

# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - 25th 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,

Here we are at the end of a successful 8 week term! It has been a wonderful first half term at school, with the children achieving so much already.

On Monday morning we waved our Year 6 Class off on their residential trip to Yenworthy Outdoor Education Centre in North Devon. It has been great seeing and hearing about what they are doing – today they were surfing on a sunny beach! Thank you to Miss Baker, Mr Thompson, Miss Clarke and Miss Shepherd who have accompanied the children.



Last Friday we held an Open Morning for parents looking for schools for their Reception age children. Our Year 6 children toured 11 different families, served tea, coffee and biscuits and spoke very highly and proudly of their school. The families who attended were full of praise for them and they represented our school brilliantly. A proud moment!

This week in assemblies we have been reflecting on the term. In Gospel Assembly on Monday the children thought about Jesus' reminder to James and John that true greatness comes from serving others. The children thought about how they could fulfil the 'To serve' part of our school mission in their every day lives at home and in school. On Friday mornings Fr. Benedict leads an assembly for each Key Stage, this week he talked about Saints and the life of St. Philip and Blessed Carlo Acutis. He has also begun training some new altar servers.

Wishing you a wonderful half term break! *Mrs Karen Black, Acting Headteacher.*

### OXFORD MAIL STARTING SCHOOL FEATURE

Our children will be featured in the special annual supplement.  
Remember to pick up your copy!

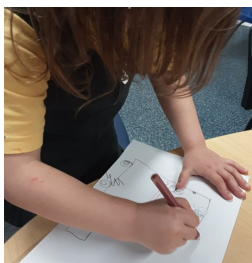


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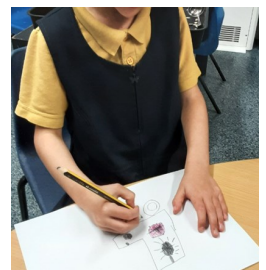
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### CLASSROOM NEWS

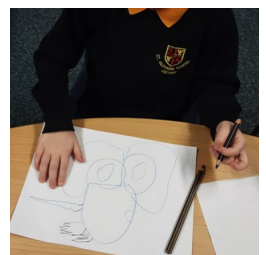
This week in **Year 5** has been full of exciting learning opportunities! In English, we have started our next book, *Race to the Frozen North*, which tells the true story of a young boy who runs away to find a better life for himself and faces many hardships along the way. Despite these challenges, his determination leads him to become the first person to explore the North Pole. The children are very excited about the story and have made lots of wonderful predictions about how his story will unfold. In Maths, we have just finished our unit on addition and subtraction and are now moving on to multiplication and division. The class are excited to dive into these new topics. In Science, we are wrapping up our 'Space' unit by watching *Hidden Figures*, a film about three African-American women who worked at NASA and overcame racial and gender barriers to help send astronauts into space. The children have been inspired by their achievements and how they connect to our space studies. In PE, we have started going to Aristotle Park for extra space during our lessons and the children are thrilled to have more room to run around. Please remind your child to bring their PE kit, as it can get muddy in the park. Thanks again for your continued support, and I hope everyone has a great half-term!



The **Chestnuts** have been steadily increasing the number of sounds they have learned to read and write. They are now beginning to blend these sounds together to read simple words. To further support their independent writing and phonics skills, we have introduced an exciting new activity called Drawing Club. In this activity, children create simple drawings but with a fun twist - they add a special 'code' to make their pictures come to life with magical effects. Last week's Drawing Club was inspired by

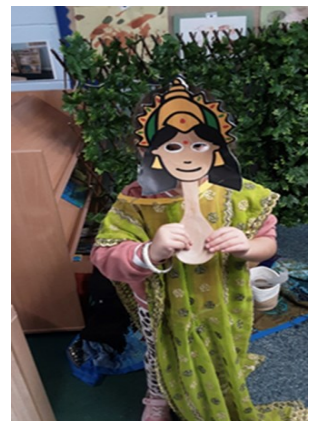


the story 'Farmer Duck', and the children were brimming with creativity as they designed new tractors for the farmer. Their imaginative inventions included burger-making machines, dance floors, rainbow unicorn tractors, and even tractors that shoot lightning bolts! In Maths, we have been focusing on deepening our understanding of core skills, particularly counting, with the help of the Numberblocks. We have been comparing numbers and exploring the structure of the number 5 in greater detail. This week, the Chestnuts have also been spotting signs of Autumn. In class, we have collected a beautiful assortment of leaves, which the children have used in various art and design activities. In RE, we have been learning about people who care for us and about weddings. The children enjoyed dressing up and role-playing a wedding, learning that marriage is one of the Sacraments also. It has been a wonderful fortnight full of learning, creativity, and discovery, and we are excited to see how the Chestnuts continue to grow in the weeks ahead!



**Fir Class** have had another wonderful week learning, playing and exploring! This week we have been looking at part-whole models in Maths and have had a go at using a range of concrete resources to help us understand parts and wholes. We consolidated fairy tales this week in English, and the children have been busy writing about their favourite scenes in the stories we have learnt all about. In Science, we discussed the similarities and differences between fruit and vegetable plants and concluded our plant diaries. I have been so impressed by the children's positive learning attitude and their enthusiasm in all that they do. Fir Class have had an excellent first term in Year 1 and should be extremely proud of what they have achieved already!

Our topic in **Acorn Class** this week has been Diwali, and we have been reading the story of Rama and Sita. The children have really enjoyed the book and all the learning activities to accompany it, including dressing up in costumes and recounting the story with props and finger puppets. We looked at Rangoli patterns and we made some of our own using different coloured sand on paper plates and chalks in our outside garden. The children also made their own diva lamps out of clay and painted and decorated them. In Maths, we have been learning to make comparisons between the length of different objects. In RE, we have just started our new topic 'God our Father who cares for Us'.





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As this half term comes to an end, so do some of our topics. **Oak Class** have finished our Rainforest landscapes using oil pastels and water colours. It has been so interesting seeing them explore their personal style in their artwork. Below is a selection of some of the artwork that was produced. In English, we have been writing our non-chronological reports on a rainforest animal and they are now ready to publish. We have continued looking at Addition and Subtraction in Maths and we are learning to add and subtract, bridging tens and hundreds. In Science, we concluded our learning about our muscles and bones by carrying out an investigation. We looked at our data and tried to identify if there were any trends and whether our data matched our hypothesis.



Wow, what a fabulous 8 weeks we have had in **Fig Class**! The children have worked very hard, and I hope they all have a restful half term break. Recently, in English, we have been working on rhyming and the children wrote their own poems about the seaside. These were brilliant to read and very entertaining! In Maths, the children have been working

very hard on their addition and subtraction including adding multiple one-digit numbers together. We have been very busy in Topic too, exploring weather patterns in the United Kingdom and what the weather is like in different seasons. Talking of seasons, the children produced some wonderful autumn artwork.

This week **Year 4** completed their poetry and produced some fabulous poems about rivers. In Maths, we practiced subtracting 4 digit numbers with exchange. Some found this tricky but all persevered and were are very proud of Year 4's effort. In Topic, we learnt the location of major rivers and mountains around the world. Ash Class thoroughly enjoyed this and excelled in using atlases to locate the geographical features. We hope that Ash Class have a well deserved rest over half term and look forward to even more enthusiastic learning next term.

This week **Willow Class** are in North Devon at Yenworthy Outdoor Education Centre. They are having a great time and parents are receiving regular updates!

**ST. ALOYSIUS'**  
**SCHOOL**



**WE ARE A NO**  
**NUT ZONE**

## Art Club Pumpkin Pictures



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### 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.

**Whole school fortnightly attendance = 94.2%**

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.

**GREEN = 96% and above**

**AMBER = 92% - 96% \*national average**

**RED = below 92%**

### Diary Dates

**Monday 4th November** - Parent Consultations (Chestnut Class only)  
**Tuesday 5th November** - Parent Consultations  
**Wednesday 6th November** - Parent Consultations (Chestnut Class only)  
**Thursday 7th November** - Parent Consultations  
**Thursday 14th November** - Flu immunisations  
**Thursday 21st November** - Year 6 Junior Citizen  
**Monday 2nd December** - Soup for the Gatehouse this week  
**Wednesday 11th December** - EYFS/Year 1 Nativity Performance @ 9.30am  
**Thursday 12th December** - EYFS/Year 1 Nativity Performance @ 2.30pm  
**Monday 16th December** - Year 5/6 Carol Concert @ 6.00pm  
**Tuesday 17th December** - School Christmas Lunch  
**Wednesday 18th December** - Pantomime at The Playhouse  
**Friday 20th December** - TERM ENDS @ 1.00pm

#### School Term Dates

[2024/25](#)

[2025/26](#)

**Please Come and  
Visit Our Library!  
We're Open  
Every Friday  
3.30pm - 4.00pm**



**SPREAD THE WORD ...**  
**ACORN NURSERY CLASS**  
**PLACES AVAILABLE NOW**

For an application form, please email

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

#### **STARTING SCHOOL APPLICATIONS**

Parents of children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 need to apply for school place for September 2025.

How to apply? You can apply online for a primary school place ([click here](#)). The deadline for receipt of applications is **15th January 2025**.

**NOTE** - if you are applying to St. Aloysius' CP School you will also need to complete the Supplementary Information Form.