

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - 31ST 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,

We have enjoyed a busy fortnight in school. On Friday we celebrated the launch of Jubilee 2025, the theme of which is 'Hope'. The children watched a welcome message from Cardinal Vincent Nichols and he explained that *"hope that comes from knowing we are loved by God, the hope we can bring to those in most need, and the hope we can bring to our common home, the earth."* The children have written prayers and messages of hope on doves and Mrs Mancari-Rees has created our very own doorway of hope leading into our Library.

Today we celebrated the feast of Candlemas with a beautiful Mass in our school hall. Each class had their Prayer corner candles blessed. It was even more special to share this with parents in attendance.



In celebration assemblies we continue to focus on this term's value - Kindness. In Gospel assembly on Monday the children were asked "How can you bring the Good News to others this week?" We also congratulated Eli McMahon (Year 4) in assembly last week as he was Mascot for Oxford United at the Kassam Stadium.

Please look out for some communication around some changes to parents' evenings which we will trial for the March consultations. These changes are based on parental feedback.

Finally, well done to Year 5 who have completed Bikeability training this week. We are fortunate to have a Bikeability instructor as a parent (Yuri Silva). The children spent the mornings training on the playground and then cycled to Jericho to practise on the roads. Such an important skill as Oxford residents!

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Mrs Karen Black, Acting Headteacher.

Door of Hope



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CLASSROOM NEWS

Fir Class have been so enthusiastic the last two weeks about our Topic work and have created their own pirate ship which they have been having lots of fun playing in. We have also used it to help us with parts of our English work, based on the book 'The Pirates of Scurvy Sands.' For homework last week, I set the children a research task to find out two or three facts about Grace O'Malley. The children did so well with this, and we enjoyed sharing some of what we found out together as a class- great work Year 1! Fir Class have also been enjoying their Science work recently and have started to learn all about the different animal groups and the features that distinguish these animals from each other. I have been so impressed with how much knowledge they have absorbed so quickly!



In **Acorn Class** this week we have been very busy celebrating Chinese New Year. We did all sorts of activities around the celebrations, including making some wonderful dragon faces and bodies, decorating role play masks and designing our own paper lanterns, which we hung in our Chinese restaurant role play area. In Literacy we read 'The Chinese New Year Story', and then re-told it using props, models and a story tray to help us. We were able to name and count all twelve animals in the story and talk about what they did. In Maths we looked at Chinese numbers 1-10 and have continued with our 1:1 counting.



The past two weeks have been filled with exciting learning experiences in **Chestnut Class**! Last week, we explored the classic tale of *Little Red Riding Hood*, using maps to imagine her journey and discussing local landmarks she might pass. The children then created their own maps, recalling key locations and characters while adding some imaginative places, which they labelled using their phonic knowledge. We also started thinking about healthy eating, discussing which foods are good for us and what healthy snacks Little Red Riding Hood could take to Grandma's house. This week, we have been celebrating Chinese New Year and welcoming the Year of the Snake. The children enjoyed learning the story behind the Chinese zodiac and discovering how this special occasion is celebrated. They had lots of fun creating colourful dragons, ready for an exciting dragon dance with Acorns! In Maths, we have been comparing quantities, focusing on sets of objects without being influenced by colour, shape, or size. The children have been learning to recognise when groups are equal or unequal and how to adjust them to make them the same. We're also reinforcing key language such as *more than*, *fewer than*, and *an equal number*. In Art, the children produced some brilliant charcoal drawings of wolves, showing great creativity and attention to detail. Well done Chestnuts, for another fantastic fortnight of learning!

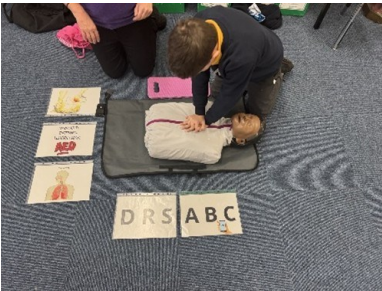


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CLASSROOM NEWS

Fig Class have been working very hard! In English, the children have written some wonderful character descriptions about the Iron Man, using lots of adjectives and similes! As homework the children were challenged to describe their favourite character from a book, film or tv show. I have really enjoyed reading their descriptions of characters such as Bluey, Aladdin and Thomas the Tank Engine! In Topic, the children have been enjoying exploring the life of George Stephenson, we even took a sneak peek inside his house and considered the differences between his house in the 1800s to our homes today. We had a friendly Phonics competition in Fig Class, in teams the children had to write as many words as they possibly could with a certain sound in them. Well done to Team Fabulous who were our winners!



Willow Class has shown great interest in our Topic, learning about when the Ancient Egyptian civilisation started and



understanding how we know about the History. In Maths, we have been learning Algebra, solving function machines and forming equations. The class are really enjoying our class book 'Secrets of a Sun King'. The children are predicting what might happen next in the story and continuing the narrative. In Science, we have been learning about the blood vessels in our body and investigating heart rate. We have been comparing the Gospel accounts of the Baptism of Jesus in RE. The class enjoyed having a visit from the injury prevention education programme (IMPs), learning important first aid skills to respond effectively if an incident occurs.



Bay Class has been working incredibly hard during the past two weeks! In English, they have finished their narrative pieces, continuing the story of *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*. Their creative endings were a joy to read. Building on our term topic, we have started exploring a collection of Greek myths, which has sparked some fantastic discussions about their themes and messages. The children have identified common characteristics of myths and will soon be writing their own. In Maths, they have completed their multiplication and division exam successfully and have



now moved on to the second part of our fractions unit. It has been wonderful to see them applying their knowledge with confidence. In PE, we have been focusing on teamwork and problem-solving through our Adventure Education unit and it has been fantastic to watch the children collaborate and think creatively to tackle different challenges.

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



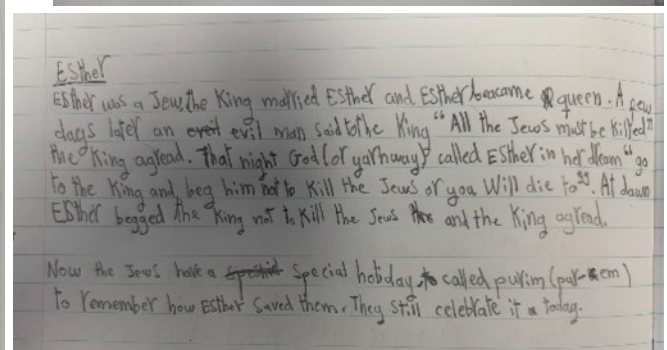
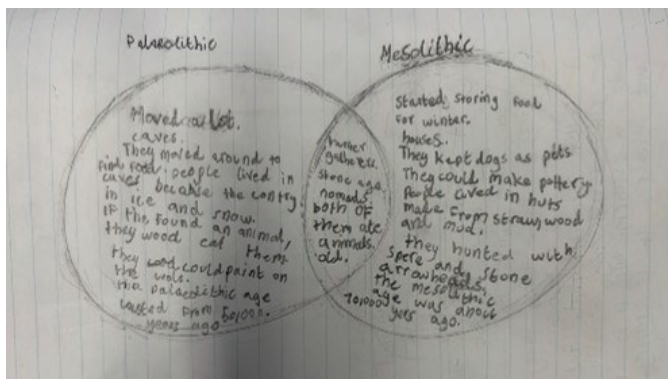
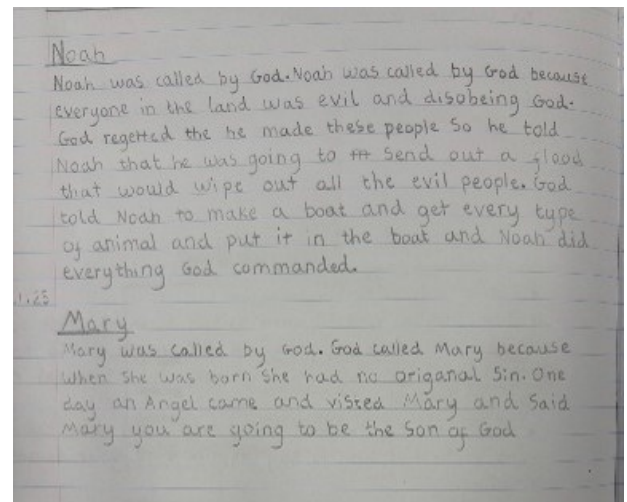
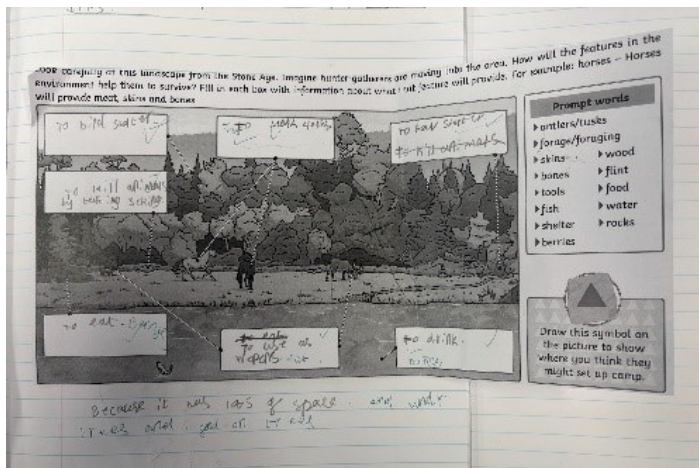
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Ash Class have been working very hard this week in English and will be publishing their diary entries today. They have written these from the perspective of Eve, a young black girl, who lived during Elizabethan times. In Maths we have been really challenging the children and learning how to multiply 2-digits by 2-digits. Lots of the children have been showing amazing determination and resilience in this area of maths. With continued practice they will master this area of calculation. Don't give up year 4! A special mention has to go to Eli who was a mascot for Oxford United at the weekend. We are extremely proud of you Eli and hope to see you playing on the pitch in the future.

The last two weeks in **Oak Class** have been busy! We have been busy learning how to multiply and divide 2-digit numbers with exchanges, using partitioning to help. In English, we have started looking at our new book 'How to wash your woolly mammoth', which will lead us onto writing out our own set of instructions over the next couple of weeks. In our Topic lessons, we have been learning about the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic parts of the Stone Age and how life changed and shifted from nomadic lifestyles to agriculture. We have been focusing on being called by God in RE, we have discovered how people were called by God in the Bible and how we build our relationship with God and reconnect with Him when we go to Mass.



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!

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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 = 95.8%

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

2025

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

Friday 14th February - PTA St. Valentine's Breakfast - 8.00am to 8.35am, school hall

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 (all week)

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

Monday 21st April - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 22nd April - Start of Summer Term

School Term Dates

[2024/25](#)

[2025/26](#)

St. Aloysius' PTA
St. Valentine Breakfast
All welcome!

February the 14th

8-8:35am

In the school hall



Suggested family donation £2

Come and Visit Our Library!
Open Every Friday
3.30pm - 4.00pm



ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - 31ST JANUARY 2025

CYBER PROTECT WEBINARS



The Digital Dilemma: Keeping Children Safe Online

January 23rd, 28th, 30th

February 3rd, 6th, 10th, 12th, 13th

TICKETS ONLINE:

Eventbrite: Police - South East Cyber

FREE WEBINAR FOR PARENTS & CARERS

run by Police Cyber Protect teams

Hints and tips to secure your family
online, covering cyber risks and scams in:

Gaming



Social Media



Email

TO BOOK YOUR SPACE:

Click [here](#), scan the QR code

or search online for "eventbrite police southeast cyber"



DON'T LET IT BE GAME OVER
LEVEL UP YOUR ONLINE SECURITY



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
or call 07722 014301



OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY

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

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

**BOOK
TICKETS**



www.brookes.ac.uk/science-bazaar
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



We've now
helped
500+ STEM
professionals
return to work
across
the UK

Are you looking to return to STEM?



Have you taken a career break of any
length from STEM and wish to return?

Are you working below your capability?

Do you have a STEM qualification that
you aren't using?

STEM Returners
opportunities with



UK Atomic
Energy
Authority

Location:
Culham, Oxford, Hybrid

If so this could be the opportunity for you!

Please contact us for more information:

www.stemreturners.com jazmine.gouldbourne@stemreturners.com

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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

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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

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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