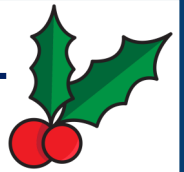




# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - 13th December 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.

### This Term's Value - Determination

Dear Parents and Carers,

The past two weeks have been as busy as ever in school! Last week the whole school took part in a beautiful Advent morning, where each class made some Advent craft and then presented them in an Advent Service with Fr. Benedict. On Monday this week, Chestnuts to Year 6 walked to The Oratory for The Immaculate Conception Feast Day Mass. These are always wonderful occasions for us as a school especially as our older classes pair up with our younger classes and walk them to the Church. The Mass was beautiful, and our children behaved in an exemplary manner.

The youngest members of our school community wowed us with their Nativity performances this week. Acorn, Chestnut and Fir Classes retold the Nativity story focusing on an Angel who had lost their wings! The children remembered their lines, sang beautifully and also added sign language to the performance. Well done to all of the children and staff for such wonderful performances!

A glorious aroma of vegetables cooking has been wafting around the school over the last two weeks. Most of the classes have made big batches of soup for The Gatehouse as part of our 'To Serve' mission. This culminated today with Year 6 helping our Acorns to chop vegetables – a truly heartwarming scene!

Finally, thank you to all those parents who have thus far completed the parent questionnaire. It is vital that we know what we are doing well and where we can improve in order to provide the best educational experience possible. We have received some really useful feedback and ideas. Can I remind all parents that our teachers are available on the doors each day and a member of the Senior Leadership Team is on the front gate each day – if you have any niggles or worries, no matter how small, please come and talk to us.

Next week we look forward to a Reconciliation Service for Key Stage 2 children, Advent Carols, Christmas lunch, Sleeping Beauty at The Playhouse and some end of term festivities.

I would like to thank you on behalf of all the staff for your support during the autumn term.

On behalf of St. Aloysius' staff, I would like to wish all our families a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Have a great weekend, *Mrs Karen Black, Acting Headteacher.*



# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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### CLASSROOM NEWS



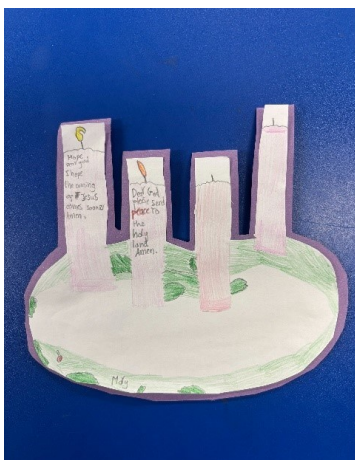
**Fir Class** have had a very exciting festive week! We really enjoyed our Advent morning recently where we made a huge class paper chain all about peace, after reflecting on how fortunate we are to live in a peaceful world where we are. As well as thinking about others who may not live in as much peace around the world. We then wrote prayers and drew symbols of peace on our paper chain before presenting our paper chain in a special Advent assembly with the rest of the school. On Wednesday and Thursday, we were finally able to present our Nativity performances to family and friends. We have done a brilliant job at learning our lines, acting and learning all the songs the past few weeks. I am extremely proud of you Year 1; you are all super stars! Well done!



In **Fig Class**, we have been extremely busy! In Maths we have been continuing with our shape topic, this week's focus has been looking at 3D shapes and counting their faces and vertices. In English, we are nearing the end of our letter writing unit, with the children writing their own letters to Greenpeace, inspired by the book 'Dear Greenpeace'. The children have been really enjoying learning more about Advent in RE. As a class, we created our own Advent wreath, we are planning to light the candles on the wreath during our collective worship. Last Friday was Advent morning, the children in Year 2 made their own hope stars, on the stars, the children wrote one special hope that they have and one way they can bring hope to someone else this Advent/Christmas. The children were beautifully behaved in Mass at the Oratory. We are

really looking forward to the last week of term, particularly the pantomime! Well done Year 2 for all your hard work and determination this term!

**Willow Class** have been learning about converting units in Maths, solving questions with metric and imperial measures. In English the class have enjoyed learning about William Shakespeare and reading one of his famous plays 'The Tempest'. The class have written part of the playscript, and a persuasive advert based on the play. We have also been writing persuasive letters to William Shakespeare convincing him to allow women and girls in his plays. In Science we have been planning and carrying out an investigation on light in groups. We have been exploring different parables in the Bible and ways we prepare during Advent in RE. In Topic the class have been finding ways to reduce the impacts of natural disasters. The class enjoyed making soup with Acorn class to give to the gatehouse. All the children have been working hard in our rehearsals for our Year 5 and 6 Carol Concert.



As we bring the term and our Topic to a close, **Oak Class** have been finishing up some projects. Oak class have thoroughly enjoyed our topic of the Rainforest and they have written some fabulous persuasive letters to Cargill, an American logging company that has unsustainable logging practices. They have been using rhetorical questions, repetition and have made careful choices of language to make it as persuasive as possible! In our Geography and Computing lessons, they have created some amazing PowerPoints about the research that they conducted on the Maldives. We followed our SMART rules whilst online including checking that our information was RELIABLE. We have also been preparing for Christmas by creating interactive wreaths. Every week, we are discussing the meaning of the advent candle and then writing a prayer onto our wreath. So far, we have written prayers for hope and peace. In Maths, we have started our new topic of Multiplication & Division. We have been focusing on skip counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s to prepare us for more complicated questions after the Christmas Holidays.



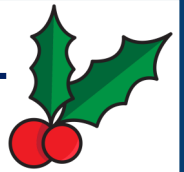




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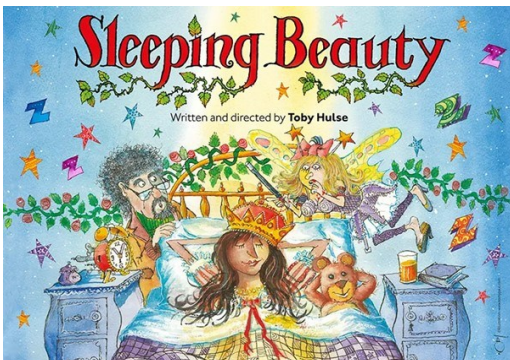
### CLASSROOM NEWS



This week in **Ash Class** we have been discussing Advent in the lead up to Christmas and the children have been reflecting daily through prayer. Monday we celebrated 'The Immaculate Conception' in Mass at the Oratory. Ash Class are finishing their myths, and we hope to have them published by Friday. In Maths we are continuing to practise timetables and the formal multiplication method. We have completed our Topic and will be reflecting on this in our Knowledge Books. Our naughty elf is still getting up to mischief and entertaining our classmates. Well done Year 4 for your incredible work and perseverance this term!



**Acorn Class** have had a busy few weeks preparing for their Nativity play, 'Little Angel Gets Her Wings'. They have done really well in remembering all the songs and actions and we are sure you will agree that they put on a fantastic performance for you all. In RE, we have been learning all about Advent and how we need to prepare for Christmas through good deeds and prayer. As part of this we have made delicious vegetable soup for The Gatehouse Soup Kitchen, and we were also blessed to join a whole school Advent Liturgy led by Father Benedict in which the child sat and listened impeccably. Our book this week has been Stickman and like Stickman, the children have enjoyed celebrating their own families, talking about all that they do and looking at family photos.



#### **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

## Ceramics Club Nativity Scenes





# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - 13th December 2024

### CLASSROOM NEWS



As we reach the end of our first full term in **Chestnut Class**, it is hard to believe how quickly the time has flown! The past few weeks have been filled with excitement as we prepare for Christmas. During this special season of Advent, we have been learning about its significance and using our Advent wreath to help us count down the days until Christmas. The children have thoroughly enjoyed playing in our classroom's role-play nativity scene, bringing the Christmas story to life. In Phonics, we have been revisiting familiar sounds, practising reading CVC words, and progressing to short captions. Some children have even taken on the challenge of writing longer sentences. We have also been working with "red words" and using our phonic knowledge to write sentences about the Christmas story. In Maths, we have explored simple patterns and have moved on to creating our own independently. The highlight of the term was undoubtedly the Christmas Nativity play. The children worked incredibly hard, and we are sure you will agree, it was a wonderful performance! I am extremely proud of the Chestnuts - well done! From all of us in Chestnut Class, we wish you a Merry and Peaceful Christmas.

**Bay Class** has been hard at work with our fractions unit. We have been learning how to add and subtract mixed numbers and improper fractions, along with finding multiple ways to get the same answer. It has been great to see the lightbulb go off when they realise there are many different ways to get to the same answer. In Topic, the students have started orienteering and learning what it means to be a good member of a team. In English, we have been learning about the different types of sentences authors use in order to convey certain types of emotion. We are currently learning about suspense and the different techniques authors will use to generate that feeling in their audience. As we are coming to the end of term, the children have been hard at work practising for their Carol Concert alongside the Year 6 students. They are very excited to perform on Monday and we hope that you will join us!

#### 2024 PARENT/CARER QUESTIONNAIRE

Parent/Carer Annual Questionnaire



QUESTIONNAIRE OPENS MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER  
@ 9.00AM AND CLOSING ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup>  
DECEMBER @ 6.00PM. THANK YOU.

#### CHRISTMAS LUNCH BOOKING FORM

Christmas Lunch Booking Form



BOOK FORM IS OPEN NOW AND CLOSING ON  
MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER @ 10.00AM.  
THANK YOU.





# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - 13th December 2024



### 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 = 92.6%**

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 16th December** – Year 5/6 Carol Concert @ 6.00pm, School Hall

**Tuesday 17th December** - School Christmas Lunch

**Wednesday 18th December** – Sleeping Beauty at The Playhouse

**Friday 20th December** – TERM ENDS @ 1.00pm

**2025**

**Monday 6th January** - INSET Day - School Closed

**Thursday 9th January** - Year 1 and Year 4 Rugby Starts

**Monday 13th January** - Year 5 Swimming Lessons Start

**Monday 13th January** - Hockey Starts

**w/b 20th January** - Year 5 Bikeability Course

**w/b 27th January** - Year 5 Bikeability Course

**Friday 14th February** - Term Ends @ 3.20pm

**w/b 17th February** - HALF TERM HOLIDAY

**Monday 24th February** - Spring Term Restarts

**Thursday 6th March** - World Book Day

**Tuesday 11th March** - Scholastic Book Fair at School

**Tuesday 18th March** - Parent Evening Meetings

**Thursday 20th March** - Parent Evening Meetings

#### School Term Dates

2024/25

2025/26

**ST. ALOYSIUS'  
SCHOOL**



**WE ARE A NO  
NUT ZONE**

**Come and Visit Our  
Library!**

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



# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - 13th December 2024



**Christmas LUNCH**

ON Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Roast Turkey (GF, DF, EF)  
or Roasted Quorn (V, GF)

Sage & Onion Stuffing (DF, EF)  
Chipolata Sausage (DF, EF) or Veggie Sausage (DF, EF)  
Crispy Roast Potatoes  
Baton Carrots & Garden Peas  
Gravy & Cranberry Sauce

Santa's Iced Christmas  
Treat (V)

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



**OXFORD HAWKS HOCKEY CLUB**

**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](mailto:camps@oxfordhawks.co.uk) PAGE 1

## ADVENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

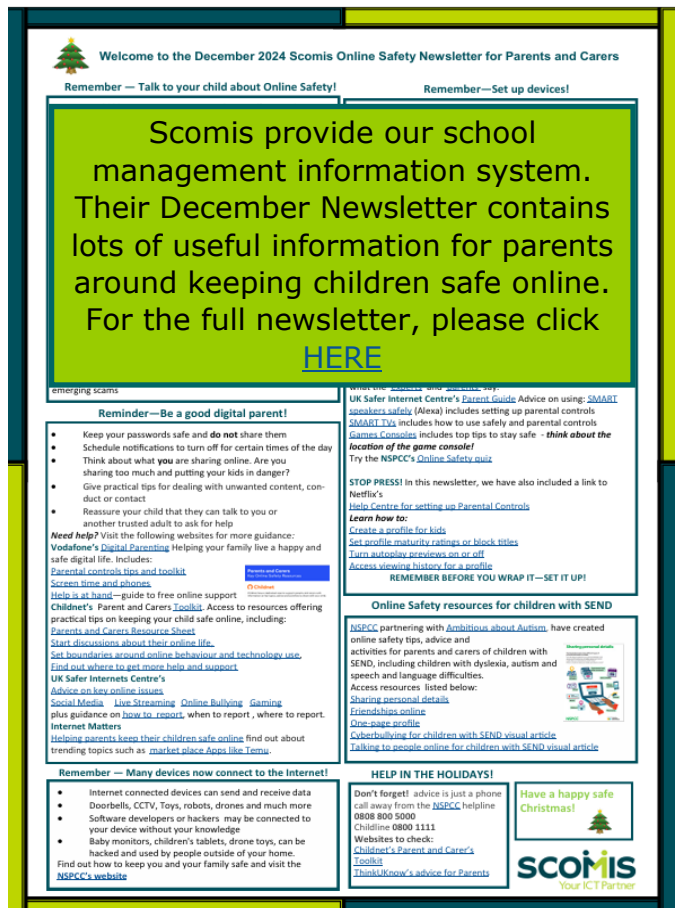


St. Aloysius' staff and PTA warmly invite all parents and guardians to join us after school drop off each Friday in Advent

When: 08.50-09.00 on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November  
6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December

Where: St. Aloysius' School Hall

What to expect: A warm welcome, lighting the advent candle, a short reading, prayers for our school, our children and our St. Aloysius' community

Welcome to the December 2024 Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Remember — Talk to your child about Online Safety!

Remember—Set up devices!

Scomis provide our school management information system. Their December Newsletter contains lots of useful information for parents around keeping children safe online. For the full newsletter, please click [HERE](#)

**Reminder—Be a good digital parent!**

- Keep your passwords safe and do not share them
- Schedule notifications to turn off for certain times of the day
- Think about what you are sharing online. Are you sharing too much and putting your kids in danger?
- Give practical tips for dealing with unwanted content, conduct or contact
- Reassure your child that they can talk to you or another trusted adult to ask for help

**Need help?** Visit the following websites for more guidance:

- Vodafone's [Digital Parenting](#) Helping your family live a happy and safe digital life. Includes:
  - Parental controls tips and toolkit
  - Screen time and phones
- Help is at hand—guide to free online support
- Children's Parent and Carers Toolkit Access to resources offering practical tips on keeping your child safe online, including:
  - Parents and Carers Resource Sheet
  - Start discussions about their online life
  - Set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use
  - Find out where to get more help and support
  - UK Safer Internet Centre's
  - Advice on key online issues
  - Social Media Live Streaming Online Bullying Gaming plus guidance on how to report, when to report, where to report.
  - Internet Matters
  - Helping parents keep their children safe online find out about trending topics such as market place Apps like Temu

**Remember — Many devices now connect to the Internet!**

- Internet connected devices can send and receive data
- Doorbells, CCTV, Toys, robots, drones and much more
- Software developers or hackers may be connected to your device without your knowledge
- Baby monitors, children's tablets, drone toys, can be hacked and used by people outside of your home.
- Find out how to keep you and your family safe and visit the [NSPCC's website](#)

**HELP IN THE HOLIDAYS!**

- Don't forget! advice is just a phone call away from the [NSPCC](#) helpline 0800 900 5000
- Childline 0800 1111
- Websites to check:
  - Children's Parent and Carer's Toolkit
  - ThinkUknow's advice for Parents

**Have a happy safe Christmas!**

**SCOMIS**  
Your ICT Partner