

# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - 24 OCTOBER 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 ~ Determination

**We have moved all payments, notifications, etc. to MyChildAtSchool (MCAS).  
Do not make payments or communicate via Schoolgateway or Schoolcomms.**

Dear Parents and Carers,

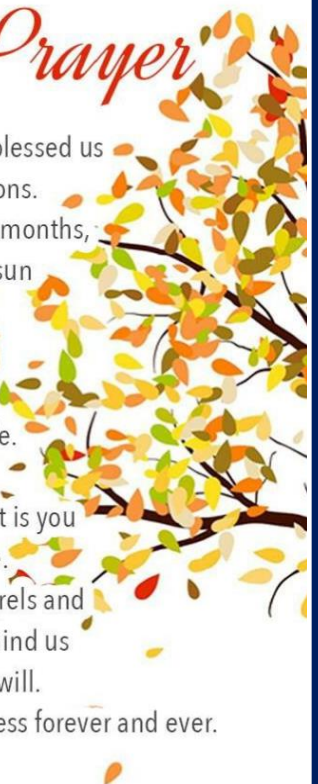
I cannot believe that we are at the end of our first half term of this academic year already! The children have been working hard and I have enjoyed visiting classrooms to talk to them about their learning. Fir Class have enjoyed listening to the story of Alice in Wonderland this week and basing their learning on the text. I have also heard some wonderful singing in Oak Class in preparation for their visit to Christ Church after the half-term break.

I have loved hearing updates from Willow Class at Kilvrough this week and it sounds like they have had a wonderful time surfing, caving and rock-pooling. They have also worked well as part of team and I believe have learnt a lot about themselves and their classmates. Following their service to one another at mealtimes, I now hope that they will be offering to set tables at home, serve their families and tidy away at home. Fr. Benedict is taking a leave of absence from the Oratory and will be spending some time serving a parish in Northern Ireland and will therefore not be our School Chaplain for the remainder of the academic year. We thank Fr Benedict for all his support and dedication to the school over the past few years and wish him the very best.

Wishing you a happy and restful half-term break.  
Mrs Hannah Tebb, **Headteacher**

### *Autumn Prayer*

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.  
As we embrace these autumn months,  
May the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.  
May the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet remind us of the brevity of this earthly life.  
May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us your breath of life.  
May the scurrying of the squirrels and the migration of the birds remind us that you call us to follow your will.  
We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.  
Amen.



# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## CLASSROOM NEWS

### Fir Class



Fir Class have been busy putting their rhyming skills to the test! We've been building rhymes in Rhyme Town, creating our own silly rhyming soups (with some rather questionable ingredients!), and we rounded off our learning by making our very own class 'Oi Frog!' book - complete with fantastic descriptive rhymes for different animals and colourful illustrations to match. In Maths, we have been learning about addition and subtraction, focusing on finding a part and exploring fact families.

The children have been using part-whole models and number sentences to show how numbers are linked, and they have worked hard to explain their reasoning when solving problems. In Science, we have been continuing to learn about our senses. We explored touch and smell through a range of fun investigations, using our hands and noses to describe and compare different materials and mystery items. The children enjoyed becoming sense detectives! In RE, we have been learning about celebrations, focusing on Baptism and Mass. The children enjoyed talking about their own Baptism and sharing photos with the class. We also learned about the special features of a church and had great fun designing and creating our own churches in class, complete with altars, crosses, and pews. A fantastic couple of weeks of learning, teamwork, and fun in Fir Class!

### Fig Class

Fig Class have been consolidating our RE unit 'Sharing in the life of Jesus.' We have thought carefully about the role of Mary, the disciples and the saints and how they were significant in spreading the word of God. We also hot seated a saint, where we wrote questions we had for a saint and then took turns being a saint and answering them in role. We thought of some very interesting questions such as 'how tricky is it to be a saint? How did you become a saint? And is it a lot of responsibility being a saint?' Amongst others also. In English we have been writing our own seaside poems using our five senses to help us think about the beach and using expanding noun phrases in our verses. We have also produced some posters where we linked our science knowledge about animals and their needs and our Topic knowledge about continents. We made posters about which animals would live in which continent in the world, and we wrote facts about what makes them suitable to live in that continent. I was so impressed with how well we thought about the unique features of the different animals!

### Ash Class

In Ash Class the children have been writing free verse poems about rivers. They have been editing and improving their poems, by checking spellings and punctuation and including a range of poetry language features. In Maths we have been using different strategies to add and subtract 4-digit numbers and solve word problems. The class enjoyed creating plant classification keys in Science. In RE we have been exploring the story of Jacob and how God's promise was fulfilled through him. The children have written lovely stories, describing the characters and events. In our topic lesson, we have been exploring how different types of mountains are formed. The children continue to really enjoy strings, learning how to play the violin in music lessons.

### Bay Class

Bay Class have continued to demonstrate strong determination as we have reached the end of our first half term. In English, we have been writing diary entries from the perspective of the main character in our class text, Race to the Frozen North. The children have really immersed themselves into the role of an arctic explorer and have produced some fantastic writing! In Maths, we have concluded our addition and subtraction unit where we have been working on some tricky problems involving missing numbers and the children have really risen to the challenge. In RE, we have explored the importance of pilgrimage and how it can bring people closer to God. In Geography, Year 5 have been conducting their own research on different biomes, finding out about the climate and vegetation in their chosen area. Bay Class have continued to enjoy their weekly swimming lessons where they are making great progress. I am so proud of Year 5's hard work this half term and I am looking forward to seeing what the next one brings.

# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## CLASSROOM NEWS

### Acorn Class

This week Acorns have been learning all about the festival of Diwali. Mrs Satyawada told the children all about the story of Rama and Sita and then explained how she celebrated Diwali. Inspired by the story, we then made tealight diyas out of clay and created fantastic firework pictures. In Maths we have been learning to recognise and count numbers up to five, we have done this by counting out actions such as jumping, hopping and star jumps. In RE we have been talking about all the people who take care of us and have thought about how we show that we care. Well done Acorns on a fantastic first term!

### Willow Class (written whilst at Kilvrough Manor)

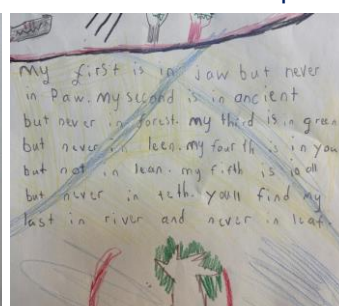
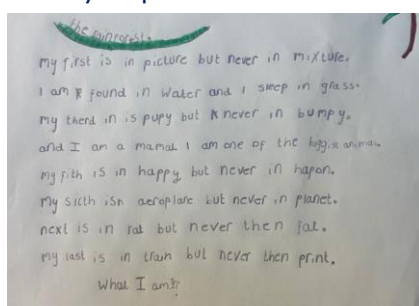
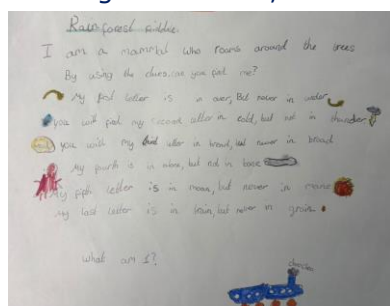
What an incredible half term it has been for Willow Class! The children have shown fantastic enthusiasm, teamwork, and determination in everything they have done. In English, we have been exploring *The Tempest* and the children impressed everyone with their brilliant drama performances. From confident speaking to imaginative stagecraft, they truly brought Shakespeare's story to life. In Maths, the class has tackled some especially tricky challenges, showing great perseverance and problem-solving skills. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow week by week. Of course, one of the absolute highlights of this term is our amazing residential at Kilvrough (that we are currently on in sunny South Wales!). From adventurous outdoor activities such as surfing, caving and rock climbing to evening den building, the children have thrown themselves into every challenge with energy and smiles. It has been fantastic to see them supporting each other, trying new things, and making memories that will last a lifetime. I could not be prouder of everything Year 6 has achieved this half term. Have a well-earned rest over the break and I cannot wait to see what next term brings!

### Chestnut Class

Chestnuts are ending another busy week where even more robots have been made! Our theme this week has been 'Robots' inspired by our book *Izzy Gizzmo* which the children have loved listening to. The previous week's book was *The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig*. For our 'Robot' theme the children have enjoyed making The Beebots which are tiny programmable bees that move around to different areas in the classroom. They have made some wonderful robot pictures using squishy silver fabric and googly eyes. The children have learnt the names of three 2D shapes the square, rectangle and triangle which they have drawn round to create more robot pictures. The children are making good progress with their phonics and now practicing using their Fred Fingers to sound out simple CVC words using the letters we have taught the children. They have also been practicing writing the sounds on whiteboards. In maths this week the children have been learning about more or less than with numbers. In RE the children have been learning about people who care for us, so we have been talking about how our families care for us and that Jesus' family included Mary and Joseph. The children have drawn some lovely pictures of their families. We are learning the Our Father prayer. The children have also enjoyed music and PE lessons and exploring the different activities that are out in the garden area. Have a lovely half-term break.

### Oak Class

In Oak Class, we have been learning how to add and subtract using column addition and subtraction. We will be looking at exchanging with the method after the half term. In our English lessons, we have been writing riddles. Have a look below to see if you can work out the answers! We have continued our work in Geography at looking at human and physical geography features that we have in Rome, ready to compare to Oxford. Our RE unit currently is 'Prayer'. We have been looking at how we pray and why we pray. We have also been learning about the Jewish festival of Sukkot. We have been learning about muscles and how we use our muscles, bones and joints to move. We have been working hard so far, and I am really impressed with the work that Oak Class are producing.





# ADMISSIONS & ATTENDANCE

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

## APPLYING FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES

The deadline for applying to secondary school is **31st October**. Secondary schools will be holding open events during September and October, so keep an eye on the individual school's website for information about this. Please click [here](#) for more information. We would always recommend that you attend these, not just for your top school of choice but for other schools you are considering. You have an option to apply for up to 4 schools. We would strongly recommend you apply for all four schools. Applying for more schools will not reduce your chances of getting a place at your preferred school. The Oxfordshire County Council online information and application portal can be found here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schools/apply-school-place/year-7-applications>

## IN YEAR TRANSFERS

If you know families who are looking for school places, please direct them to OCC Schools Admissions Team <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schools/apply-school-place>  
We currently have spaces across various school years.

## ATTENDANCE

Good attendance habits are very important; we know that there are direct links between attendance and attainment. You may also have seen in the news the statistic that more than half of pupils who miss days in the first weeks of term, become persistent absentees (attendance below 90%) by the end of the academic year. With this in mind, the attendance team will be speaking early in the academic year to address any barriers to attendance and to provide support where necessary.

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 fortnight attendance = 94.25%**

**GREEN = 96% and above** **AMBER = 92% - 96%** \*national average **RED = below 92%**

### **ABSENCE**

Absences should be reported to school daily and before 8.50am. Parents can report absences via the school office (01865 311056) or [admin.3842@st-alloysius.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:admin.3842@st-alloysius.oxon.sch.uk) or MCAS text. Please include why your child is absent and details of any illness or appointments.

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.

# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Be ambitious for the higher gifts"

1 Cor. 12:31

[www.staloysius.net](http://www.staloysius.net)



## IS YOUR CHILD STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026?



JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN MORNINGS ON

**TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER at 9.10am**

or

**WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER at 9.10am**



Come and meet our enthusiastic and caring staff, view our stimulating learning environments, and learn about how we are ambitious for our pupils' futures.



Email [office.3842@st-aloysius.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3842@st-aloysius.oxon.sch.uk) or scan the QR code



## FUTURE DIARY DATES

<b>NOVEMBER 2025</b>	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET Day</b>
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 Oak Class - Christchurch College - Singing Workshop
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 - Junior Citizen @ Rewley Road (details to follow)
	Bay Class Swimming
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Chestnut Class Open Morning
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Bay Class Swimming
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>PTA Fancy Dress Disco</b>
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	ROAD SAFETY WEEK
<b>DECEMBER 2025</b>	
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>PTA Christmas Fair</b>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	2.30pm - EYFS/Year 1 Nativity
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am - EYFS/Year 1 Nativity
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	6.00pm - Years 5 & 6 - Evening Carol Concert
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 The Nutcracker @ North Wall Theatre, Oxford
	EYFS and KS1 Christmas Parties
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Term Ends at 1.00pm (no after school club)



# Piano Lessons at St. Aloysius'



## Giuseppe Corrao

Piano Lessons

**Spaces Available**

**Contact Giuseppe directly**

**giuseppe.corrao86@gmail.com**

**07459258075**



## Catholic Secondary School Project

Project Pippo is led by a group of parents working to create a new Catholic, classical and affordable secondary school in the Oxford area.

If you're a parent who might be interested, we'd love your input to help us develop our plan.

Please fill out this new survey to help us understand local interest, by either scanning the link below or typing the address on a browser.



[tinyurl.com/pipposurvey](https://tinyurl.com/pipposurvey)



Project website: [www.projectpippo.org](http://www.projectpippo.org)  
Email: [Admin@ProjectPippoOxford.com](mailto:Admin@ProjectPippoOxford.com)  
Phone contact for general queries: 07837 372946

Supported by the Chesterton Schools Network

## LEARN STRING INSTRUMENTS

with Oxfordshire County Music Service

Families on certain benefits can apply for free music lessons by completing the 'help with payment' section of the sign-up form.

From  
**£7.00**  
per lesson  
(depending on  
group size)

**Violin  
Viola  
Cello**

Sign up or find more information at  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/musicinterest](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/musicinterest)



**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**



**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

Supported using public funding by

# Guitar & Drum lessons

With DrumBeats at

## St Aloysius

**SPACES AVAILABLE!**

Beginners and Experienced  
20 mins sessions in small groups or 1-1  
Contact details below for more information.

Contact info:

**Nigel Ralf at DrumBeats**

**M: 07910 433265**

**E: [nigel@drum-beats.co.uk](mailto:nigel@drum-beats.co.uk)**



... AND FINALLY ...



St. Aloysius' Art Club Monsters