

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - 7TH MARCH 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 - Empathy

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to welcome our families back to school after the half term break. The onset of some sunnier weather has been welcomed on the playground at playtimes!

The children have spent this week preparing for the season of Lent. Last Friday Fr. Benedict celebrated the Sacrament of Penance with Years 4, 5 and 6. The smell of pancakes throughout the school on Shrove Tuesday was delightful with our Breakfast Club beginning the cooking and then every class following on. On Ash Wednesday Key Stage 2 attended Mass at The Oratory and Fr. Benedict administered ashes to EYFS and Key Stage 1 in the afternoon. CAFOD delivered an assembly on 'The Big Lent Walk' which we are taking part in as a whole school.

Our value of the term is Empathy. The Gospel readings in our last two weekly assemblies have encouraged the children to reflect on themselves before they look at others' behaviour.

I accompanied some Year 4 and 5 children to D'Overbroecks School to sing last week. The behaviour and attitudes of our pupils has always been a strength of our school, and I was delighted to receive the following in an email ... "they were fantastic - so engaged, well-behaved, polite and fun, and really good singers!"

We celebrated World Book yesterday with a variety of activities throughout the day including 'drop everything and read', book making and a question and answer session with footballer Martin Keown about his career and autobiography.

Finally, we welcomed Year 6 parents into school this week for Parents evenings. Thank you to all those who attended – partnership between home and school is so important. We look forward to holding parent meetings with the rest of the school the week after next.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

*Mrs Karen Black,
Acting Headteacher*



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CLASSROOM NEWS

Last week **Acorn Class** read the Enormous Turnip and did all sorts of different activities to accompany this favourite traditional tale. These included taking turns at playing shopkeeper and customer, writing out shopping lists and using all our senses to talk about and describe the different



fruits and vegetables on display in our role play market stall. The rain came along, and we all had so much fun playing in the muddy puddles in our garden. In Maths the children have all worked very hard continuing with their counting and mark making skills. This week we were so excited to be able to take part in celebrating Shrove Tuesday. We wore our own aprons and took part alongside the Year 5 children who served us the tasty pancakes and then helped us to choose our toppings. In the run up to World Book Day, the children have been bringing in their favourite book choices from home and talking about why they are so special.

Year 1 have had a wonderful week. We have started to learn about Lent and discussed what we would like to give up for Lent. The children came up with some very thoughtful responses and I was impressed with how well they engaged in discussing, listening to each other and sharing ideas respectfully. We really enjoyed celebrating Shrove Tuesday and decorated pancakes with a variety of different toppings. In Maths, we have been working with numbers up to 50 in different ways, exploring number tracks and number lines and estimating on a number line. Well, done Fir Class for having another super week!

We have had a fantastic few weeks in **Fig Class**! In RE we have been learning all about Lent. In English, we have been looking at instruction writing. On Shrove Tuesday, the children wrote instructions for how to cook pancakes before heading to the kitchen and doing a brilliant job of following their instructions! The pancakes turned out brilliantly, they were delicious! In Maths, the children have been working really hard on division. It has been a challenging topic but I have been so impressed with how hard the children have worked and how they have not given up! All their hard work is certainly paying off. In PE, the children have had lots of fun using the ropes and apparatus in the hall. The children were much more successful at using the ropes than Miss Collier was!

Oak Class have been working hard. We have been looking at length in Maths, comparing and converting between metres, centimetres and millimetres. In our History lessons, we have continued learning about Stone Age life – which is going to help us fully comprehend and explore when we visit Hill End next week. We have been learning about the secrets of Stonehenge and have written a non-chronological report on how it was built and are currently planning our story as one of the workers who built it. We continued with preparation for our concert at Christ Church and are practising all our songs – we really hope you can make it! On Wednesday, we went to The Oratory to receive ashes on our forehead as we start our Lenten journey.

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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CLASSROOM NEWS

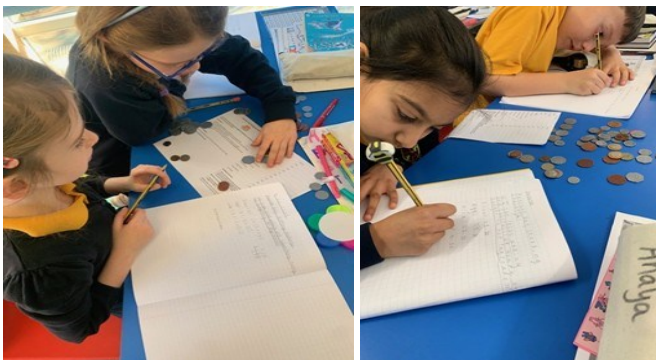


Since returning to school after the half-term break, the **Chestnuts** have launched into our exciting new topic - Space! The children have been eager to learn about aliens, space shuttles, and the solar system. Last week, they were shocked to discover that a spacecraft had crash landed in the classroom! They created posters to investigate what might have happened and who could have been inside the ship. This week, our story is 'The Way Back Home' by Oliver Jeffers. In the story, the boy parachutes back to Earth, leading to a discussion about parachutes and skydiver Felix Baumgartner. The



The Chestnuts designed, made, and tested their own parachutes to explore how they work. They experimented with different materials and sizes, observing how these factors affected the parachutes' speed and effectiveness. It was an exciting hands-on investigation, and the children loved seeing their parachutes in action! In Maths, we have been learning about doubling and exploring mass, discovering how to balance different weights. The children have been working hard to apply these new skills through play. A highlight of the week was Shrove Tuesday and the tradition of eating pancakes. Teaming up with Year 6, the Chestnuts measured ingredients and made their own pancakes, which were a huge hit - many gave them two thumbs up! In the

classroom, they wrote shopping lists, designed their own pancake creations and practised flipping playdough pancakes, feeling so proud when they caught them in the pan. It has been a busy and exciting start to the term and we look forward to all the learning still to come!



In **Ash Class**, we have been working so hard. We have learnt about fractions and identifying denominators and numerators which helps us with adding and subtracting. We continue to look at the Tudors in English and plan to write a diary entry and thereafter a persuasive letter. In History we will look at the Anglo-Saxons. During RE we have started learning about Lent and exploring Jesus' temptations in the desert. The children loved the pancake related activities for Shrove Tuesday. Our Pancake

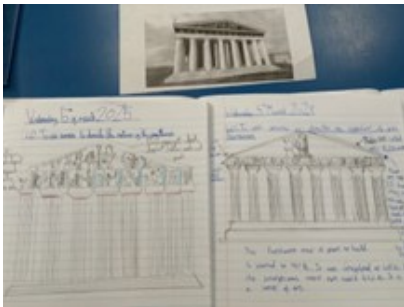
themed Maths lessons was a huge success as they were given a £5 budget to buy ingredients to make luxury pancakes. A date for your diary. Friday week (14th March) we will be performing our Class Assembly. There will be a Shakespearean feel to the proceedings, and we invite Ash Class parents to come and watch the performance. This assembly will take place first thing in the morning at 9 am. Look forward to seeing you there.

In **Willow Class** we have been learning about the River Nile, exploring its importance in Ancient Egyptian times. In Maths we have been adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals using different strategies. The children have enjoyed reading the story of Tutankhamun and the discovery of the tomb. The children have written some lovely diary entries as one of Howard Carter's Team in 1922. In Science we have been discussing the importance of exercise on our body. In RE, we have been exploring the parable of the rich man and Lazarus and writing a diary entry based on one of the characters. The class really enjoyed making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday with Chestnut Class.

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CLASSROOM NEWS



The children have been hard at work in **Bay Class** and we are excited to share some of the wonderful learning experiences they have been engaged in!

This week, we have been studying the architectural design of the Pantheon. The children have been carefully sketching the intricate details of the exterior, paying close attention to the various sections that make up this historic structure. Though it is still a work in progress, their drawings are coming along beautifully, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts! With the arrival of the



Lenten season, we have been discussing its significance and the reasons behind fasting. The children attended a meaningful Ash Wednesday Mass at The Oratory, where they received their ashes and reflected on this special time of year. These discussions have helped deepen their understanding of faith and the importance of self-discipline and reflection. On Thursday, we celebrated World Book

Day in style! The children dressed up in some truly amazing costumes and had the opportunity to listen to different teachers share their favourite children's books. A highlight of the day was a special Q&A session with Arsenal legend Martin Keown, who has recently released his own book. It was an inspiring and unforgettable experience that we are sure will be a cherished memory for the children.



TOPIC OVERVIEW AND KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE - [Classes - St. Aloysius' Catholic Primary School](#)

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

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
Catholic Education Service
caritas KENYA

JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

In the Jubilee Year 2025, Pope Francis invites us to be **signs of hope in our world**. At St. Aloysius', we are going to be signs of hope by joining the **Big Lent Walk** to fundraise to support people experiencing poverty around the world. Our aim is to collectively walk 200Km this lent and raise enough money to support 10 families facing poverty in Kenya. If you would like to join us in fundraising, please donate using the link [here](#).

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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 = 93.7%

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 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 4 & 5 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

w/b 7th April - EASTER HOLIDAY

Monday 21st April - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 22nd April - Start of Summer Term

Monday 5th May - May Bank Holiday

Friday 23rd May - Term Ends @ 3.20pm

Tuesday 3rd June - Year 6 @ Fr. Hudson Mass

School Term Dates

2024/25

2025/26

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



APPEAL TO PARENTS

- Early Years are appealing for donations of unwanted kitchen appliances and tools for the outdoor Mud Kitchen.
 - Early Years also need good quality socks and pants (ages 3-6).
 - Also medical accessories, role play equipment, dressing up outfits, etc.
 - KS1 need good quality Lego, especially the boards.
- Please bring any donations to the School Office. Thank you!!

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SUPER SCIENCE SATURDAY

FOSSIL FEVER

Family Science Fair
Saturday 8th March
12pm - 4pm



Meet scientists and handle fossils
Free entry, recommended for ages 8+

www.oumnh.ox.ac.uk
@morethanadodo



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



Welcome to the February 2025 Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Parents and Carers
Online Gaming Protect yourself and others from Online Scams

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

- setting parental controls on games and consoles
 - gaming guides for parents
 - gaming guides for children
 - gaming books
- Family Lives—Gaming & Family Lives** find out about:
- how to talk to your child about gaming
 - how to game safely
 - how to set boundaries
 - why gaming is so addictive
 - the positive sides of gaming
 - how to encourage healthy screen time
- watch the video on Pros and cons of social media: [top tips to help parents of teens](#)
- NSPCC—Online Games: understand the risks and get advice to help children play online games safely**
- Find out more about:
- age ratings of games they play
 - messaging and contact functions on the games
 - trolling, griefing and scams
 - how to report problems
- Young Minds—Gaming: a guide for parents** includes:
- what to do if you are worried
 - finding professional help
 - view their [guide for young people](#) on gaming and mental health
- South West Grid for Learning—Online Safety and Gaming** includes articles on:
- what is gaming?
 - benefits of gaming
 - [Online safety and gaming](#)
 - basic privacy and security settings
- Review the [Gaming Dictionary](#) and discover the meaning of: FPS, CCG, MMO and much more.

online cannot be trusted

"It just seems too good to be true!" – Other common signs of a scam include contact that you weren't expecting or being asked for money or personal information (think: bank or contact details, passwords, or phone numbers). Scammers use [other tactics](#) to manipulate their victims into paying, like playing with your emotions, or building a sense of urgency so you are rushed into making a decision. If you aren't sure it's reliable, don't risk it.

Remember that anyone can be a victim of a scam

Scammers are good at what they do and will target anyone. We all need to stay vigilant and support those who are most vulnerable including children and the elderly by helping them recognise what to look out for.

Know where to get help if something goes wrong

If you or someone you know has been the victim of a scam online, you're not on your own. Help is available and you are not to blame for what has happened. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, you can report fraud and cyber crime online to [Action Fraud](#) or by telephoning 0300 123 2040. Remember, if you or anyone else is in immediate danger, call 999 immediately.

Check the following websites:

- [Children's Parent and Carer's Toolkit](#)
- [ThinkUknow's advice for Parents and Carers](#)
- [ThinkUknow's interactive website for 8-7 year olds](#)

Need Help in the holidays?

Remember FREE advice is just a phone call away from the [NSPCC helpline](#): 0800 800 5000
Childline: 0800 1111

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EST. 2024

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EST. 2024

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11th APRIL 2025

10-4PM

7-10yrs

LED BY CHARLOTTE DUNKLEY
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SIBLING DISCOUNTS + EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS

