

# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - 06 FEBRUARY 2026

### 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

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy couple of weeks at St Aloysius'. Year 3 pupils sang beautifully at Christ Church Cathedral, Chestnut Class have been immersed in traditional tales with beanstalks, castles and storytelling, while Acorn Class have been driving tractors and milking cows in provision. Further up the school, Year 4, 5 and 6 have demonstrated excellent creative writing skills based on their class narrative texts which are displayed along our top corridor in school.

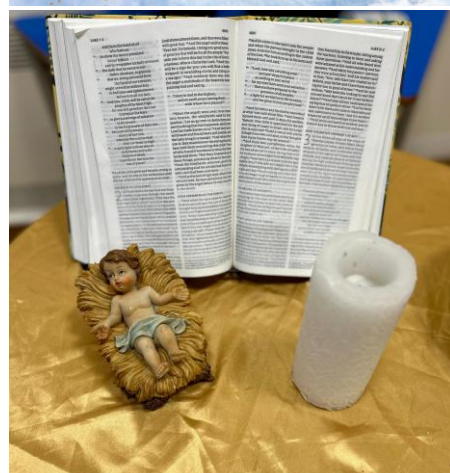
On Monday, Fr Nicholas celebrated Mass for the whole school for the Feast of Candlemas, reminding children to shine as lights in all that they do. This links nicely with our termly school value of 'kindness'. In our Catholic Social Teaching assemblies this half term we are focusing on 'human dignity', talking about the importance of showing respect, love and kindness to all because all humans are created in God's image and likeness.

As children are working on their Young Art Oxford entries this week, it has been wonderful to see children's artistic flair and creativity demonstrated. If you have not already done so, please remember to complete the permission form and pay the £2 entry fee for your child if they wish to enter their piece for the competition and hopefully have their work displayed in the Ashmolean museum.

Wishing you a restful weekend  
Mrs Hannah Tebb, **Headteacher**

### *A School Prayer*

Almighty God,  
May St Aloysius' be a welcoming place.  
May our school be encouraging.  
Let friendship flourish here.  
Let learning fill each day.  
  
Give us the strength to do our best.  
Give us the hope to keep going.  
Be our guide in all that we do.  
  
Lord, make St Aloysius' your home too.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
  
Amen



# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## CLASSROOM NEWS

### Ash Class

Ash Class have really enjoyed reading the book Beowulf. The children have written their own stories based on the book from a character viewpoint and designed a front and back cover. In Maths we have been multiplying and dividing 2-digit numbers by a 1-digit number and a 3-digit number by a 1-digit number using a place value chart and part-whole model. The class have shown great interest in our Topic on Anglo-Saxons, creating a timeline and exploring artefacts. In Science, we have been investigating the volume of a sound investigating using different materials. In RE, we are exploring stories in the Old Testament. The children have retold the story of the birth of Moses using descriptive language. The class showed great creativity with their homework this week based on the story of Christmas.



### Willow Class

As we approach the end of our first half term of 2026, the children have been working incredibly hard! We have been immersing ourselves in our brilliant English topic – Secrets of a Sun King. The class worked diligently to produce some amazing informative leaflets about Egypt and I was blown away with the amount they knew already. We have begun writing our narratives from the perspective of Lilian (our main character) and the children have invented some truly imaginative storylines in their planning.

In Maths, we have dived straight into Algebra, with the children becoming more confident creating algebraic expressions and solving equations. This has taken some resilience and I am proud of their perseverance with these new concepts. During our RE lessons it has been lovely to hear all sorts of personal anecdotes about Baptisms. We have compared this to Jesus' Baptism in the River Jordan. The children have been working hard to produce a 'How to' guide for people new to the sacrament of Baptism. Willow Class have shown a particular interest in our History lessons, where we are learning all about Howard Carter and his discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb – the children have loved seeing similarities of this story in our fictional novel in English.

### Chestnut Class

Chestnut Class are continuing to enjoy our Topic on storytelling and traditional tales. We learnt the story of Rapunzel and discussed the new vocabulary within it (tower, cackled, turret and transfixed!) The children then applied their phonics knowledge by rewriting a small section of the story each. We also enjoyed styling hair on dolls using various clips, bands and bobbles – a great workout for our fine motor skills. We worked together to build and label a fantastic model castle and then turned our role play area into a castle complete with prince, princess and knight costumes – this has really engaged the children, and we have seen their new vocabulary come to life in their role playing. In Maths we have been unpicking the concept of 'one more than' and 'one less than' by building towers of increasing size and discussing the difference between numbers. In PE we continue to work on our gross motor skills using bats, rackets and balls – this week we used hockey sticks for the first time and discovered it is trickier than it looks!



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## CLASSROOM NEWS

### Bay Class

It has been another few weeks full of enthusiasm and hard work in Bay Class! The children have planned, written and published some fantastic narratives based on Percy Jackson, creating their own versions of his quest to the Underworld. I have been impressed by the amount of effort they have dedicated; it has paid off. In Maths, we have concluded our work on multiplication and division by looking at division with remainders. This is a challenging skill, but the children have shown great perseverance in mastering it. In RE, our focus has been on Baptism. We have explored in detail what happens during a Baptism and why each stage is so important. We have also considered the promises made during Baptism and how these can be lived as we grow up, which the children were able to reflect on insightfully. Bay Class have been investigating the properties of different materials in Science, identifying electrical and thermal conductors and insulators. Next week we will be carrying out an experiment to see whether felt, bubble wrap or tin foil acts as the best thermal insulator. Year 5 have been making exceptional progress in their swimming lessons and I am proud to see how determined they are to learn this important life skill. Our classroom transformed into a museum as the children became archaeologists, studying remains to find out information about Theseus and the Minotaur. They examined various pieces of evidence to help them to conclude whether they believed the story was real or not. Keep up the hard work Year 5!

### Oak Class

Oak Class have been learning all about length and perimeter in Maths. We have been learning how to measure using rulers and converting between metres, centimetres and millimetres. In English, we have started reading our new book 'Stig of the Dump'. We have been identifying the plot, settings and characters in stories. We are coming to the end of our unit of about rocks, fossils and soils in Science. We have found out about the fossilisation process and how important soil is to our world! Our RE lessons have been focused on Reconciliation and Forgiveness. We have looked at the parable of 'The Prodigal Son' and the story of Zacchaeus. We have reflected on how sinning moves us further from God and how saying sorry and asking for forgiveness can reconcile us with God. In History, we have been learning about Skara Brae and using artefacts and information to tell us how people living during the Stone Age.

### Fig Class

Fig Class have been very creative and have made some fantastic fire pictures in Art to show what the scenes might have looked like at the time of the Great Fire of London. They painted a fiery background before cutting out building shapes with black paper to stick on top. They look very impressive in our classroom window! We have also been exploring historical sources in Topic and thinking about what they might mean and tell us about what happened during the Great Fire of London. In Maths we have been exploring arrays and making equal groups using objects. Some of us even wrote our own question about arrays and making equal groups and our partners had a go at answering them. We have been working hard at trying to explain our answers more and show how we worked them out.

### Fir Class

We have had an exciting week in Fir Class! In English, the children have thoroughly enjoyed beginning our new unit on stories by the same author, Julia Donaldson. Last week, we read The Gruffalo and focused on using the conjunction 'and' to join our ideas together and extend our sentences. This week, we have been reading Zog. The children have loved creating their own dragon school, writing reports for Zog, and thinking creatively about how to build the perfect sandcastle to protect a princess from a dragon! In Maths, we have continued to build on our knowledge of numbers to 20. The children have been using their understanding of number bonds to 10 to help them add larger numbers with increasing confidence. They have been practising different strategies and explaining how they worked out their answers. In RE, we have been learning about Jesus as a teacher. We explored what parables are and focused on the story of the Good Samaritan, discussing how it teaches us to show kindness and help others. The children enjoyed acting out the story and bringing it to life through drama. In PE, the children have been learning different types of rolls, including log rolls, egg rolls, and teddy bear rolls.

### NEW GARDENING CLUB

Mrs. Black is starting a Gardening Club after February half-term (Thursdays, 3.30pm to 4.30pm). We are asking for donations of children's gloves, seeds, gardening tools (a small trowel, forks, etc.). If



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## CLASSROOM NEWS

### Acorn Class

This week Acorns have been reading the book Owl babies and have been busy with lots of bird themed activities. We have made nests for birds, painted birds, made paper plate birds and used bird seed and coconut oil to make bird feeders to help the birds through the winter months. Our word of the week has been nocturnal, and we have been looking at animals who are nocturnal, just like the owls in our story. As part of our Baptism Topic we performed our own Baptism, taking it in turns to be the Priest or the parent. In Maths the children have been working hard to learn the names and properties of 2D shapes. We have had lots of fun going on shape hunts, playing shape games and using shapes to print patterns. In Phonics we have been focussing on initial letter sounds and using fly swatters to splat the objects that begin with an 's'. Acorns, as ever, you make us smile every day, but above all you make us proud with all your hard work and determination.



## FUTURE DIARY DATES

### FEBRUARY 2026

Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Bay Class Swimming - remember kit!
w/b Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	February Half Term Holiday
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	8.35am - Start of School
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Oak Class - Hill End
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Bay Class Swimming - remember kit!
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Whole School Lenten Mass - 9.15am @ school

### MARCH 2026

Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Bay Class Swimming - remember kit!
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR (ends on Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Bay Class Swimming - remember kit!
	Vision & NCMP Screening - more information to follow
	Year 6 - IMPS Visit - more information to follow
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Evening - more information to follow
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Evening - more information to follow
	Whole School Mass - 9.15am @ school
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 Reconciliation @ The Oratory
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 3/4 Performance - 2.15pm dress rehearsal - parents welcome.
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3/4 Performance - 6.00pm - parents welcome
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole School Mass - 9.15am @ school
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	1.00pm - End of Spring Term

**REMEMBER:** Early Years (Acorn and Chestnuts) need wellies and a waterproof

# 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!

## ADMISSION - 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. **Parents can also review their child's attendance in MCAS (MyChildAtSchool)!** Please contact the school office if you need help with MCAS.

**Whole school attendance (compulsory aged children) = 94.6% @ 05/06/2026**

**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 to the school office (01865 311056) or [admin.3842@st-alloysius.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:admin.3842@st-alloysius.oxon.sch.uk) or MCAS text. s.



### 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





## OXFORD RFC

### MINIS AND JUNIORS

Free taster sessions available for children aged 5-12  
Every Sunday, 10:30 - 12:00



**WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW PLAYERS**

[enquiries@oxfordrfc.com](mailto:enquiries@oxfordrfc.com)  
**Oxford RFC, North Hinksey Village, OX2 0NA**



## 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**

Supported using public funding by



**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

## Piano Lessons at St. Aloysius'



**Giuseppe Corrao**

Piano Lessons

**Spaces Available**

**Contact Giuseppe directly**

**[giuseppe.corrao86@gmail.com](mailto:giuseppe.corrao86@gmail.com)**

**07459258075**

**NHS**  
Oxford Health  
NHS Foundation Trust

**CAMHS**  
Child and Adolescent  
Mental Health Service

## OXFORDSHIRE WE ARE WITH YOU FORUM

### JOIN OUR SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY!

We Walking with You on your Parent/Carer journey  
A warm, parent-led group for anyone caring for a child or young adult (up to age 25) facing mental health challenges.

Connect • Share • Learn Join us online or in person for relaxed, insightful sessions led by:

- Parent Peer Support Workers
- Social Prescribers
- CAMHS Mental Health Professionals

Explore topics around mental health and neurodiversity in a safe, welcoming space.

★ Plus: Special Guest Events Hear from professionals and services across the field! and getting out in nature.



**TO REGISTER FOLLOW  
THE LINK OR QR :**



[WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/INVOLVEMENT/OXON/WHY/](http://WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/INVOLVEMENT/OXON/WHY/)

**OXFORD  
BROOKES  
UNIVERSITY**

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

## SCIENCE BAZAAR

**Saturday 21 February 2026**

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

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



**BOOK  
TICKETS**

**MORGAN  
SINDALL**  
CONSTRUCTION

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



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NO PARKING ON SITE EXCEPT FOR ACCESS NEEDS