

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER 02/03/18 Spring Term ~ Edition 3

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH 2018

Tuesday 6th
Friday 9th
Wednesday 14th
Thursday 15th

Fir Class to Warwick Castle
PTA MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST
5.30pm - FGB Meeting
ODD SHOE DAY (wear odd shoes for a contribution of £1 to the Fr. Shepherd Good Hudson Appeal)

Monday 19th
SATURDAY 24TH
Tuesday 27th
Thursday 29th

10.00am - St. Joseph's Day Mass, The Oratory
PTA SPRING PARTY AND BARN DANCE
9.30am - Passiontide Mass, School Hall
9.30am - Maundy Thursday Mass at School
NO SWIMMING
1.00PM - **END OF SPRING TERM**
Good Friday

APRIL 2018

Monday 16th
Wednesday 18th
Wednesday 25th
Thursday 26th

8.35AM - **START OF SUMMER TERM**
10.00am - Eastertide Mass, The Oratory
7.00pm - **Annual Parent Governor Meeting**
ANNUAL SCIENCE DAY

MAY 2018

Wednesday 2nd
Monday 7th
Tuesday 8th
Thursday 10th

Class Photographs
May Day Bank Holiday - **SCHOOL CLOSED**
Year 4 Ash Class Woodlands Residential
10.00am - Ascension of Jesus Mass, The Oratory

FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers, Thank you for helping the children with their amazing World Book Day costumes! The children looked fantastic and had a really enjoyable and very exciting day doing book based activities. Staff managed to take plenty of photographs which will be sent out separately. Have a lovely weekend. **Tom Walker - Headteacher.**

Easter Activities - St. Ebbe's School

We would like to inform you of a 2-day Technology Club being run on Monday 9th & Tuesday 10th April at St Ebbe's School, OX1 4NA from 9am to 3pm each day. For further information please go to www.nextthing.education/hc.

Teaching and Learning Policy

Our new Teaching and Learning Policy is now available via the school website. This policy sets out how, as a school, we aim to provide the best possible learning experiences for your children. We would recommend finding out about Growth Mindset theory. In particular, it has helped us think about the kind of language we use with the children when we talk about school work and learning.

World Book Day Winners

All of the children who dressed up as their favourite book character looked amazing. This year was one of the best yet ... The staff joined in too and we had some very fetching characters (and animals) and even a visit from Jack Sparrow himself. The winners of Waterstones Book Vouchers were; Jason Oshodi (Acorn Class), Sebastian Manarkoli (Tigger Class), Natalie Osprey (Fir Class), Ella Azzopardi (Fig Class), Felix Chataway (Oak Class), Libby Clack (Ash Class), Libby Cook (Bay Class) and Lucia Krah (Willow Class).

PTA Planned Events

Mother's Day Breakfast - Friday 9th March from 8.00am.
Spring Party* - Saturday 24th March
Easter Bonnet Competition and Egg Hunt* - Thursday 29th March
SummerFest* - Saturday 9th June
Monthly Class Cake Sales* - first one is 29th March, Oak Class will be hosting.

*More details about these events to follow soon.

Reporting Absences

All absences must be reported to the school office by 9.00am (earlier if possible). This includes children attending our Acorn Nursery Class. You can report absences via telephone (leave a message if the office is unmanned), email, Schoolcomms or text message. Thank you.

Climbing Frame Donations

If you would like to make a donation to the Climbing Frame Fund, please click [here](#).

THIS TERM'S HOUSE POINT TOTALS

Ashmolean 273 Bodleian 305 Radcliffe 372 Sheldonian 320
Autumn Term House Point Cup Winners - **RADCLIFFE**

WINTER PRAYER

There is a winter in all of our lives, a chill and darkness that makes us yearn for days that have gone or put our hope in days yet to be. Father God, you created seasons for a purpose. Spring is full of expectation buds breaking frosts abating and an awakening of creation before the first days of summer. Now the sun gives warmth and comfort to our lives bringing colour, new life and crops to fruition. Autumn gives nature space to lean back, relax and enjoy the fruits of its labour, mellow colours in sky and landscape as the earth prepares to rest. Then winter, cold and bare as nature takes stock, rests, unwinds and sleeps until the time is right. An endless cycle and yet a perfect model. We need a winter in our lives a time of rest, a time to stand still a time to reacquaint ourselves with the faith in which we live. It is only then that we can draw strength from the one in whom we are rooted, take time to grow and rise through the darkness into the warm glow of your springtime, to blossom and flourish, bring colour and vitality into this world your garden. Thank you Father for the seasons of our lives. *Amen.*



ACORN NURSERY CLASS

(For 3+ Year Olds)

PLACES AVAILABLE NOW

For an application form, please email Jo at office.3842@st-aloysius.oxon.sch.uk

St Aloysius PTA present the
MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

From 8am Friday 9th March
In the School Hall
Delicious cake, Pastries, Tea, Coffee and Prosecco

MY BEAUTIFUL CIRCUS

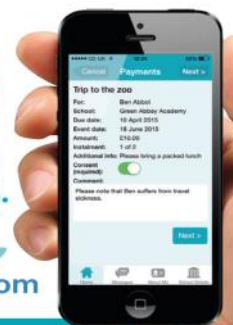
We're all off to visit Gifford Circus! Tickets have been secured, Tweedy The Clown is rehearsing madly and the horses have been rounded up!! Tuesday 19th June 2018

Parents, welcome to:

Schoolgateway

The easy way to pay online for dinners and other items.

Download the app. Android and iPhone
or visit: www.schoolgateway.com



Activate your account today!



School Motto

Be ambitious for the higher gifts.

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CLASS REVIEWS

Fig Class - The sound of sawing and drilling has been filling the air in Fig Class as we begin to make our battery powered cars. Working in groups with Mr. Thompson, the children have considered the best size and shape for their car's chassis, then measured, cut, sanded and glued wood to make a sturdy frame, making reinforcement corners to ensure the frame does not move. The children are now beginning to design the cars making sure they allow space for a large battery, motor and wires. Everyone has also designed and made a model from 'junk' and are now considering improvements to their designs. It has been a busy week which has included: a street dance session, a drama session, planting seeds, debating whether Wilbur- the pig in Charlotte's Web- should be saved from becoming Christmas dinner and then writing a persuasive letter to the farmer, learning mental math skills for addition and subtraction calculations and finally we have completed our first practice reading SATs paper.

Ash Class - This week Ash Class attempted a frustrating maths problem which I didn't tell them was impossible until the end of the lesson. The result: they created ingenious ways round it; had heated mathematical discussions; showed great perseverance and now unfortunately don't trust a word I say to them in maths lessons! In RE we read Matthew's gospel account of Jesus being tempted in the desert. The children facilitated an interesting discussion around temptation. Mrs. Black.

The class have continued to experience learning lead by Mrs. Montes. In English they have been composing letters to Emily Ruhs in Italy. As a link to their class book *The Last Wild* they have written letters to the author Piers Torday describing the impact of various characters and ideas complete with illustrations (some of which may find their way onto his website.) Mrs. Montes brought in a wide collection of dead animals such as a kingfisher, dormouse, scorpion, rhinoceros beetle and silk moth to explore the idea of a world without animals and how this would affect human emotions and life. In Maths they have explored and practised multiplication through both grid and ladder set ups, which support greater understanding of number conservation. The topic exploring Modern Europe has now taken on the form of collaborative shared research. Children have collected information, extensive facts, made models and food (biscuits from Germany) which they will share with each other and have on display in the upper corridor outside the classroom. The children have attended Confession, followed the Stations of the Cross as part of their Lenten preparation for Easter. Their class mass felt very special in the guild room at The Oratory. They enjoyed a flurry of snow as they walked back to school.



Fir Class - Fir Class have used their new knowledge of non-fiction writing and all the amazing facts that they have learnt about our topic to create some great leaflets about castles and knights. In Science the class have begun to think about habitats for different animals and learning to group animals, birds and fish. In Maths, the class have been studying 3D shapes making models out of nets (which was a challenge) and then learning about the different properties of the shapes. In RE the children have thought about Lent and decided what they might give up! Last week we visited Port Meadow and looked at the different birds on the flooded lake and this week as it was so cold the class made cup cakes. I am hoping the weather warms up for Warwick Castle.

Willow Class - This week Willow Class have shown great resilience and positivity during their mock SATs - I have been impressed with their attitude to learning and would encourage all the class to keep it up! We have also created some beautiful paper cuts of the fourteen stations of the cross which will be on display in the entrance hall soon. Finally, we still await a reply from Theresa May after some of the class wrote letters regarding her green policies, urging her to tighten her time

frames on reducing plastic waste. We will keep you posted on any updates!

Oak Class - What a wise and hardworking class we are. We have been enjoying reading Aesop's fables and considering the importance of their messages to our lives and I must say we are all a bit better for it. Our writing has focussed on persuasion. I can envisage many of the boys and girls enjoying great success in advertising in the future. We have been focussed on measurement, lines and angles over the past week: cm, mm, metres and different types of angles. Our European topic has taken us to Spain researching La Vuelta, the Spanish cycle race. The children have designed some fantastic racing bikes. Below are just a few photographs taken at our recent Oak & Ash Class Topic Exhibition. I would like to thank all those who came along and the children from both classes for their hard work. The children took such pride in presenting their topic and the event was a great success. **Reminder:** Those children whom you wish to receive the sacrament of reconciliation are invited with their families to attend the service that will be held at The Oratory this Saturday, 3rd March at 9.00am prompt.

Tigger Class - We have had an exciting time in our 'Once upon a time' topic since we returned from half term! We came in one day to find a crime scene in our classroom! We had to be good detectives and find out what had happened by investigating all the clues we found. We discovered that it was the big bad wolf! Have you seen him? The children have been developing their story language really well and using all of this great language to make up their own stories. Next week we are going into the deep dark woods through the story of Little Red Riding Hood.

Acorn Class - Acorns have had a fun start to the new term sharing favourite books from home and school in preparation for World Book Day when everyone dressed up as their favourite character. Sadly Mrs. Gray was not with us to enjoy the fun but she will return to us after Easter fully recovered from her operation we hope - get well soon Mrs. Gray! Acorns have been telling the teachers what they are interested in learning about. Topics included fairies, ponies, sharks, dragons princesses and gymnastics. So we have been building fairy castles, dressing up and acting out our favourite stories, finding out information from books and the computer about sharks and practising rolling and doing the splits on the carpet! We will continue to ask the children what excites them and what they want to learn about. We are talking to the children about being a "go for it gorilla" a "persevering parrot" so that they can be a "proud peacock" at the end of all their efforts when they have achieved what they wanted to do. Lots of children are already very proud peacocks! In fact Acorn have earned their very first whole class treat next week for filling the marble jar up to the very top. Marbles are put in the jar when the whole class makes a special effort. The children came up with their own ideas for a treat and the majority voted to have a picnic so we will celebrate next week. We have got some lovely new resources including number puzzles which the children have been enjoying and we were excited to welcome families including prospective newcomers to nursery for our Open Afternoon today.

Bay Class - Bay Class have been enjoying their English work, a story based around a man who can turn his most precious thoughts into gold.

The children have looked at how to use emotive language effectively and how expanded noun phrases add to great writing. In Maths, they have been rounding and adding decimals. We have related this to money and the children had to buy Harry Potter themed potions. One area we looked at that may need another focus is converting different units of measurement. In RE, we have been looking at all the different miracles of Jesus and writing our own perspective on these. Lastly, in Science, we been designing our own contraptions using gears, pulleys and leavers. Everyone has been very inventive, I just wish we were able to make these inventions in real life.



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