

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - 15th November 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,



On Monday this week we observed a 2 minute silence on the playground for Remembrance Day. The children were respectful throughout and quite a few members of staff told me afterwards how touching the silence was. In assemblies this week we have focused on Remembrance of the dead. Mrs Mancari-Rees has opened a remembrance book on our assembly prayer table and it has been wonderful to see children quietly



breaking away from their lunch to write in the book and pray for loved ones who have died.

Parents' evenings were well attended last week. If you did not manage to speak with your child's teacher please arrange a telephone call with them via the school office.

This week I had the pleasure of showing three members of our governing body around the school. Our governors work had to ensure that we are delivering the best education possible for our children and it is always great to show them the hard work that goes on. Some of the feedback was really pleasing *'I thought it was wonderful to see how happy and engaged all the pupils were. The school seemed both like a joyful place, and one where learning was happening. What an excellent atmosphere you and all the staff have created!'*

The construction team who worked on the road outside school came in and spoke with Keystage 2 classes before half term and ran a competition for safety posters to be displayed along the Woodstock Road. 6 children's were chosen as winners so keep your eyes peeled! The construction team brought a local city councillor along with them too and she said she had not expected such a well informed 'grilling' from the children around success markers for the works and the introduction of LTNs!

The children enjoyed a visit from Mrs Tebb and baby Archie this week – they both got a cheer from each class as they entered to say hello!

Finally, there is great excitement building ahead of the fancy dress disco tomorrow evening – please support this event if you can, our PTA have some ambitious fundraising targets and have worked hard on making sure the disco will be a really fun event for all. I look forward to seeing all of the costumes! Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Karen Black, Acting Headteacher.

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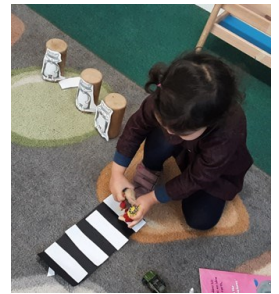
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CLASSROOM NEWS

In **Acorn Class** our Topic this week has been 'Road Safety Week' and we have been learning all about how to stay safe when we cross the road. The children really enjoyed reading 'Super Cat's Road Safety' and took part in all sorts of different activities to help us in our understanding of how to 'Stop',



'Look', 'Listen and 'Think' before we cross the road. We had so much fun playing in a specially created role play area all about road safety. This was filled with all the different road signs that we might see along our routes and journeys. We had a giant traffic light and we talked about what the different



colours mean, we had a zebra crossing and learnt how to use it. We enjoyed playing on car mats and used them to plot out routes with lots of different vehicles. We even made our own roads and a zebra crossing and then added our props to plot our journey to school. We had lots of fun learning how to use and



programme Bee-Bots to move forwards and how to stop at a crossing. In Maths, we did map work outside in our garden and followed a route to the playhouse using directional language.

Since returning after the half term, **Oak Class** have made a strong start to our learning. In Maths, we have been learning how use column addition and subtraction and we have even begun to look at exchanging. We will continue to develop this over the coming weeks. We have learned about different poetry forms in English and next week, we are going to be writing our own poems. In Science, our topic is now 'Light', so we have been identifying light sources and reflective surfaces. We considered why some materials are better at reflecting light than others. This half term in D&T, we are looking at Kayapó headdresses that children wear for their naming ceremony, and we are looking at the process of how they are made.

Fir Class have made another excellent start to the new term, and we have been busy getting stuck into all our new learning this week. In English, we have been learning about rhyme in our new story, 'Giraffes can't Dance' and have been brainstorming all the rhyming pairs we spotted in the book. In Maths, we have been working hard to understand and solve addition word problems with the aid of concrete resources. In Science, the children have started to learn about seasonal changes and they went on a very autumnal leaf hunt and had lots of fun exploring outdoors.

Ash Class have had a great couple of weeks back after half term. We are researching the River Thames in English to help write our Explanation Texts. In Maths we are practising our times tables and have been working on word problems on the 11,12 and 3 times tables. In RE the children have been focusing on Jesus as a Jew and how he prayed. This has encouraged lots of interesting discussions. We are excited about our continued learning this term and look forward to sharing more updates with you.

Dear Head Teacher

I would like to, once again, thank your school for the wonderful collection of tinned and dried food that the children donated to the Community Emergency Foodbank during your Harvest Festival Service. The food will be given to families in Oxford who are going through a period of crisis and find themselves with not enough money to buy food for themselves and their children. Would you be so kind as to pass on our sincere thanks to all those involved and assure them that every tin and packet donated will be much appreciated by the families that receive them.

Best Wishes, Mrs Jane Benyon, The Community Emergency Food Bank

www.cefoxford.co.uk



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CLASSROOM NEWS

Bay Class has been hard at work since half-term break! In Maths, the children have been working on multiplication and division with a focus on factors. Every Tuesday we practise our times tables and it has been very rewarding seeing them realise that there is a reason we need to be able to memorise them. We have also been discussing prime numbers and how place values change when multiplying by 10s, 100s, and 1000s. In Science, we had a great discussion on the rotation of the moon and its different phases. We also made models to help visualise how the moon rotates around the earth and why we experience night and day. In English, we have been working on grammar with a focus on relative clauses and how to make writing sentences more interesting. We have finished our book *Race to the Frozen North* and will be writing diary entries from the perspective of the main character. For Topic, the children have each been given an explorer. They have been researching information on their explorer and will be giving a PowerPoint presentation to the class at the end of the week. I am very much looking forward to the presentations and the children are excited to share their findings!

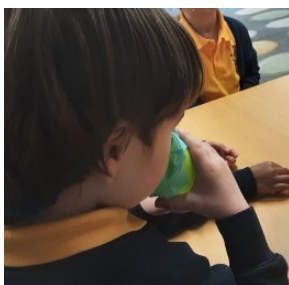
We have been very busy in **Fig Class**! In Maths, the children have been working incredibly hard on their addition and subtraction; they have made huge progress. They are becoming increasingly confident adding and subtracting larger numbers. In English we have finished our Poetry unit. We are now enjoying Pattachan's Pumpkin, a traditional tale from India. The children wrote book reviews where they expressed some really interesting views on the tale! In Topic, I have been very impressed with the children's knowledge! We have been discussing the equator and Northern and Southern hemispheres and labelling them on globes. The children have been really enjoying PE. We have been working on our throwing and catching skills and learning how to throw underarm and overarm.



The Chestnuts have been busy since returning from half-term! They loved learning about the police and K9 units and discussing the many ways police keep communities safe. This led to an exciting exploration of fingerprints, where each child took turns creating and examining their own prints, transforming our classroom into a mini forensic lab! The Chestnuts also learned



about real-life police dogs, who help track criminals with their powerful sense of smell. This sparked a discussion on our own senses, especially how our noses help us identify both pleasant and unpleasant smells. They then put their sense of smell to the test, identifying a range of mystery scents and sharing their opinions on each one. We have now started "travelling" to different places, exploring various types of transportation. This week, our focus book has been 'The Hundred Decker Bus' by Mike Smith, which takes us on a fantastic adventure with a bus that grows taller with each deck! The



Chestnuts had a wonderful time planning, designing, and creating their own unique deck to add to our classroom bus. I'm so impressed with how safely and creatively they used a variety of materials, tools, and techniques to build our incredibly tall bus!

Willow Class continue to enjoy learning about natural disasters. This week we have been looking at how volcanoes are made and why they erupt. In Maths, we have started our new topic on fractions, finding equivalent fractions and simplifying them. In English, the class have really enjoyed reading our class book 'The Vanishing Rainforest'. They have been creating their own poems based on the rainforest and writing persuasive letters and leaflets to help stop deforestation. In Science, we have started our new topic on light, looking at how light travels in straight lines. We have been discussing the importance of prayer in RE. The class made lovely poppies with thoughtful prayers, poems and messages on to put in our prayer corner for Remembrance Day.



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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 = 94.5%

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 18th November – Road Safety Week

Thursday 21st November – Year 6 Junior Citizen

Friday 29th November – Year 4 Mass

Monday 2nd December – Soup for the Gatehouse this week

Monday 2nd December – Work Sharing Week

Tuesday 3rd December – Chestnut Class Open Morning for New Parents

Friday 6th December – Whole School - Advent Morning

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](#)

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.



Come and Visit Our Library!

**Open Every Friday
3.30pm - 4.00pm**



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Join us for a fun family-friendly event
at the Oxford Covered Market

All About the Moon

Enter the VR
competition
for a chance to win an
Astronaut Experience
for 2!

FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2024

17:00-19:30

Tickets at www.spacestore.co/covered-market-moon-event-2024/

Hosted by: **SPACE STORE** **DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS** & The Market Tap and Gulp Fiction



CHRISTMAS HOCKEY CAMP

FROM BEGINNER TO
PERFORMANCE
BOYS & GIRLS
5-16 YEARS OLD

Dates
2ND - 3RD
JANUARY 2025

Times
10-4PM
REGISTER
FROM 9.30AM

Cost
See Page 2

What to expect

- ✓ Technical improvement
- ✓ Lots of Games
- ✓ Movement focus
- ✓ Plenty of fun!

Oxford Hawks Hockey Club
546 Banbury Road,
Oxford, OX2 8EQ



More Information camps@oxfordhawks.co.uk

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www.staloyisus.net



IS YOUR CHILD STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2025?



JOIN US FOR OUR **OPEN MORNING** ON
TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER - tours 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-aloyisus.oxon.sch.uk or scan the QR code for more information.