

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER 30/04/18 Summer Term ~ Edition 1

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY 2018	
Wednesday 2nd	Class Photographs
Thursday 3rd	10.00am - Bookfeast - Years 2 & 5 - Steve Webb 12.45pm - Bookfeast - Reception - Jeanne Willis
Friday 4th	10.00am - Bookfeast - Year 1 - Matt Carr, Years 3 & 4 - Tony de Saulles, Year 6 - Jennifer Killick
Monday 7th	May Day Bank Holiday - SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday 8th	Year 4 Ash Class Woodlands Residential
Thursday 10th	10.00am - Ascension of Jesus Mass, The Oratory NO SWIMMING 5.30pm - Art Oxford Open Evening, The Ashmolean
FRIDAY 11TH	1.00PM - ACORN NURSERY CLASS OPEN AFTERNOON
Monday 14th	Year 6 Willow Class SATs Week
Thursday 17th	CELEBRATION LUNCH FOR ROYAL WEDDING ... Ash Class Swimming
Friday 18th	2.00pm - May Procession (at school)
Monday 21st	Chatterbox Exchange Visit to Cagliari
Tuesday 22nd	Oak Class to Swindon Railway Museum
Friday 25th	LAST CHESS CLUB THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers, I can't quite believe that we are already in week three of the Summer term! Where does the time go? It is not helped, of course, by the weather. Today feels more like Autumn than almost May. Our Spring Clean day at the start of the Easter holiday was somewhat thwarted by the weather. Although it was too damp to paint, we managed to get the outside area cleaned and organised. Two parents planted a hedge, kindly donated by a Yarrnton Nursery. Thank you to all the parents, staff and friends of the school who helped on the day. When the weather improves we will get the paintbrushes out. Last Wednesday, the Governors held their Annual General Meeting for Parents. Catherine Rolfe, our Chair of Governors, spoke about the work of the Governing Body and the various ways they support the school. Fr. Daniel gave an entertaining talk on the life of St. Aloysius- 2018 marks the 450th anniversary of the year of his birth. Pete Scarborough fed back on the results of the Pupil and Parent Questionnaires and I gave a brief review of the last twelve months. On Thursday we had our annual Science Day. The day started with a messy and fairly graphic presentation on the digestive system. The children were fascinated by the length and complexity of the intestines, they got to see inside television presenter Michael Mosley through a hidden camera! The rest of the day was spent exploring health and fitness themed investigations. Science Project prizes went to: Lev, Jo-Jo and Philipp (Year 6), Hannah and Frieda (Year 5), Ida-Mae (Year 4), Orlaith (Year 3), Valeria (Year 2), Eliza (Year 1) and Francesca (Reception) Yet again this year, the staff were impressed with the quality of the children's science projects and their depth of understanding. Last week we said farewell to Miss Price who has left us to work for an environmental consultancy. I would like to thank her for all her hard work supporting the children, particularly with Maths. Mrs. Mariola Pawlak joined us this week as a full-time member of our support staff. Mariola knows the school well as a parent and as a teacher in the Polish Saturday school. Finally, Mrs. Lavety and the School Council have been working hard to revise our Code of Conduct. This will be displayed around the school and is published in this newsletter. Have a lovely week. Tom Walker - Headteacher.

Breakfast Club

There is plenty of space in our Breakfast Club for parents wanting to drop their children off to school from 7.45am. The cost of sessions are 7.45am to 8.35am - £4.00 and 8.00am to 8.35am - £3.50. There is no need to book, just bring your child in! They will receive breakfast and a drink and have an opportunity to experience some games, art, etc. If you would like any further information, please speak to Mrs. McIntyre either in Breakfast Club or the School Office. We look forward to welcoming you soon ...

Tigger Class Appeal

Do you have any Lego you no longer want and could donate to the Tigger Class? Also if you have any unwanted superhero or action figure toys? Please bring them to the School Office. Thank you.

THIS TERM'S HOUSE POINT TOTALS

Ashmolean 137 Bodleian 134 Radcliffe 192 Sheldonian 100
Autumn Term House Point Cup Winners - RADCLIFFE

WHO ARE YOU

Mary, Foretaste of heaven, tender radiance, morning hymn, fragrance of our homeland, warming hand, sister, friend, smile of heaven. Amen.

OUR NEW CODE OF CONDUCT

Every day we walk in God's way by:
Being **READY** to get on
Being **RESPONSIBLE** for ourselves and everyone
Being **RESPECTFUL** in what we do and say...
Together we follow the St. Aloysius' Way.

ACORN NURSERY CLASS

(For 3+ Year Olds)

PLACES AVAILABLE NOW &

FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

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

OPEN AFTERNOON ~ 1.00PM FRIDAY 11TH MAY 2018



Climbing Frame Donations

Our target is £20k and so far you have raised more than £10k! If you are unable to attend the various PTA events, please make a donation by clicking [here](#).

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

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED TO PAY?

We have started our new financial year and this year your parent contributions and donations are more important than ever. Please can we remind you of the following payments that are now due?

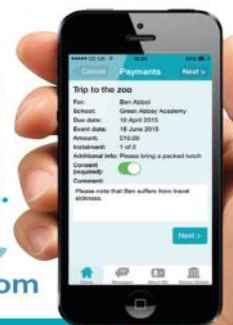
- Acorn Nursery Class Fees
- Dinner Money (speak to the office to check balances) -
- Bookfeast / Oxford Literary Festival
- Swimming Contributions (Ash Class)
- Woodlands Final Payment (Ash Class) & Kilvrough Deposit (Bay)
- School Building Fund Donation (form available from office)
- Extra Curricular Club Fees (Chess, Capoeira, etc.)
- Gifford Circus
- Breakfast/After School Club (PLEASE pay/book using booking form)

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 - Fig Class is full of toxophilites (archery experts). Last Thursday, following a quick training session by Paul Edwards, the children showed how accurate they could be when shooting with a bow and arrow. We had a few bullseyes and lots of near bullseyes. Everyone enjoyed the session and I could see the improvement in their technique by the end of the session. Thank you to everyone who completed science projects. The children all showed an amazing depth of knowledge about the area they investigated and the presentations were fascinating and very informative. On Science Day we made healthy snacks- hummus, pitta bread and carrot and cucumber slices, found out which areas of the tongue could taste salt, sugar and lemon, how different exercise increased the heart rate and how long it took to go back to a resting heart rate, made 3D hearts and other health related activities. In Maths, we have explored the relationship between fractions, multiplication and division calculations; in English we have written an information text about spiders and in P.E. the children have been working with partners planning jumps, roles and twists and performing these actions in a sequence.



Ash Class - Ash Class have been listening to their book *The Last Wild* from the end of last term. Each time we get to the end of a chapter the author skilfully leaves us with a shock, which inevitably makes us want to read on. 'A cliff hanger' they all identify with when reading their own books. Get Spelling has provided opportunities to revise prefix inter - , homophones and ay sound spelt eigh, ei, ey. Science Day bought a lot of different opportunities (see the next page for some photographs) for the class to learn and shine through their projects displaying investigations into a range of subjects including DNA, insulation, urinary system, brain, digestive system, electricity, motor engine, chemical reaction, colour mixing, optical illusions and many more. Ash Class were very fortunate to have a visit by Dr. Lucy Kissick who shared her enthusiasm for Mars. The new word for us all is geomorphology - the study of the physical features of Earth or Mars and their relationship to geological structures. It involved looking at Earth's landscapes before going to the Mars' app on Google Earth. Wearing our 3D glasses we travelled the terrain of this wonderful planet. Dr. Lucy even had a piece of rock/meteorite from Mars. The class are now considering that they could be in the next group to visit this planet. As a result they have written letters thanking and reflecting on all the information, which was new to them. A big thank you goes to Victoria Forth (Toby's mother) for seeing and sharing this opportunity. In Maths the children have worked very competently on plotting and tackling a range of decoding puzzles using coordinates, revising x and y axis with extension into the 4 quadrants. Ash are joining forces with Oak Class on Fridays to work on algorithms using Roamers, Scratch and themselves! The children and their parents attended an informative meeting before the adventure of going on our residential visit to Woodlands. We also welcomed Miss Hill, our placement student from Brookes University who will be with us until June. In RE this week, Ash Class carried on reading the Easter Story across all four Gospels. The children worked in pairs to read passages about Jesus' resurrection and chose to look at one of the appearances that He made to his disciples. Then by joining up with another pair of children, they dramatised and filmed them. Each group had a camera operator, director and actors. They were brilliant as always, and the premiere will be this week with Miss Bellamy's class as special guests.

Oak Class - Thank you to all those parents who donated cakes and biscuits to the Oak Class Cake Sale held on the last day of term. The sale was a great success raising over £200.00 towards the new climbing frame. I must also thank the pupils of Oak Class who demonstrated great organisation and marketing skills ensuring no adult left without being encouraged to fully empty their pockets of any cash they may had on them! It is all back to the 1930s this term as we embark on our new topic Life on the Home Front. The children are learning about the experience of children here in Oxford during the Second World War, from being evacuated to the country to having to spend nights in an air raid shelter. The stories that the children have learned about their

relatives experiences of this time have been fascinating. On 22nd May we are heading to Swindon Railway Museum. The Museum recreates the home front experience as the children re-enact life at that time for families during the War. We are all looking forward to it. Science Day was all about digestion and breathing. The children worked together to create their own working lung models with balloons. There are definitely a few future surgeons amongst us. The detail given and presentation skills shown by the children in presenting their own science projects was very impressive. From cats tails to bacterial, I am definitely wiser for all their research.

Acorn Class - Acorns have all settled in really well after the Easter break especially our new children. We started off with the Jack in the Beanstalk story and planted our own sunflowers and beans. Acorns have read lots of stories linked to growth and this week we are thinking about healthy fruits and vegetables. During Science Day we made healthy fruit salads and learned how to look after our teeth. Every Wednesday morning a group of Acorn children are going to be sharing their photographs on Tapestry, so please ensure you look out for the emails alerting you to when your child's week is for sharing.

Tigger Class - In Tigger Class we dove straight into our Superhero topic with the adventures of Supertato and The Evil pPeas! The topic has already been a great stimulus for writing with letters from the evil pea that we had to respond to and him creating havoc with our fruit and veg! We have been using our problem solving skills to rescue the vegetables from peril! In Maths we have been solving weighing and capacity problems. We are also practising how to add and subtract by counting on and back. Science Day was a great success with us learning how to be healthy. We thought about how to keep our teeth and bodies healthy. The children learned the process of experimentation, with them predicting what would happen, carrying out the experiment and finding out the results. Ask the children what happened to an egg when we left it in cola! Thank you to the children who brought in a science project- they all confidently showed their projects and explained them to the class.

Bay Class - The class have had a flying start to the new term and have got straight into seeing how persuasive writing can be used effectively. The have looked at cohesive devices in paragraphs as well as modal verbs to help persuade the reader. They are currently writing about why parents should give them more freedom (sorry if they are bossy at home now). In Maths, they have been looking at decimal numbers (adding and subtracting), multiplying fractions by whole numbers and using short multiplication. In R.E., they have been looking at the parables of Jesus and have been writing comic strips on these in a modern day style. For their topic work, they have been designing their own freedom quilts and have understood the messages that each patchwork represented. Lastly, we had a great Science Day last week and well done to all of those who did their own project. We enjoyed seeing which crisps have the most grease in and how bacteria is easily spread from our bodies.

Fir Class - Science Day was fun in Fir Class, the children made pizza from scratch. They chose their own toppings and discussed what foods were and were not healthy. The children also put eggs in 4 different liquids and after 4 days the sugar free squash had destroyed the egg shell... They now know why they must brush their teeth! The children also used their measuring skills to work together to measure different parts of their bodies. In English, Fir Class have started reading *Wind in the Willows* and have come up with adjectives and phrases to describe Mole and Ratty. We have booked a trip to Henley Rowing Museum later in the term so all the children can see an exhibition relating to the book. Outdoor Learning has been focusing on spotting signs of Spring.

Willow Class - In Willow Class the children have been busy preparing and sharing their Science Day projects. I was very impressed with the ambitious investigations the class had undertaken, including explaining nuclear fusion and showing the different levels of bacteria that grow after food is dropped (testing the "five second rule"!) The class also did a session on how smoking affects the body, learning all about the health implications, the laws and the cost. In other curriculum areas, the children have been writing about Captain Jack Sparrow in some short fictional writing and preparation continues for the impending SATs. In addition to this, we welcome a new student teacher to our class - Mr. Barham will be with us for eight weeks.



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LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Dear Parents,

At the governor/parents meeting on 25th April, I introduced myself as the Chair of governors since the start of this school year. It was good to see those of you who could attend, and I hope the meeting will have provided an informative account of the governors' work, and our priorities for this year and into future years. All the feedback we receive from parents' and pupils' questionnaires is valuable to the governors in our continuing work to support and challenge the school in its mission. As I mentioned at the meeting, the governors have just approved a three-year budget which highlights the real financial constraints within which the school, like all local authority-funded schools, must operate. It is a testament to the school's careful financial management, and the creativity and dedication of its staff, that despite those constraints so much is done to provide pupils with a well-rounded education. The PTA is also doing wonderful work in raising funds to enhance the opportunities for the children. As a Catholic school, St. Aloysius has a particular and positive mission. In the celebration of the liturgical year and sacramental preparation, we are blessed with the ministry of the Oxford Oratory. Alongside this, the new curriculum resources (Alive to the World), centred on the good habits and virtues young people need to build up in order to deal well with the challenges of modern life will, we hope, further bolster the school's role in supporting parents' confident upbringing of their children. Thank you again for your responses, and please feel free to contact me via the school office with any questions you may have. With best wishes, Catherine Rolfe, Chair of Governors.

SCIENCE DAY 2018 ~ SCIENCE DAY 2018 ~ SCIENCE 2018 ~ SCIENCE DAY 2018

