can make a meal more nutritious. We have begun



our Place Value topic in Maths and are now working with numbers up to 1000! We have really enjoyed discovering 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' in our English lessons and we have considered what character traits the 4 children embody.



**Willow class** have made a great start to the term. The class have really enjoyed starting our new Topic finding out about different types of natural disasters. In Maths we have been representing and writing numbers up to ten million. In English we have been reading our class book 'Foodland' and writing letters from the



perspective of the main character. The class enjoyed researching and writing about our class Saint in RE. In Science we have been exploring where electricity comes from and how it is used. The class have created some lovely imaginative artwork and observational drawings based on the picture book 'Flotsam'. The class are very excited for their next swimming lesson.



**Fir Class** have made a fantastic start to Year 1 and have settled into our new class routines beautifully! In English we have started learning about Fairy Tales and have been using lots of drama to retell the story of Little Red Riding Hood, explore the characters and have created story boards. We have also done some caption writing and have been practising using a capital letter, full stop, finger spaces and keeping our letters on the lines in our books. In Maths we have been counting and then sorting objects practically and representing groups of objects using a ten frame. In Science we have begun learning about plants and have discussed what we already know and what we would like to find out. The children have also been learning the Story of Creation in RE and in Topic we have started to look at Oxford. The children have drawn and labelled some famous landmarks they know in Oxford, and we have had lots of wonderful discussions about what we know about our city.

**Bay Class** has had a fantastic start to the new school year! The pupils are showing great enthusiasm for our Topic on Journeys, where we are exploring world maps and countries. In Literacy, the class is enjoying reading 'Brightstorm', an exciting story about a brother and sister on an expedition to find their father. In Science, we are diving into the topic of space, which happens to be Mr. Kring's favourite! In Maths, we've made excellent progress in our place value unit, working with numbers up to 999,999. For our RE unit on creation, we began by exploring creation myths from various cultures, and the pupils created posters showcasing their favourite myths. It has been a great start, and we are looking forward to the rest of the term!

# Classroom News

It has been a fantastic start to the new school year in **Acorn class**. We have been so impressed with how well the children have settled and adapted to their new routine. The children have had lots of fun exploring all the resources both inside and out and are making lots of new friends in the process. We have been thinking about kindness and sharing and have explored this through the book *Percy the Parkkeeper* and taking part in speaking and listening activities. Every day the children have been developing their fine motor skills with a small group Funky Fingers activity - this week we have used playdough and tweezers. Next week we will be looking at Creation and all the wonderful things that God has given us.



We have had a brilliant and busy start to the academic year in **Fig Class**! The children have settled back into school amazingly well and have warmly welcomed some new children into our class. In English, we have begun exploring the story of *Paddington Bear*. The children did some brilliant roleplay, retelling the story. In Maths, we have started our unit on place value. We have been ordering numbers on a number line and counting in our 2s, 5s and 10s. The children have been really enjoying our Science topic 'animals including humans'. The children were given pictures of various animals and had to group them into mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds or insects!

The **Chestnut Class** children are settling in beautifully. They are getting to know one another, and we are enjoying getting to know them as they become familiar with their new environment. The children have been fantastic at learning new routines and are showing real enthusiasm for their learning. They have been independently using resources and exploring the various areas of the classroom. We have started our Topic, "Marvellous Me," by discussing family and home life, and the children have created wonderful self-portraits after carefully studying their faces with mirrors. They have also begun practising and refining their name-writing. In Maths, we have been singing counting songs, focusing on careful counting, and making sure we say each number name for every object we count. In RE, the children are learning the sign of the cross and the daily prayers we say in our classroom, including lunchtime grace and our end-of-day prayer. What a fantastic start! We are excited for the rest of the term ahead!

This week in **Ash Class** our focus has been on explanation texts in English. We are looking at lighthouses and their importance for safety at sea. We hope to have written an explanation text 'All About Lighthouses' by the end of next week. In Maths we have been learning all about Place Value and focusing on numbers up to 1000 and 10,000. In Topic we studied cities in the UK and tried to locate Oxford on the map. The children have also been enjoying Science, RE, PHSE and of course Gymnastics too. It's been a week packed full of learning and the children are settling in fantastically at the beginning of the new school year.

## Diary Dates

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October- Portrait photos

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - PTA AGM via Zoom/Teams - Time TBC

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October - Year 6 Residential to Yenworthy

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October -Last day of term 1 school finishes at 3.20pm

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October - INSET SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November - Parent Consultations

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November - Parent Consultations

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November - Flu immunisations

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December - TERM ENDS 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.

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.

## Come and visit our library!

Open every Friday 3.30pm - 4pm



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)



## ST. ALOYSIUS' SCHOOL



**WE ARE A NO  
NUT ZONE**

In this game there is a POSITION FOR EVERYONE. No matter who you are FLAG FOOTBALL is the game for YOU!

Join the Flag Football Movement!


CONTACT [YOUTH@OXFORDSAINTS.COM](mailto:YOUTH@OXFORDSAINTS.COM) FOR DETAILS!



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Located at Oxford Rugby Club

For Boys & Girls aged 8-17  
U11's, U14's & U17's Teams

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For the 2025 season



# **ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**ACORN NURSERY CLASS  
(For 3+ Year Olds)**

**PLACES AVAILABLE  
THIS TERM**

**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)**

**Or telephone 01863 311056**

**Our nursery is based within our primary  
school at 143 Woodstock Road,  
Oxford, OX1 2PH**