

# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - 14TH FEBRUARY 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,

Here we are at the end of another busy half term in school! The learning across the school has been energetic and interesting. I drop into classrooms a couple of times a week to get involved in lessons and during the last fortnight, I have joined in with some excellent learning involving anything from fractions and trains to cooking and dinosaurs! The past two weeks have also seen children across the school complete assessments in order to check for gaps in learning and plan for next term. The children have completed them with impressive effort.

In assemblies, we have talked about being a follower of Christ and how we can follow Him in our everyday lives. During classroom Prayer and Liturgy sessions, children have written beautiful prayers. We celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes this week with Holy Water that Mrs Mancari Rees brought in from Lourdes itself – Key Stage 2 children were able to bless themselves with it. Our Chestnut Class visited The Oratory this week and Fr. Benedict showed them the different elements of the Sacrament of Baptism.

Last week, I had the pleasure of joining our Year 3 class on a visit to Christ Church Cathedral School for a morning of singing with their choristers. The experience ended with the children performing at Christ Church. The staff at CCCS were full of praise for our children's behaviour, and we even received a kind email from a member of the public who had been on the same bus as us, expressing how delightful it was to travel with such polite children. It was a very proud moment!

Thanks to everyone who attended the St. Valentine Breakfast this morning - the PTA are planning lots of exciting fundraising events for the coming months so keep your eyes peeled!

Wishing you a restful half term break.

*Mrs Karen Black, Acting Headteacher*

**TOPIC OVERVIEW AND KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS ARE  
AVAILABLE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE**

[Classes - St. Aloysius' Catholic Primary School](#)

#### Door of Hope



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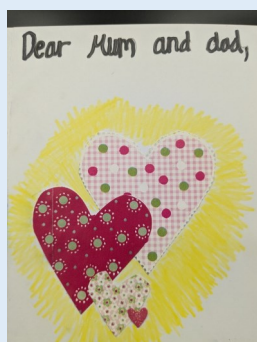
### CLASSROOM NEWS

The **Chestnuts** have had an incredible two weeks of learning! Last week, they opened their very own dinosaur shop after reading *The Dinosaur Department Store* by Lily Murray. Inspired by the story *Dear Zoo*, the children created their own version called *Dear Museum*. Each child designed a page explaining why they couldn't keep the dinosaur that the museum sent them—although quite a few were eager to keep their dino pets! I was especially impressed with their phonics skills as they segmented words like *spiky* and *mean* with confidence. The Chestnuts explored what dinosaurs were, what they looked like, what they ate, and how big they were. They were especially shocked to discover that a *Tyrannosaurus Rex* would have been bigger than the school! This week, the Chestnuts were thrilled to take part in Drawing Club, based on the book *Are the Dinosaurs Dead, Dad?* They brainstormed creative ways to stop a T-Rex from eating the main characters, Dad and Dave. Their ideas ranged from putting roller skates on the dinosaur to tying its mouth shut with elastic bands! We also became palaeontologists, digging in our class sandpit and even dissecting coprolites (fossilised poo!) to determine which dinosaur left them behind. By examining the remains inside, we discovered that our dino visitor was a herbivore! In Art, we explored clay and used it to create ammonite fossils, just like the ones we studied from Charmouth Beach. In Maths, we focused on understanding the relationship between numbers up to 8 and practised counting beyond 20. The children also identified repeating patterns in numbers and grew larger numbers. baptism. We visited

more confident using familiar sequences to count. Our learning journey continued with a study of the Oratory, where Fr. Benedict welcomed us and guided the children through a role-play of a baptism. The children walked beautifully to the church, listened attentively, and showed impeccable behaviour. We also learned about the Presentation of Jesus, and it has been heartwarming to see the children re-enacting this during their playtime. It has been a fantastic fortnight of learning, and I am so proud of the Chestnuts!



### Art Club Picture Selection





# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

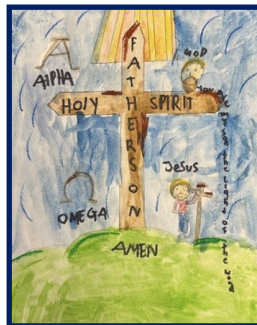
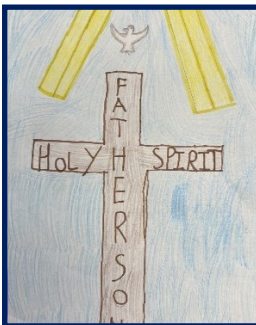
## NEWSLETTER - 14TH FEBRUARY 2025

### CLASSROOM NEWS



The children have produced lovely models and pages of information on John the Baptist for homework. Have a lovely half term!

We have had a busy couple of weeks in **Oak Class**. Last week was assessment week and I wanted to say how proud I was of how all the children tried their hardest and demonstrated all that they have learned. On Wednesday, we had the amazing opportunity to attend a singing workshop at Christ Church Cathedral School and then after practising with some choristers, we went over to the cathedral to practise singing and trying to fill the larger space. This was in preparation for our performance of the songs on 17th March. Whilst there, we even had chance to visit the 'Harry Potter' stairs! We have been continuing our Topic of the Stone Age and this week we are writing instructions. In Maths, we have been finishing off our topic of Multiplication & Division, we have even been dividing numbers with remainders. Our RE topic this half term has been 'We listen to the Word of God'. We completed our topic, learning about the Baptism of Jesus and the significance of the Holy Trinity appearing. They then created some beautiful artwork reflecting this.



**WE ARE PILGRIMS OF HOPE**  
working together to build a better world



# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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### CLASSROOM NEWS



What a fantastic term we have had in **Bay Class**. The students have been working incredibly hard across all subjects. In Maths, we have been tackling some very complicated fractions, focusing on finding fractions of a whole. While the concepts have been challenging, the children have shown great perseverance and are really starting to grasp some advanced fraction work. I have been so impressed by their determination and willingness to keep going even when faced with tricky problems. Our Topic this term has been all about ancient Greek mythology, and it has been an absolute joy to teach. I have never seen the children so engaged in a topic before, and it truly

reflects in the quality of work they have made. We are now preparing for our final big write of the term, where students will use everything they have learned from reading and analysing different myths to create their very own myth. I am very much looking forward to reading their myths! Alongside this, they have been busy creating beautiful artwork, including depictions of mythical monsters, Greek pots, and gold coins, all of which have been a wonderful addition to our classroom displays. In RE, we recently had a meaningful collective worship gathering where we discussed how Jesus taught us to be kind. The children shared thoughtful ideas on how they can show kindness through their words and actions, striving to be living examples of Jesus's kindness in their daily lives. It has been a fantastic term, and I am so proud of the effort and enthusiasm the students have shown in all areas of their learning. I hope everyone has a fun and safe break!



#### EARLY YEARS APPEAL

Early Years are appealing for donations of unwanted kitchen appliances and tools for the outdoors Mud Kitchen. We would also like to ask parents for medical accessories, role play equipment, dressing up outfits, Lego, etc. Please bring your donations to the School Office.

#### PARKING & LITTERING REMINDER

We have had more complaints from our neighbours regarding inconsiderate parking at drop off and at the end of day. One neighbour witnessed a parent throwing rubbish out of their car window!! Please ensure that you are parking within marked bays and that you are NOT blocking our neighbour's driveways.

**NO  
PARKING**



## 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](mailto:admin.3842@st-aloysius.oxon.sch.uk) or telephone 01863 311056. We look forward to welcoming you!



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### CLASSROOM NEWS

**Ash Class** showed great resilience last week when completing their assessments, we are really proud of them all. This week we have spent time exploring the Sacrament of Baptism. We have looked at Jesus' baptism and how many different artists have depicted this event. We then explored our own baptism, and the many signs and symbols found in this sacrament. The children



enjoyed creating their own masterpieces of Jesus' Baptism, they are proudly displayed in class. In Maths, we are looking at the perimeter and area of rectilinear shapes. The children have practised drawing shapes accurately to aid their calculations, making sure they use a sharp pencil and ruler. In English we continue to read and explore the different characters in A Midsummer Night's Dream, as we prepare to create our own playscripts.

**Fir Class** have had some lovely in class collective worship lessons recently and have enjoyed singing lots of hymns and writing prayers as well. I have been really impressed with the children's enthusiasm and thoughtful participation during collective worship- great work Fir Class! In Topic, the children have worked brilliantly in teams to make some fantastic posters about Grace O'Malley. They used the facts that they found out in their homework task to help them add some good information to their posters. In Maths, we have consolidated addition and subtraction and have done lots of extra practise using a variety of different resources to help us solve word problems. The children's developing knowledge and understanding of number has been a pleasure to see grow!

I am really proud of **Fig Class** for their hard work and determination during assessment week! All the children tried their very best. We have also been busy in Fig Class conducting Science experiments! We planted some plants and have put some in the dark and some in the light. The children have made predictions as to whether the plants in the dark or the plants in the light will grow the best and be the healthiest. The children are watering the plants every day and watching closely for the results. In PE, the children have had lots of fun playing dodgeball! I have seen lots of brilliant teamwork and resilience. I have also been really impressed with how hard the children have been working in RE during our Unit on Miracles and Parables. Well done Fig Class! I hope you all have a lovely half term.

Wow! What a busy term **Acorn Class** have had! We are really proud of our new Acorns, who have settled really well and our existing Acorns who have warmly welcomed them into our class. Last week, after reading the book 'The Train Ride' by June Crebbin we enjoyed all things train. In our train station we travelled to London, Scotland, Italy and so many other places! We made trains using junk modelling, painted pictures using trains and drew our own train tracks and added what we saw from the train, just like in 'The Train Ride'. This week we are reading the book 'Walking through the Jungle' by Julie Lacome. The children have really enjoyed learning about jungle animals and thinking about how they move and sound, as well as going on our walk through the jungle. In Maths we have been learning about length; we have measured ourselves using masking tape and then compared to see who is the longest or shortest. In our RE lessons we have been learning about God's family and what it means to be part of such a wonderful community. We finished the term with a day of love, inspired by the story of St Valentine; making heart biscuits and Valentine cards for our families. Enjoy your half term Acorns and the biscuits!



# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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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 = 93.8%**

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

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

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

**Year 5 Swimming (remember kit)**

**Friday 28th February** - PTA Cake Sale (Year 6)

**Tuesday 4th March** - Yr 6 Parent Evening Meetings

**Wednesday 5th March** - Yr 6 Parent Eve. Meetings

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

**Friday 7th March** - PTA Cake Sale (Year 5)

**Monday 10th March** - Good Shepherd Assembly

**Tuesday 11th March** - Scholastic Book Fair at School  
(all week)

**Thursday 13th March** - NCMP Year 6 & Reception & Oak Class @ Hill End

**Friday 14th March** - Years 5 & 6 D'Overbroecks Concert @ Sheldonian

**Monday 17th March** - Year 3 @ Christchurch College School

**Tuesday 18th March** - Parent Evening Meetings (Acorn to Year 5)

**Thursday 20th March** - Parent Evening Meetings (Acorn to Year 5)

**Monday 31st March & Tuesday 1st April** - Easter Performance - Yr 2/3/4

**Friday 4th April** - Term Ends @ 1.00pm

### Work Sharing Afternoons - 2.50pm to 3.10pm

Monday 24th March - Year 4

Tuesday 25th March - Years 1 & 6

Wednesday 26th March - Years 3 & 5

Thursday 27th March - Year 2

### Work Sharing Mornings - 8.35am to 8.55am

Tuesday 25th March - Chestnut Class

Thursday 27th March - Acorn Nursery

### School Term Dates

2024/25

2025/26





# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - 14TH FEBRUARY 2025

Calling all U11's

We offer:

Welcoming  
Competitive  
Fun  
Football



**SUMMERTOWN  
STARS · AFC**

**JOIN OUR U11  
TEAMS**



JOIN THE TEAM

**PLAY FOOTBALL**

**9 A-SIDE OYFL LEAGUE  
MATCHES EVERY WEEK**

We are looking for experienced or new players who are interested in playing 9-a-side football. Matches are on Sunday mornings for players in Year 6.

We play in the OYFL leagues, offering a competitive, fun, and welcoming environment with plenty of game time!

**More Information:**

[www.summertownstars.org](http://www.summertownstars.org)

**Contact Us**

[welfare@summertownstars.org](mailto:welfare@summertownstars.org)

**COME ALONG AND JOIN IN...**

- Training on Monday nights 6.30pm - 7.30pm at Phil and Jim school.
- Just let us know you're coming (it's free for the rest of the season)

**TRAINING:**

Every Monday 6.30 - 7.30 pm  
@ Phil and Jim School  
& Friday 6-7pm @Cherwell 3G



[welfare@summertownstars.org](mailto:welfare@summertownstars.org)



01865 558624



[www.summertownstars.org](http://www.summertownstars.org)



FREE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!  
MOST SUITABLE FOR 5-16 YRS

**SCIENCE  
BAZAAR  
BEYOND**

**Saturday 1 March 2025**

9:30am - 11:30am Relaxed autism-friendly early opening  
11:30am - 4pm Open to all

**OXFORD  
BROOKES  
UNIVERSITY**

Fun activities, hands-on workshops, experiments, talks, shows, competitions and cafe

**BOOK  
TICKETS**



[www.brookes.ac.uk/science-bazaar](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/science-bazaar)  
[sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk)

**X** @obuengagement #BrookesBazaar25  
**f** @OxfordBrookesPublicEngagementResearch  
**@** @oburesearchpublicengagement

Event sponsored by  
**MORGAN  
SINDALL**  
CONSTRUCTION

Oxford Brookes University, Clerici Building, Headington Campus,  
Gipsy Lane, Headington, OX3 0BP

**NO PARKING ON SITE EXCEPT FOR ACCESS NEEDS**



**February Holiday Clubs**

**St Nicholas' Primary School, Oxford**

These clubs are open to children aged 3-11

**Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February**

Activities include dodgeball, dance, drama, yoga, multi skills, ball games, art and crafts, team and confidence building activities and much more.



**Cost:** £35 per day  
All childcare vouchers accepted

**Timings:** 8am-5pm

To find out more or to book visit  
[www.rattleandrollperformance.com](http://www.rattleandrollperformance.com)  
or call 07722 014301



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return to work  
across  
the UK

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