



ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - 30th 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,

It has been a very productive couple of weeks in school. Although very wet and with building work happening in school, the children have shown great resilience in adapting to slightly different routines for a short time. I am always proud of how the older children at our school really look out for our younger pupils. Year 6 Playground Leaders began their roles in the playground last week and have been leading games and helping everyone to play together. With that in mind, I would like to remind you about our upcoming **PTA AGM on Thursday 3rd October via Teams at 8pm** - where we will be planning fundraising events to enhance things like playground equipment, etc. You do not need to commit to anything by attending - just come along and hear about school plans and add your input to fundraising priorities.

In Gospel assembly last week, the children thought about how they welcome those in life who are the neediest in our society. We thought about how we show 'welcome' at our school no matter who people are or what they can do for us. Linked to this the children have been asked to bring in some contributions towards our harvest festival contribution to the 'Community Emergency Foodbank'. Our celebration certificates were based on our school value 'Curiosity' this week. It was lovely to hear teachers describe how children have been curious as we presented certificates. A real highlight of the school week as always.

In the coming weeks we will be asking the children to consider if they would like to apply for the role of School councillors to represent their class. Look out for that in homework books.

And lastly, as we head into the month of October, which is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, there will be an opportunity for children to join Mrs Mancari-Rees or me on Monday and Friday lunchtimes to pray a decade of the Rosary.

Wishing you a great week ahead,

Mrs Karen Black, Acting Headteacher

Classroom News

Fig Class have had a wonderful couple of weeks! In Maths, continuing with our place value unit, the children have been working hard on estimating where numbers go on a number line. In English, the children have begun writing their own stories based upon Paddington Bear. In the children's stories, Paddington gets up to all sorts, including sunbathing on a beach, competing in a wrestling match, and falling off the London Eye! I have been really impressed by the children's creativity and imagination. Whilst on the topic of creativity, the children also produced some incredible watercolour paintings of animals we might find in the ocean. This linked nicely to our Science and Topic for this term.

The last couple of weeks in **Oak Class**, we have been doing lots of learning linked to our topic of 'Rainforests'. In Geography, we have been identifying the location of Rainforests, linking to our previous knowledge of the tropics and the equator. We have found out about Henri Rousseau and have experimented with creating different shades of green.



In our Science lessons, we have continued looking at nutrition and have been using the nutritional barcodes on our food to discuss how healthy the food is. We have now finished 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' and have written some amazing descriptions

based on entering Narnia for the first time. Finally, in our Maths lessons, we have been applying our knowledge of place value to find 1, 10 and 100 more & less than a number.

Willow Class continue to show great curiosity in our Topic, learning about earthquakes and identifying where natural disasters occur in the world. In Maths, we have been adding and subtracting integers and finding common factors and multiples. In English lessons, the class have been writing pieces of dialogue between two characters based on our class book 'Floodland', using appropriate punctuation and vocabulary. The class enjoyed researching and writing about a person from the Old Testament in RE. In Science we have been drawing circuit symbols and exploring the voltage of an electrical circuit using different components. The children are enjoying learning new skills and playing seated volleyball games in PE. Year 6 are really enjoy being a part of the playground leaders, planning activities at lunchtimes for the younger children and helping with positive playtimes.



Bay Class has had an exciting and productive start to the Autumn Term! Over the past two weeks, we have been diving into our topic, 'Journeys'. In English, the children have been developing their skills in writing dialogue and creating atmosphere in stories. We have just finished reading 'Brightstorm' at a cliffhanger, and the children are now working on crafting their own endings as part of a culminating assignment. In RE, we have been exploring different creation stories, comparing them to the Book of Genesis, and discussing how special we are because we are created in God's image. In Science, the class has started learning about the solar system, focusing on the unique characteristics of each planet. In Maths, the children have been doing fantastic work with place value, including rounding to different place values. In PE, we have been practising underhand and overhand throws and analysing the mechanics of both techniques. It has been a wonderful couple of weeks, and we look forward to more exciting learning ahead!

Classroom News

It has been another exciting week of lots of hands-on learning in **Fir Class**! In English we have been retelling the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' and have been designing houses for the characters and labelling the features of our designs. In Maths we have been comparing amounts of objects within ten; practising using new vocabulary of 'same', 'fewer' and 'more.' The children have been especially excited about our Science work about plants and have enjoyed planting some flower seeds. They have also been observing how the plants grow, recording any changes in their plant diaries.

Over the past two weeks, the **Chestnuts** have been engaging with our 'Marvelous Me' topic, exploring houses, homes and our bodies. Last week, we focused on houses and homes, and the Chestnuts enjoyed listening to the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. They were eager to take on the challenge of proving to the Big Bad Wolf that they could build houses strong enough to withstand his "huff and puff"! There was plenty of anticipation when the Big Bad Wolf (played by a hairdryer!) arrived to put their creations to the test. This week, we shifted our focus to learning about the human body and skeletons, using the story 'Funny Bones'. The children enjoyed turning the classroom into a hospital and taking on roles such as doctors, nurses, paramedics, and patients. In Phonics, the children have been focusing on developing their speaking and listening skills, particularly working hard to identify the initial sounds in words. In Maths, we have been learning to recognise amounts up to three without needing to count on our fingers. The children have also enjoyed meeting the Numberblocks—fun characters that help make counting and number recognition even more exciting! It has been a busy and wonderful couple of weeks in Chestnut Class!

All the children in **Acorn Class** have continued to settle in so well to school life and both Mrs Conway and Miss Spiteri are very proud of them. Every day the children have demonstrated good listening skills and are continuing to learn how to follow instructions. Our Topic book for the week has been 'Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs'. The children were very interested in learning about all the different types of dinosaurs in the book, and we talked about which were our favourite ones and why. In Maths, we used our language skills to compare larger and smaller amounts of toys. This week, our Topic for learning is the season of Autumn. We will be reading 'Pumpkin Soup' by Helen Cooper and having lots of fun collecting leaves, naming all the fruits of the Autumn season and much more!

This week **Ash Class** have been reading 'To the Edge of the World' by Julia Green. The children have been introduced to the characters and predicting what they believe the story is going to be. They have been working hard to produce some excellent pieces of writing and next week we hope to write diary entries based on what we have learnt. In Maths we are learning about place value and using number lines to place numbers accurately. This week's homework task is all about place value. The children will have an opportunity to show us what they have been learning. Ash Class are settling in well and we are having lots of fun learning together.

Come and visit our library!

Open every Friday
3.30pm - 4.00pm



Diary Dates

Tuesday 1st October- Portrait photos

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

Friday 4th October - Harvest Festival Assembly - Community Emergency Foodbank donations welcome

Thursday 10th October - Year 4 Build a canal Workshop

Thursday 10th October - Acorn Class Open Morning - Prospective Parents

Friday 18th October - Chestnut Class Open Morning - Prospective Parents

Monday 21st October - Year 6 Residential to Yenworthy

Thursday 24th October -Last day of term 1 school finishes at 3.20pm

Friday 25th October - INSET SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 5th November - Parent Consultations

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 @ 2.30am

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

Wednesday 18th December - Pantomime at The Playhouse

Friday 20th 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.

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



**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 FOR DETAILS!



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

RECRUITING NOW
For the 2025 season

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

"To know. To love. To serve."

www.staloyusius.net



IS YOUR CHILD STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2025?

JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN MORNING ON

FRIDAY 18TH 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 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

Or visit our website

www.stalloysius.net

Or telephone 01863 311056

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

St Aloysius School PTA

AGM

Annual General Meeting

Everyone is welcome

Stay informed and get involved.

Thursday 3rd October, 8pm

Join us online via TEAMS
<https://tinyurl.com/yexfv6bj>



Parentkind
Member Association