

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - 17th January 2025

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 - Kindness

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring Term. It has been wonderful seeing all of our children return full of energy and enthusiasm! Last Friday we celebrated the feast of The Epiphany with a service in the school hall. Three children were dressed as the wise men and they brought gifts to the crib. Fr. Benedict asked the children what they could bring to the crib and as always, the answers were very thoughtful.

As a school staff we began the term with an INSET day at The Oratory, hosted by Fr. Benedict. We attended Mass together and then worked on the planning and teaching of RE and Collective Worship across the school.

It has been lovely to walk around the school this week and see the children diving into their new topics. I have seen pirate ships being constructed, rocks examined, Queen Elizabeth I research, Iron Man paintings, ice palaces and pizza being baked!

You will find your child's learning overview for this term in the back of their homework book by next week. Placing the overview in homework books is the result of feedback received from the parent questionnaire. We hope this provides you with the information you need and helps you to better support learning at home.

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

ACORN NURSERY CLASS - SPACES AVAILABLE

Parents are welcome to come and visit our Acorn Nursery Class. It is a great opportunity to see our nursery in action and get a taste of our welcoming environment. You will be able spend time with our nursery staff and ask any questions you may have about your child starting in the nursery.

For an appointment, please email admin.3842@st-aloysius.oxon.sch.uk or telephone 01863 311056. We look forward to welcoming you!

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - 17th January 2025

CLASSROOM NEWS

Fir Class Fir Class have had a great first two weeks and have settled back into the routines of school beautifully! We have been busy with all our new Topics and are very excited to be learning about pirates. In English, the children have been retelling the story, 'The Pirates of Scurvy Sands.' We have been focusing on sequencing through drama and role play. We have even started to build our own pirate ship! In Maths, we have started our new unit, addition and subtraction within 20. The children have been using the resources in the classroom to help them master new concepts. In RE, we started the term by focusing on the day of Epiphany. We had a very special collective worship in class where the children shared their hopes as we begin the new year. We then wrote prayers expressing gratitude for what we have and to also express our own wishes for 2025.

Happy New Year! We have had an excellent start to 2025 in **Fig Class**! The children have settled back into school well and it has been lovely to hear about everything they did over the Christmas holidays. In English, we have begun reading our new book, 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. In groups, the children created large paintings of the Iron Man and then were challenged to come up with as many adjectives as they possibly could to describe the Iron Man, I was really impressed with the children's vocabulary! In Maths we have started our unit on money. We have begun adding different amounts together and working out change. In Science, we are looking at plants, we have been exploring the different parts of plants and what they need to grow. The children will be planting their own plants in the coming weeks. In RE, we have been working on our Christmas unit.



In **Acorn Class** this week we continued for a second week on our topic 'All About Feelings'. The children have really enjoyed sharing their ideas with one another about the different things that make them feel happy or sad. We re-visited our class values, and on the tuft table we made our own bottles of friendship potion, which were filled with equal amounts of kindness, sharing and caring. We made some red, green and blue feelings puppets, and had lots of fun making our own 'spin the feelings wheel' and then talking to each other about which face it landed on. This week we read Ruby's Worry and discussed what Ruby did to make her worry go away. The children chose their own resources from the creative area and designed some wonderful pictures of Ruby's worry to accompany our new 'All About Feelings' display. In Maths we have been using our number knowledge to count objects up to ten. We made play doh birthday cakes and carefully counted how many candles we needed to put on top. We had a lovely Collective Worship celebrating Epiphany. We made some beautiful star models, held them up high and shared with each other how we can all be a 'shining star'.



What a fantastic start **Bay Class** have had to the new term! The children have been working incredibly hard and showing great enthusiasm for their learning. Here is a quick look at what we have been up to in the past two weeks: We have returned to multiplication and division, tackling larger numbers with confidence. The children have been learning how to multiply 2-, 3-, and 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers, focusing on carefully lining up place values to keep calculations neat and accurate. We have also begun exploring multiple methods for long division, which has been both challenging and rewarding for the class. Any extra practice at home with these concepts would be hugely beneficial to reinforce their understanding! We have been diving into the exciting world of Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief. The children have been captivated by the story, which links wonderfully to our topic on the Ancient Greeks. In grammar, we have been focusing on the use of parenthesis—exploring how brackets, dashes, and commas can add extra information to our writing. The students have been eagle-eyed in spotting examples in the text. This week, we have paused the story to allow the children to write their own endings to Percy Jackson. I can't wait to see how their creativity shines through in their narratives—it's always a joy to read their imaginative ideas!

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - 17th January 2025

CLASSROOM NEWS

We have had a productive week this week in **Oak Class**, starting our new book 'The Wild Way Home' and exploring the descriptive language used in the first few chapters. Our main character, Charlie, is dealing with having a sibling for the first time! In Maths, we are continuing our Multiplication & Division unit and linking number facts (e.g. $4 \times 3 = 12$ so $4 \times 30 = 120$ and $40 \times 3 = 120$). In Science, we have been identifying and classifying rocks, which we will be using to investigate rocks that we find in our local environment. In Art, we have been observing rocks and sketching, showing the texture and the shape of the rock accurately.

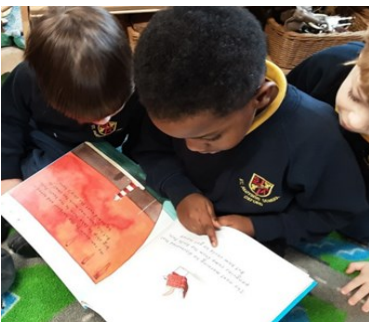
Ash Class have had a great start to the new term. We have been learning about diary entries and the children will be using a character (Eve) from our class novel 'Diver's Daughter' to write a diary entry from Eve's point of view. The children have been learning which features to include and we have been reading lots of different diary entries to help reinforce the structure and linguistic features of a diary entry. This will guide the children in their writing next week. In Maths we have revisited adding and subtracting 4-digit numbers with exchange. For some this has been challenging however, Ash class have worked hard to improve their understanding of column addition and subtraction. Our Topic this term is the Elizabethan Era, and the children have really embraced this. They are intrigued by this period in history. Their curiosity and eagerness to learn is infectious and brilliant to see. I look forward to sharing the children's progress with you throughout the term. Keep up the magnificent work Year 4!

Willow Class have started the term with great interest and curiosity in our new Topic on Ancient Egypt. In Maths we have been learning about ratio, identifying the ratio symbol and finding the fraction. In English we have started our class book 'Secrets of a Sun King'. The class have enjoyed writing persuasive leaflets on going on holiday to Egypt. In Science we have been looking at the circulatory system, identifying parts that make up the human body and the function of the circulatory system. We have been discussing the meaning of Christmas in RE, comparing the story of the birth of Jesus in the four Gospels. The class are really enjoying learning tennis skills in PE. The children have created some lovely pieces of homework based on the Ancient Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamun.



The **Chestnuts** have had an exciting and productive start to the new term! We began by reading Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers, which sparked thoughtful discussions about helping others who may feel lonely, just like the penguin in the story. The children shared wonderful ideas about how to be a good friend. They also loved re-enacting the tale in our South Pole-themed role-play area, imagining what it would be like to set sail to the South Pole and deciding what they would pack for the journey - suggestions included a bed, a TV, and even a toilet! We continued our winter topic by exploring ice and snow. The children discovered some of our toys had been frozen and took on exciting challenges to free them. They experimented with different household substances to melt the ice and release the toys, all while

learning through play and investigation. In Phonics, we have been focusing on the sounds th and ch and practising the red words he and she. In Maths, the children have been reinforcing their knowledge of maths by subitising, recognising numbers and exploring ways to make 5 with the help of the nursery rhyme Five Little Speckled Frogs. During RE, the children started learning about baptism and exploring its meaning and significance. In Music, the children have had fun learning to sing and play Wind the Bobbin Up on the glockenspiel. It has been a wonderful start to the term and we are looking forward to more exciting learning adventures!



ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - 17th January 2025

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 = 93.4%

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

2025

w/b 20th January - Year 5 Bikeability Course

Thursday 23rd January - Parent Governor Academisation Meeting -
8.35am to 9.15am @ school

w/b 27th January - Year 5 Bikeability Course

Wednesday 5th February - Year 3 @ Christchurch College School Music Opportunity (details sent separately)

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

Monday 17th March - Year 3 @ Christchurch College School Music Opportunity

Tuesday 18th March - Parent Evening Meetings (details to follow)

Thursday 20th March - Parent Evening Meetings (details to follow)

Monday 31st March & Tuesday 1st April - Easter Performance

Friday 4th April - Term Ends @ 1.00pm

w/b 7th April - EASTER HOLIDAY

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 - 17th January 2025



FEBRUARY HOCKEY CAMP

REGISTER NOW

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

Dates
**17-19TH
FEBRUARY 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

PAGE 1



WHAT LEVEL?

OUR CAMP IS SPLIT
INTO 3 GROUPS -
SEE BELOW TO SEE
WHICH ONE SUITS
YOU BEST

LEARNING

FOR PLAYERS BRAND NEW OR
RELATIVELY NEW TO HOCKEY.
THIS IS ALL THE KEY ASPECTS
SUCH AS HOW TO GRIP THE
STICK, HOW TO EXECUTE THE
BASIC SKILLS AND
UNDERSTANDING THE BASIC
RULES AND TACTICS OF THE
GAME

DEVELOPING

FOR PLAYERS WITH
EXPERIENCE LOOKING TO
DEVELOP THEIR GAME, IDEAL
FOR SCHOOL PLAYERS
LOOKING TO MOVE UP FROM
THE TEAM THEY ARE
CURRENTLY IN OR FOR CLUB
PLAYERS LOOKING TO BE
SELECTED FOR A COUNTY
TEAM. IDEAL FOR 9-11 YEAR
OLDS.

COMPETITION

FOR PLAYERS WITH
EXPERIENCE LOOKING TO
TAKE THEIR GAME TO THE
NEXT LEVEL. FROM
PROFICIENT CLUB PLAYERS
UP TO TA LEVEL THE
PROGRAMME IS ADAPTED BY
OUR COACHES TO SUIT THE
NEEDS OF EACH PLAYER THAT
ATTENDS TO ENSURE THEY
HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO
LEAVE A BETTER HOCKEY
PLAYER THAN WHEN THEY
ARRIVED! GENERALLY AGED 12
-16

GK'S

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO OFFER
GK'S A FULL DAY OF GK
SPECIFIC TRAINING ON THE
18TH FEBRUARY. GK'S ARE
ALSO VERY WELCOME TO DAY
1 AND 3 AS PART OF THE
GENERAL SESSIONS AT A
REDUCED COST



THE KIOSK WILL BE OPEN TO
PURCHASE DRINKS AND
SNACKS AND PANINIS CAN BE
PRE ORDERED WHEN YOU
SIGN UP!

WHAT COST?

LEVEL	1 DAY	2 DAYS	3 DAYS
Learning	£50	£80	£110
Developing	£50	£80	£110
Competition	£55	£105	£150
GK's	£60 (GK Day)	£80	£110

DISCOUNTS

20% STATE SCHOOL
20% SIBLING (ALL
SIBLINGS)

NOT TO BE USED
CONCURRENTLY

FINANCIAL SUPPORT
AVAILABLE - EMAIL
BELOW FOR MORE INFO

More Information camps@oxfordhawks.co.uk

PAGE 2



ELITE Ofsted
Registered

FEBRUARY 2025

**Botley Primary School, Elms
Road, Oxfordshire, OX2 9JZ**

10% OFF WITH CODE
Code expires 5th Feb **NY10**

Monday, 17th February - Friday, 21st February:

Extended Day (8:30am - 5:00pm)

Full Day (9:00am - 3:30pm)

Half Day for 4-Year-Olds (9:00am - 1:00pm)

Booking Options

- Book online via eliteyouthsports.co.uk
- info@eliteyouthsports.co.uk
- 01235 415846
- Cards | BACS | Childcare Vouchers and Tax Free Scheme



Most pharmacies can help you
with **seven common conditions**
without needing a GP appointment

- **Sinusitis**
(adults and children aged 12 years and over)
- **Sore throat**
(adults and children aged 5 years and over)
- **Earache**
(children and young adults aged 1 year to 17 years)
- **Infected insect bite**
(adults and children aged 1 year and over)
- **Impetigo**
(adults and children aged 1 year and over)
- **Shingles**
(adults aged 18 years and over)
- **Urinary tract infection**
(women, aged 16 to 64 years)

Ask your pharmacy for more
information about this
free* NHS service

Visit your Pharmacy First!

*NHS prescription charge rules apply where a medicine is supplied