

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - 28 NOVEMBER 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 ~ CURIOSITY

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another couple of busy weeks at St. Aloysius' with children working hard and engaging in their learning. We have had some lovely feedback from a visitor to our school last week, who said "Pupils are committed to their learning, motivated, self-confident and can work cooperatively with their peers and staff. Behaviour was excellent, with pupils eager to engage in conversation" We are very proud of our pupils and their dedication to their learning. Last Friday morning, we had a School Hall full of crowns as Fr. Nicholas celebrated Mass for the Feast of Christ the King. Thank you to the parents who joined us for this Mass. Today Fr. Dominic came to lead us in a Gathering of The Word and to bless the candles for our Advent wreaths that classes will make next week to mark the start of Advent. Next week we will be making soup as part of our commitment to serve the local community and those in our local area who are less fortunate. This is lovely Advent tradition at St. Aloysius'.



This morning marked the first of our Friday Advent prayer gatherings, thank you to those parents who joined and a special thanks to the parents who have organised the reflections. Do join us between 8.50am and 9.00am in the School Hall on Friday mornings during Advent, all parents are welcome.

We look forward to welcoming you at our Christmas Fair on Sunday 7th December. The PTA have been working hard to organise this, and it promises to be a fun, festive community event. Even if you are unable to make the day itself, please do consider buying raffle tickets to support their fundraising efforts. Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Hannah Tebb, **Headteacher**

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

CLASSROOM NEWS

Acorn Class

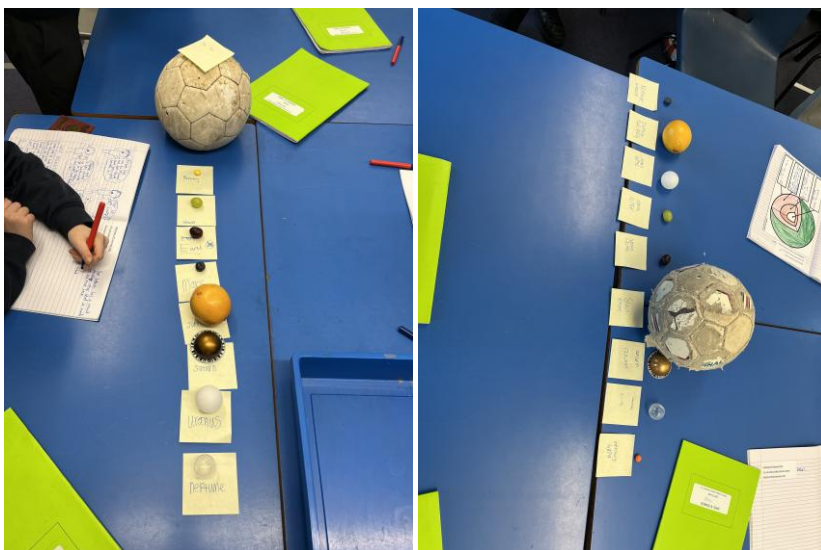
In Maths we have been solving mathematical problems to five, using five frames and playdough fish to feed the pirates. As part of our RE topic, 'God our Father who cares for us' we have looked at pictures of our Parish church and the Priests who serve there. The children described their experiences of faith and things that they enjoy. We then thought about all the important work that our Priests do, such as caring for the sick, marrying people, Baptism and praying for our parish. Finally, if you hear your child singing Christmas songs at home, this is because we have now started practising songs and actions for our class Nativity!

Fig Class

Year 2 had a wonderful time making and decorating their crowns for Christ the King Mass on Friday! In RE we have enjoyed learning about the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth and exploring what happened to St. John the Baptist as he grew up. We discussed the importance of being prepared and being organised just as Zechariah and Elizabeth prepared for the birth of St. John. We made links to Advent and how we can prepare for this special time in the lead up to Christmas. The class have been very excited to know what parts they have for Nativity this year - we have lots of narrators this year that are keen to tell the story! In the coming weeks we will be busy learning lines and all the songs. Year 2 have already made a lovely start- well done everyone! In Maths we have moved onto learning all about subtraction and have been practising making number sentences and finding patterns in subtraction from a ten. In English we have consolidated our unit on 'Dear Greenpeace' and the children have written some very thoughtful letters about what they care about in the environment. Great work!

Bay Class

It has been another busy couple of weeks in Bay Class! In English, the children planned, wrote and performed their own space poetry, considering all the ways they could deliver a performance in a true poet's fashion. In Maths, we have started our topic on fractions by exploring all the different ways we can find equivalent fractions. The children have grasped this and are definitely ready to move on to adding and subtracting fractions! In RE, Year 5 have continued to explore Advent by focusing on Zechariah and his prophecies and they have written some fantastic letters to Mary recounting the annunciation of the birth of John the Baptist. We have continued to explore the impact of volcanoes and earthquakes in our Geography unit and have weighed up the pros and cons of living in the Ring of Fire. Most of us said we would not want to take the risk! The children have continued to be really engaged with our Science topic on Space, which led us to do some modelling! The children used different spherical objects to represent each of the planets and had to think critically about where each planet should be placed in relation to the sun. Bay Class are enjoying their swimming lessons and are making lots of progress. The children are looking forward to all the Advent festivities coming up, especially the Christmas Concert and North Wall Theatre! Keep working hard Year 5!



REMEMBER: Early Years (Acorn and Chestnuts) need wellies and a waterproof coat in school every day now the weather is getting worse.

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CLASSROOM NEWS

Fir Class

This week in Fir Class, the children have been busy learning and exploring across all areas of the curriculum. In Maths, we have been exploring patterns and using our knowledge of shapes to create our own repeating patterns. We have also been reinforcing our understanding of place value, focusing on comparing numbers. The children have been practising using the symbols greater than ($>$), less than ($<$) and equal to ($=$) to compare and order numbers with increasing confidence. In English, we have been writing our own tea party chapters inspired by 'Alice in Wonderland'. The children created their own characters and settings, using lots of lovely ideas to make their stories exciting. They also thought about a small problem that could happen at their tea party and came up with simple, creative ways to fix it. For example, one tea party was set beneath the sea, and all the cakes floated away - the children had great fun thinking of ways to solve the problem! In PE, we have been creating our own gymnastic sequences. The children have been putting together the balances, poses and rolls they have learned so far, thinking carefully about how to move safely and smoothly from one action to the next. In Music, we have been busy learning our new Nativity songs. The children have been practising the words and actions with lots of enthusiasm, and we are already sounding wonderful as we get ready for our performance. Nativity lines have now gone home, so the children can continue practising them at home. A wonderful two weeks - well done to all the children!

Oak Class

We have been busy in Oak Class during the last couple of weeks. We have started a new book in English! We have been reading 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' by C.S. Lewis and have been conducting research this week about when and why he wrote the book. In Maths, we have finished our unit on 'Addition and Subtraction' and have begun our learning about 'Multiplication and Division'. We have been discovering arrays this week and have drawing them out neatly. We have continued our learning about Nutrition in Science, which has linked beautifully with our D&T project about making a healthy sandwich. In Computing, we have been learning about how to programme on Scratch and have been exploring how to move a Sprite and change the background. Our RE lessons have been focussed on 'The Liturgy of the Word' and the importance of the readings that we hear, where they have come from in the Bible and how they can be linked to each other or across a theme.

Ash Class

In Ash Class the children have been planning, writing, editing and publishing explanation texts about different parts of the ocean. We have been finding perimeter and area in Maths, by counting, making and drawing different shapes. The class enjoyed investigating the changes in states in Science, looking at how solids change to liquids, liquids change to gas and gas changes to liquid. In RE we have been looking at the meaning of words in the prayers, Our Father and Hail Mary. The children wrote lovely diary entries as Mary or Joseph after discussing the story of finding Jesus in the Temple. The class are enjoying learning tag rugby skills in PE. In our topic lessons, we have been identifying rivers in the UK, exploring the journey of a river and finding out how people use the river. The class enjoyed creating crowns for the Christ the King Mass.

School and Eco Council Update

After a very competitive round of manifesto presentations, demonstrating democracy, we are pleased to announce our elected members of the School and Eco Councils.

The School Council members are:

Charlie, Matilda, Leo, Amel, Clare, Ignacio, Evangeline, Jamie, Maja, Praja, Nez, Clara, Jenny and Lionel.

The Eco Council members are:

Elizon, Catherine, Szonja, Asher, Ava, Arthur, Finn, Raine, Seb, Aleena, Maria, Abdulrahman, Theo and Lyra.

Both councils have already met to discuss future priorities: the school council have chosen new playground equipment based on class requests, and the Eco council will be auditing the school premises to find ways to increase sustainability.

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Chestnut Class

Chestnuts have thoroughly enjoyed our topic over the last two weeks based on celebrations. The children have thought about the celebrations they have all experienced such as birthdays, weddings, baptisms, Christmas and then some smaller celebrations that are specific to certain children such as St. Martin's Day in Venice.

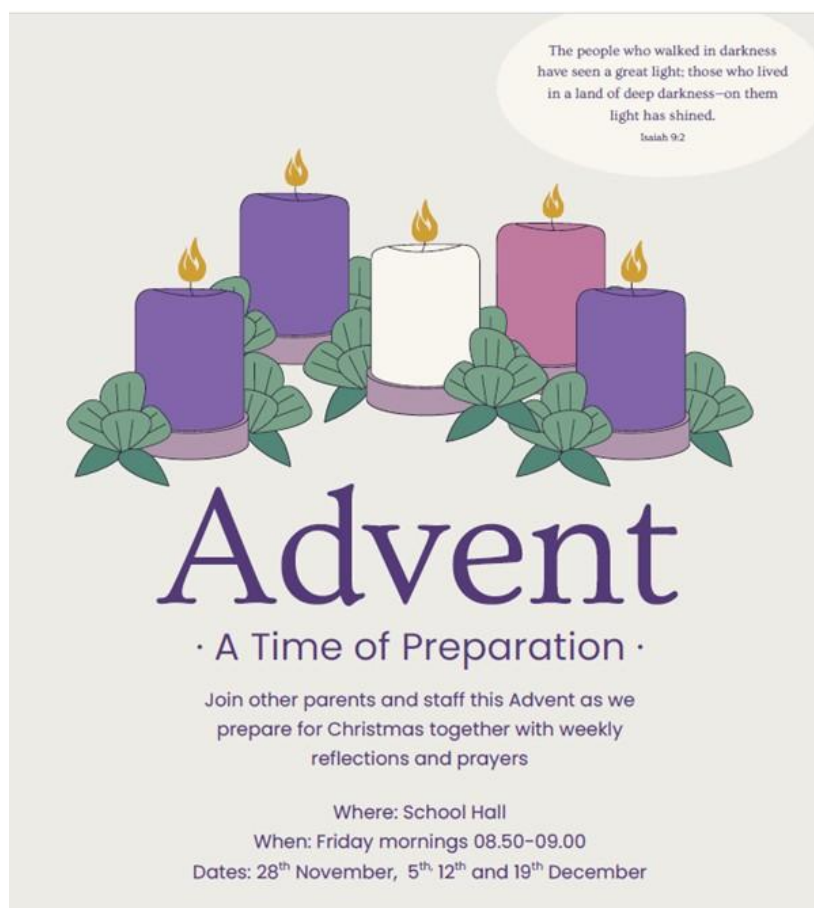
They have learnt about the Islamic festival of Eid and how the timing of the festival varies every year depending on the moon, they designed a prayer mat and learnt about the Islamic symbols of the moon and crescent as well as drawing lovely patterns based on Islamic designs. They also learnt about the Hindu festival of Diwali where they did lots of different activities based on light including making lanterns. The children designed and made beautiful crowns for our Christ the King Mass on Friday. The children loved pretending to buy celebration clothing from our role play clothes shop and many of the children spent whole mornings dressed up whilst doing the activities in provision which included writing invitations to each other. As usual, it has been a busy time in Chestnuts!

Willow Class

What an exciting few weeks we have had in Willow Class! In Maths, we have been stretching our thinking with equivalent fractions, mixed numbers, and improper fractions. The children have been working hard to make connections between these concepts and are becoming increasingly confident in representing fractions in different forms.

In English, our classroom has been filled with creativity and purpose as we compose poetry inspired by the powerful words of Maya Angelou. We have been exploring themes of social justice, fairness, and finding our voices, and the resulting poems show real depth, emotion, and insight. They are fantastic pieces of work and you should be proud of yourselves!

In RE, we have begun our journey into the season of Advent. The children are thinking about what this season means to Catholics and how themes of hope, preparation, and waiting can be reflected in our own lives. Alongside this, we are busily preparing our Advent assemblies, which the children will be presenting in small groups to the rest of the school. They are showing great teamwork and creativity as they plan and rehearse.



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 or telephone 01863 311056. We look forward to welcoming you!

APPLYING FOR RECEPTION SCHOOL PLACES

Applications for Reception places for children starting school in September 2026 – the portal is now open. The deadline for applications is 15 January 2026.

We strongly encourage families to apply online via the following link: [Reception Applications | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

If you are unable to complete an online application, your school office has a form that can be printed or completed digitally.

This information is for parents of children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, who are eligible to start school in September 2026.

Key reminders for parents:

- Read the Starting School Guide on the website
- Apply on time – late applications won't receive an offer on National Offer Day (16 April 2026)
- Update addresses – upload proof of address and inform current nursery/school (if there has been a change)
- Include sibling details where relevant
- List multiple preferences – up to four schools can be selected

Late applications are far less likely to secure a place at a preferred school, so it is important that parents apply on time.

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

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 we share our fortnightly figure in newsletters. **NOTE: parents can also review their child's attendance via MCAS!**

Whole school fortnight attendance = 93.6%

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

ABSENCE

Absences must 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 or MCAS text. Please include why your child is absent and details of any illness or appointments.

FUTURE DIARY DATES

DECEMBER 2025	
Monday 1 st December	Soup Making for Oxford Gatehouse Week
Thursday 4 th December	Bay Class Swimming - remember kit!
Friday 5 th December	Own Clothes Day (in exchange for a Tombola prize)
Sunday 7 th December	PTA Christmas Fair - 2.00pm to 4.00pm
Monday 8 th December	Soup Making for Oxford Gatehouse Week
	10.00am - Mass for The Immaculate Conception @ The Oratory
	3.00pm to 3.15pm - Acorn Work Sharing
Tuesday 9 th December	8.45am to 9.00am - Acorn Work Sharing
Wednesday 10 th December	9.30am - Acorn Nativity
Thursday 11 th December	Bay Class Swimming - remember kit!
	3.30pm to 3.45pm - Chestnut, Fir & Fig Classes Work Sharing
Friday 12 th December	8.35am to 8.50am - Chestnut Fir & Fig Classes Work Sharing
Monday 15 th December	2.30pm Reception/Year 1 & Year 2 - production name
Tuesday 16 th December	9.30am - Reception/Year 1 & Year 2 - production name
Thursday 18 th December	6.00pm - Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6 - Carols by Candlelight KS2 The Nutcracker @ North Wall Theatre, Oxford EYFS and KS1 Christmas Parties
Tuesday 16 th December	3.30pm to 3.45pm - Oak, Ash, Bay & Willow Classes Work Sharing
Wednesday 17 th December	8.35am to 8.50am - Oak, Ash, Bay & Willow Classes Work Sharing
	** CHRISTMAS LUNCH **
Thursday 18 th December	Bay Class Swimming - remember kit!
Friday 19 th December	Term Ends at 1.00pm (no after school club)
JANUARY 2026	
Monday 5 th January	INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday 6 th January	Spring Term Starts at 8.35am.

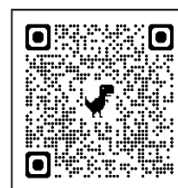


Catholic Secondary School Project

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



Project website: www.projectpippo.org
Email: 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



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



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

Piano Lessons at St. Aloysius'



Giuseppe Corrao

Piano Lessons

Spaces Available

Contact Giuseppe directly

giuseppe.corrao86@gmail.com

07459258075