



## ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - 11th October 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,

Another wonderful couple of weeks have passed by in school. The children completed assessments in class this week and did so with great effort and perseverance. The assessments will inform teachers' planning of teaching and learning for the next term and ensure that any gaps in learning are caught up on.

We had a wonderful harvest assembly led by Mrs Mancari-Rees last week. The children brought donated food to the front and we remembered to think of those less fortunate than us. Mrs Kempton led an assembly based on the Feeding of the Five Thousand to link with sharing of food. She has also been praying the Hail Mary with Key Stage 1 classes in assembly and they know it really well. Rosary club at lunchtimes has proved to be very popular. A beautiful prayerful 10 minutes in an otherwise very busy day/week.

This week we experimented with a change to our playtimes. The children have previously been split onto playgrounds- (Key stage one on front playground and Key stage 2 on back playground). The children are now able to move between both playgrounds and certain areas ie the football pitch, basketball court and climbing frame are timetabled between year groups on a daily basis. It has been really successful thus far, with older children helping younger children, siblings enjoying reunions, and some exciting inter year group football games on the pitch.

Finally thank you to those parents how were able to attend our PTA AGM. Lots of fundraising plans in the pipeline so keep your eyes peeled!

Wishing you a sunny and restful weekend,

*Mrs Karen Black, Acting Headteacher*

# Classroom News

We have been doing lots of new learning in **Oak Class** over the last couple of weeks. We have moved onto our new topic of Addition and Subtraction in Maths and are currently applying our knowledge of number bonds to help us add and subtract. In English, we have been looking at non-fiction books and have started identifying features, preparing us to write our own non-chronological reports. We considered why certain features have and haven't been included and why sometimes not all of them are included. We have continued learning about our body in Science, finding out about our skeleton and different types of skeletons, including exoskeletons and hydrostatic skeletons. We've then been looking at how our bones and muscles work together to allow us to move. Our art pieces are taking shape and will be developed over the next couple of weeks, so watch this space!



In **Bay Class**, we've been busy exploring poetry with our book *Spaced Out*, where students are learning about figurative language and will soon be writing and performing their own poems. In our topic lessons, we explored global population distribution and resource inequality, which led to insightful discussions on factors influencing these disparities. In Maths, we've been focusing on addition and subtraction of four-digit numbers, while the students have also been working hard on their NFER tests in Spelling & Grammar, Maths, and English, showing great concentration. In PE, we've been practicing throwing and catching, and students completed their first pacer test this month to measure cardiovascular endurance. They'll be tracking their progress over time, and it's wonderful to see their commitment to both fitness and academics. Thank you for your support as we continue our exciting learning journey together!

**Chestnut Class** has been as busy as ever! We have been looking closely at the story of 'The Little Red Hen', using it to reinforce literacy skills by discussing the characters and story structure. The Chestnuts have created some great story maps, and we've had lots of fun becoming storytellers, learning and performing the story through the use of our story maps and actions. We've also explored how seeds grow into wheat, and how the flour made from wheat is used to bake bread. This has helped the children better understand the process behind the story of 'The Little Red Hen'. Our role-play area has been transformed into a bakery, where the children have made salt dough biscuits, bread, and cakes, which we painted and will "sell" to one another. The bakery has given us lots of opportunities to develop language skills, interact with peers, practice mark-making, and even use money. In Maths, we've been focusing on core skills, deepening our understanding of counting with the help of the Numberblocks. We've taken a closer look at the numbers 3 and 4, exploring their structure. In Phonics, we've continued learning new sounds while reinforcing those we already know. The children have been practising letter formation and starting to blend sounds to read simple words. In RE, we've been discussing our God-given gifts and revisiting the creation story, while also talking about the people who support us at home and in our community.

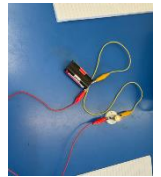
I am so proud of all the children in **Fig Class** for how hard they have been working over the last couple of weeks! They show so much determination and dedication to their learning; always trying their best. In English we have begun to explore poetry, immersing ourselves in our new book 'Seaside Poems'. We have also been working hard on letter formation and handwriting. In Maths we have been revisiting number bonds to 10 and are moving on to addition and subtraction. In RE the children have made some beautiful story boards, retelling various stories from the Old Testament. I have also been very impressed with the homework the children have been bringing in, I thoroughly enjoyed reading the fun facts the children had found out about countries in the UK.

# Classroom News

In **Acorn Class** we have been thinking all about Autumn and the changes that this season brings. The children have really enjoyed looking for signs of Autumn and have created lots of beautiful pieces of art which reflect the colours that they have seen. Our book this week has been Pumpkin Soup, which we have loved to read and recount as well as act out. The children have also scooped out their own pumpkins and we used the seeds to practise our fine motor skills by picking them up with tweezers. In Maths we have been learning about shape, thinking about what they look like and talking about their properties. The children have been able to use their new knowledge to spot shapes around our school. In RE we finished off our Creation topic by talking about how things change and reflected on how we have grown from a baby to the person we are now.



**Willow Class** have shown curiosity and perseverance this week learning new skills and completing practise SATs tests. In Maths we have been solving problems by multiplying 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers with different strategies. In English the class have really enjoyed reading our class book 'Floodland'. They have been writing their own narratives based on the story and creating a front and back cover to go with them. In Science the class have been planning and carrying out an investigation using electrical components, making predictions, recording the results and coming up with a conclusion. We have been exploring the story of Cain and Abel in RE. In Computing the class have enjoyed creating PowerPoint presentations on online safety and presenting them to the class. The class are really looking forward to our residential to Yenworthy.



**Year 4** have had a fantastic week; they worked so hard on their tests and did very well. On Thursday we had a workshop all about the canal and how it was built and a trip along the canal in the afternoon. The children played different roles in the morning as part of the workshop experience. Some were engineers, managers, farmers and labourers. They really enjoyed reenacting the construction of the canal and excelled in their roles. In the afternoon they all had a go at opening and closing the canal lock which they really enjoyed. All in all, an excellent day and experience for everyone involved. Thanks to the Canal and River Trust for bringing the children's learning to life.

**Fir Class** have had a great two weeks! They have been mapping out their routes from home to school and looking at local landmarks. In English the children have been retelling the story of Goldilocks. They created helicopter stories acting out different parts to then help with their writing. Read Write Inc. lessons have started and Year 1 have been impressive in their phonics sessions. Well done Fir Class!

## School Cleaners Wanted!

Contact Caroline White @ Proclean for more information or ask that the school office.

# From our PTA

I am pleased to announce the PTA had its AGM last Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and welcomes new members. We are grateful to Emilia Antonio and Niamh Simpson our new Treasurers, and Hester O'Donnell and Liane Devine onto the Event Team. Karen Black has kindly agreed to continue to be the PTA's school staff represent this year. We are also grateful to our Class Reps who will keep you inform of PTA activities through WhatsApp class groups and help build a strong community. Please contact your child's Class Rep if you would like to be added to their year WhatsApp group.

We are still looking for a Communications Officer, Grants officer, the new post of Vice Chair, as well as Reception and Year 3 Class Reps. If you are interested in any of these, or if you would just like to help at events, please send us an email to [pta@st-alloysius.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:pta@st-alloysius.oxon.sch.uk). We look forward to hearing from you.

We are also pleased to announce that the PTA will continue to fund music provision for Years 4, 5 and 6, this year with additional contributions towards updating coding equipment for Early Years and KS1, communications boards for both playgrounds, and a library fund to buy new books requested by the children.

Finally, we are planning a range of events to raise money this year including our usual cake, uniform and ice lolly sales. These events will be advertised in the school newsletter and on posters around the school. Please save the following dates, others to follow in due course. Don't forget to volunteer - any help (before, during and after the event) is very welcome.

- Fancy Costume Disco - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 5-7pm
- Christmas Fair -Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1-4pm
- Summer Fair -Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July, 1-4pm

Best wishes,

Yuriria Silva, Chair of the PTA

## Diary Dates

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October - Reading workshop for EYFS/Key Stage 1 parents @ 9am and 3.30pm

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October - Chestnut Class Open Morning - Prospective Parents

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

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November Halfterm

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

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

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

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November - Fancy Dress Disco - school hall

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November - Year 6 Junior Citizen

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December - Christmas Fair

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December - Work sharing week (Dates to follow)

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - Soup for the Gatehouse this week

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December - EYFS/Year 1 Nativity Performance @ 9.30am

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December - EYFS/Year 1 Nativity Performance @ 2.30am

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Year 5/6 Carol Concert @ 6pm

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December - Pantomime at The Playhouse

## 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.



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**



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NUT ZONE**

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U11's, U14's & U17's Teams

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For the 2025 season

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

**"To know. To love. To serve."**

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



**IS YOUR CHILD STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2025?**

JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN MORNING ON


**FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER - tours start at 9.30am**

Come and meet our enthusiastic and caring staff, view our stimulating learning environments and learn about how we are ambitious for our pupils' futures.

email [office.3842@st-aloyusius.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3842@st-aloyusius.oxon.sch.uk) or scan the QR code







# **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**