

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER 29/09/17 Autumn Term ~ Edition 1

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER 2017

Tuesday 3rd 2.00pm - Bay Class Mass at The Oratory
 Thursday 5th School Eye Tests - Reception Children Only
 Tuesday 10th Ash Class to Christchurch Cathedral and Museum of Oxford

Monday 16th Year 6 Residential Visit to Woodlands
 Oak Class to The Living Rainforest

PTA Annual Bake Off

Tuesday 17th 2.00pm - Ash Class Mass at The Oratory
8.00pm - PTA AGM at School

Friday 20th 3.05pm - End of Term
SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET DAY
 Tuesday 31st 8.35am - Start of Term

NOVEMBER 2017

Wednesday 1st 10.00am - All Saints Mass at The Oratory
6.30 TO 8.30PM - PTA SPOOKY DISCO
 Friday 3rd 2.00pm - Oak Class Mass at The Oratory
 Tuesday 7th Flu Immunisation (all years except 5 & 6)
 Thursday 9th Willow Class - Junior Citizen
 Friday 24th Willow Class Confirmation Retreat Day at The Oratory
 Saturday 25th 11.00am - Willow Class Confirmation at The Oratory

FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers,
 It's been a very busy first couple of weeks with staff focusing on establishing good routines for the children. We like to make a prompt start at 8.50am so we would ask that parents have left the building by then and the children are settled and ready for the register. Likewise at the end of the school day we ask that parents have left the building by 3.20pm so staff can get on with planning and setting up for the next day. Our safeguarding procedures mean that we have to ensure that the building is secure and that no unsupervised adults are in the building whilst children are present. Thank you for supporting us with this, we are not trying to be unfriendly! Every week on a Wednesday, pupils are encouraged to take home a copy of the Wednesday Word which focusses on the Sunday Gospel. This year we will be talking about our Word of the Week in assemblies. See the display outside the School Office to find out more. Finally, we have dates for our Parent Consultation Meetings in November (see below). Please make a date in your diary. Have a lovely weekend. **Tom Walker - Headteacher.**

Parent Meetings

Parent meetings will be held on the following days;
 Monday 13th November - Tigger, Fig and Willow Classes
 Tuesday 14th November - Fir, Oak and Ash Classes
 Wednesday 15th November - Tigger Fir, Ash, Bay and Willow Classes
 Thursday 16th November - Oak and Bay Classes
 Friday 17th November - Fig Class

Sign up sheets will be posted outside the classrooms two weeks prior to the meetings.

School Council

Class elections have been taking place and the newly appointed School Councillors are; Tigger - , Fir - Januka and Elena, Fig - Shennelle and Gaston, Oak - , Ash - Theo and Ida Mae, Bay - , Willow - Sidra and Brandon.

School Meals

We have been informed by Carillion (our school meal provider) that school lunches have increased in price to £2.20 (effective 1st September).

After School Club

We are all very pleased with how our in-house after school provision has taken off this term. The staff have reported how happy they are with the new arrangement and the children seem calmer and more organised! We have been talking to the children regularly and explaining the rules of the club and asking for their feedback. We are keen to provide after school care that the children are a part of and we will always listen to their requests whether it be for crumpets, Hungry Hippos or anything else. We have space on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

THIS TERM'S HOUSE POINT TOTALS

Ashmolean 42 Bodleian 52 Radcliffe 54 Sheldonian 56
 Summer Term House Point Cup Winners - **ASHMOLEAN**

A PRAYER

We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves, shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow. We sense its passing in rain that dampens, winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show. Creator God, who brings forth both green shoot and hoar frost, sunrise and sunset, we bring our thanks for seeds that have grown, harvests gathered, storehouses filled, mouths fed. And, as your good earth rests through winter's cold embrace, we look forward to its re-awakening when kissed by Spring's first touch. . Amen.



ACORN NURSERY CLASS (For 3 Year Olds) **PLACES AVAILABLE NOW**

Please email Jo at
office.3842@st-aloysius.oxon.sch.uk
 for an Application Form.

RNIB - Royal National Institute of Blind People - USED STAMPS!

We are collecting used postage stamps. The RNIB can raise money from British and overseas new and used stamps. They also collect first day covers, presentation packs and albums. Please leave approximately 1cm of envelope around each stamp and place them in the post box outside the office and when we have a goodly bundle we will send them off to the RNIB.

Oxfordshire County Music Service

Oxfordshire County Music Service provide a wide variety of music lessons for children. We currently have children learning violin, cello and guitar via OCMS. If you would like your child to learn an instrument, please click [HERE](#) for further information.

and Friday sessions but Wednesdays are completely full. If you would like a registration form, please either speak to or email the school office. Also, if your child would like to complete the feedback form, please speak to Mrs. A. who has spare copies in The Base. Invoices for this half term have been sent to parents and we would appreciate prompt payment. **Hot News** - we are hoping to start a Change For Life Club within ASC soon - children will need to register. More information to follow ...

New School Kitchen

Hopefully you will have had a chance to view our lovely new Kitchen in The Base. This has been jointly funded by our fantastic PTA and we would like to thank every one of you for your support and generosity. Teachers, Breakfast Club and After School Club are now starting to use the kitchen in earnest and have already produced some amazing dishes with the children. We do still need some equipment i.e. cheese graters, so if you have anything you are no longer using, please donate it. We are also due to receive some funding from Oxford City Council which is going to be spent on kitchen equipment.



School Motto

Be ambitious for the higher gifts.

143 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 7PH
 Tel: 01865 311056

E-mail: office.3842@st-aloysius.oxon.sch.uk
 Website: www.staloysius.net

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

PAGE 2 OF 2

CLASS REVIEWS

Ash Class - The class have begun the year by making special contributions to the opening school Mass, taking on the responsibility of readings and bidding prayers. They have begun their weekly swimming lessons, gaining more confidence and perfecting swimming styles. In English they have started listening to Alice in Wonderland and are responding to the story, the characters and plot through their own writing. They wrote excellent versions of the first chapter Down The Hole. In spelling they are focusing on those tricky words where 'sh' sound is spelt 'ti', 'ci' and 'ch'. Some of the children are exploring persuasive writing as they put themselves forward to be class representatives for the School Council this year. Individuals have been busy producing posters and speeches. In Maths the focus has been on number bonds to 100 and understanding the properties of 4-digit numbers and relationships between multiplication and division initially with the six times table. In Science they are learning about the digestive system, creating cut outs of themselves and then placing on the main internal organs and exploring their different jobs. The class learnt about the interactions of saliva, enzymes and acid during a lesson where a model intestine was demonstrated (it consisted of a mixture of Weetabix, orange juice, tea, toast with jam and soya milk) working through bags and a pair of tights. The story of Dr William Beaumont and St. Alexis Martin was also shared through a YouTube film. After the lesson they happily trotted off to lunch!

Mrs. Black has felt very welcome to the class with her maths problems, grammar focus on verbs and their tenses. She has begun looking at The Old Testament in the Bible and the early stories of creation and preparing art work ready for display along the corridor. The class have been thrilled to make use of the new school kitchen and seasonal apples, making delicious crumbles and in some case crumble pies due to a water mix! The sessions were lead by Miss Pablos and Miss McCarthy as photographed.



Oak Class - We have had a very busy start to the Autumn term. Our theme for the term is 'Responsible Citizens'. We are responsible in our classroom, our city and the World. We have enjoyed studying 'The Lorax' by Dr Seuss and used this to focus our attention upon our use of natural resources. The children have used their creative ideas to make excellent models of the Rainforest and research its many inhabitants. We have scientifically looked at the adaptation of animals to their habitat and have now started to review human characteristics which allow us to best survive in our environment. We have also started to reflect upon our preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion as we learn more about all the sacraments and share in belonging to God's family. We have started to prepare our performance of 'Peter Pan' with Creation Theatre and hope you will all be impressed with our hard work when parents are asked to come along to our very exclusive performance. We are very excited about our up and coming visit to the Living Rainforest on the 16th of October.

Tigger Class - We have had a fantastic start to school in Tigger class. The children have really enjoyed getting to know each other and finding out what school is all about. They have settled in well and have grown in confidence over the last few weeks. We have been learning all about routines and our responsibilities when we are in school. The children have also been thinking carefully about themselves, each other and their families. Take a look at our great self- portraits in the classroom! There has been such a big interest in our outdoor classroom and the seasonal changes that we have now started learning all about Autumn. A big thank you to all the parents in Tigger for helping to make the start to reception a smooth and happy one. We look forward to an exciting year ahead!

Willow Class - Willow have started the year with their topic of 'Medicine Through Time' and have travelled back in time to find out how the Egyptians treated the sick, including learning about priest doctors (we weren't sure how Father Daniel would feel if we asked him to operate on us!). We have also learnt and retold the story of Willow pattern china and designed our own willow pattern panels - check them out in our classroom! In Maths we have been focusing on place value as well as learning some magical new methods of written multiplication! So far it has been a really positive start to Year 6 and the class are looking forward to their upcoming trip to Woodlands.

Acorn Class - All the Acorns have settled in very well to school life. We began the school year with our mini topic Marvellous Me, this involved us painting our portraits and using mirrors to carefully observe our faces, measuring our heights, painting big eyes and drawing chalk faces outside. We have been doing lots of mark making at our writing table, we have made shape patterns in our maths area and have used magnifying glasses to look at Autumn natural objects in our investigation area. We start the day off with 'Wake up Shake up', this really energises us all for the day! We have our Relaxing calm time after lunch with some soothing music and finish the day off with a story, songs or Cosmic Yoga! Father Daniel has visited us, he tells us stories and we sing songs. This week we are looking at signs of Autumn, with an Autumn walk this morning and we are all making vegetable soup tomorrow. A busy start for Acorns!

Fig Class - The theme in Fig class is dragons. We have read a number of dragon stories and thought about different types of dragons: what they might look like, how they might behave, where they might live and how we would look after one if we had it as a pet. Keeping with the dragon theme, we have looked at the features of instructional writing, we made dragon mobiles using old CDs and then wrote instructions about how to make a dragon mobile. The children know that instructional writing uses imperative verbs, the instructions must be in the correct order, make sense and be concise. In English, we have also been improving sentences and thinking about the role of verbs, nouns and adjectives in a sentence. In maths we have revisited place value, understanding the value of each digit in two and three digit numbers, partitioning numbers into tens and ones, and using this knowledge when answering calculations. As a method for representing calculations and problems, the children have been introduced to bar modelling. Come and look at our maths wall and see what we have been doing. In P.E we are working on core muscle strength and balance- using these skills as we travel along, through and over the apparatus. It has been a busy few weeks and everyone has settled well into the new routines.

Fir Class - Fir Class have made a good start to the year. They are working hard on learning to use their phonics in sentence writing. We have been doing writing based on Rosie's Walk and are now doing Handa's Hen. In Maths, we are revisiting our number bonds to 10. Outdoor Learning has begun and this week the children had a fantastic time collecting worms and creating wormeries in little bottles. We continue to need volunteers for Outdoor Learning so please sign up on the Doodle Poll. If for any reason you are unable to make it, you must let school know because if we do not have enough parent volunteers, we will be unable to go and finding that out at 12.00pm when the children are ready to go would be very disappointing. Thank you Mrs. Steele for stepping in this week.

Bay Class - Where to start. The children have adapted well into Year 5 life (I can't believe they are there already). We have mainly focused on diary entries in English and I have been really impressed with the work that they are currently producing as they are listening to feedback and responding with excellent writing. We have mainly looked at expanded noun phrases, adverbials and nouns so please encourage your children to work on this at home. Our Maths has been focused around number and place value so it has been a nice transition for them as they are learning 5/6 - digit numbers. We have also looked at our class saint and the incredible life she had. The class found out amazing facts about her. Lastly, we have started our topic on Earth and Space in Science. So far, Bay Class have learnt about the relative size of Earth to other planets and why we have seasons. We all thoroughly enjoyed cooking pizzas in the new kitchen (see photograph on page one of the Newsletter).



School Motto

Be ambitious for the higher gifts.

143 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 7PH
Tel: 01865 311056

E-mail: office.3842@st-aloysius.oxon.sch.uk
Website: www.staloysius.net