

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER 03/12/18 Autumn Term ~ Edition 4

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER 2018

Tuesday 4th 2.00pm - Oak Class Mass, The Oratory
Creation Theatre Performance for Fir Class
Oak Class Ashmolean Museum Visit

Thursday 6th
Friday 7th **PTA MUFTI DAY - in return for a Tombola prize children may dress in their own clothes today**
Ash & Bay Class - Confessions & Mass, The Oratory
LAST ART CLUB

Monday 10th
Tuesday 11th 2.00pm - Oak Class Christmas Craft Fair, The Courtyard
LAST CERAMICS CLUB

Wednesday 12th School Christmas Lunch - £2.20 - no need to book!
Thursday 13th 10.00am & 6.00pm - Acorn, Tigger & Fir Nativity
Friday 14th **PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR**

FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers, We are back on track with our Newsletter now that Mrs Clarke has returned after an extended period of Jury Service. For this penultimate newsletter, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the PTA for organising a fantastic Winter Ball at St. Edwards and for the remarkable generosity of those who offered and bid for auction items. I am very pleased to say that the fundraising target for the climbing frame has been met, a truly amazing effort by all concerned. The Committee are excited about this year's projects, developing the play area outside Fig Class and funding new laptops for the school. Finally I'd like to congratulate all our Year 6 Confirmation children. Bishop Kenney led the service at The Oratory on Saturday 24th November. Thank you to Fr. Daniel, Fr. Oliver, Miss Joyce and Miss Errington for preparing the children so well and thanks also to Mrs Brookes who came back to organise the refreshments. The Choir of The Oratory sung and needless to say the music was stunning. I hope you have a great first week of advent. **Tom Walker - Headteacher.**

After School Club Bookings

YOU CAN NOW BOOK YOUR AFTER SCHOOL CLUB SESSIONS FOR THE WHOLE OF THE SPRING TERM ONLINE!!

We have moved to an online booking system for After School Club. The new system, which is available to parents via the Schoolgateway app, is now up and running. From January 2019 the online booking system will be the only way parents can book After School Club. Charges will remain the same and parents will be able to pay when they make a booking. There are a limited number of spaces available every day. Bookings will be taken on a first come, first served basis. Online bookings will close at 1.00pm - this will allow for any necessary adjustments in staffing, etc. For later bookings, (after 1.00pm on the same day), you will need to telephone the school office. We will always do our utmost to accommodate all children needing a place in After School Club. Thank you.

STARTING SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Children born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015 (inclusive) need to apply for a primary or infant school place for their children. How to apply? You can apply online for a primary or infant school place ([click here](#)). If you cannot apply online, you can request a paper application form from schools, nurseries and from the School Admissions Team. The deadline for receipt of completed school applications is **15th January 2019**. If your application is late, it will be processed later in the year, and you are far less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools.

Outstanding Payments

Please can we remind all parents that any outstanding payments should be settled promptly. We currently have £630.30 outstanding for dinner money (Oak Class £130.40, Ash Class £191.70, Bay Class £177.20 and Willow Class £131.00)! In addition, there are outstanding fees due for nursery, swimming and after school club. We are having to use our school budget to subsidise these payments, leaving less available for teaching and classroom resources. Please can we appeal to all parents to pay all outstanding bills as quickly as possible. Thank you.



THIS TERM'S HOUSE POINT TOTALS

Ashmolean 191 Bodleian 192 Radcliffe 198 Sheldonian 141
SUMMER Term House Point Cup Winners - **BODLEIAN**

THIS TERM'S VIRTUES

This term we are trying hard to be Loving and Compassionate.

LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT

Lead, Kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom Lead Thou me on! The night is dark and I am far from home - Lead Thou me on! Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see the distant scene - one step is enough for me. I was not ever thus, nor pray'd that Thou shouldst lead me on. I loved to choose and see my path but now Lead thou me on! . 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.



ST. ALOYSIUS BREAKFAST CLUB

There is space in our Breakfast Club. Parents can drop children off from 7.45am. The cost of sessions are; from 7.45am - £4.00 and from 8.00am - £3.50. No need to book, just turn up! Children will receive breakfast and a drink and have an opportunity to experience some games, art, etc. If you would like any further information, speak to Mrs. McIntyre in the School Office or at Breakfast Club.

LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR VACANCY

We still have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor here at school. We would like someone five days a week but are willing to be flexible. The hours would be 1.25 per day, starting at 12.00pm. If you would like to receive any further information, please speak to Jo Clarke in the School Office.

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.

143 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 7PH

Tel: 01865 311056

E-mail: admin.3842@st-aloysius.oxon.sch.uk

Website: www.staloysius.net

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

PAGE 2 OF 2

CLASS REVIEWS

Tigger Class - We have gone dinosaur mad with our topic this term! The children have LOVED learning about the different species of dinosaurs. Our class dinosaurs disappeared for a while when they went to save some other dinosaurs on an island! This inspired the children to write some fantastic letters and they helped the dinosaurs to solve their problems. We thought of lots of ideas of how to get the dinosaurs back, and some of the children even built some boats! Thank goodness they arrived back safely. Another highlight was our fireworks night bonfire. The children really enjoyed toasting marshmallows and they learned how to be safe around a bonfire. This term children are beginning to write words and sentences, adding numbers and becoming independent learners. Well done Tiggers!

Willow Class - In Willow Class we have been busy preparing for our confirmation. Father Oliver worked hard with the class and the service was lovely, I was very proud of all the children who attended and prepared so well. In addition to this, Willow Class have participated in filming for a teacher training film with Pearson Education, the children enjoyed the experience of working with a camera crew and tackled some challenging maths problems. We have also visited Junior Citizens and learned about safety in the home and the wider world.



Confirmation Children

Congratulations to all the children from Willow Class (Year 6) who made their Confirmation last Saturday; Rafferty, Julian, Leon, Hannah, Frieda, Finan, Conrad, Benedict, Kuba, Ivana, Katie, Leo, Sammy, Edward and Filip.

Bay Class - Bay Class have shown lots of great writing recently and have really started to understand what makes a good piece of work. They are always trying to improve on what they have written and this is what makes great writers, so well done. In Maths, we have moved onto multiplication, where the children have had to work out factors, factor pairs, prime numbers, squared numbers and cubed numbers. They have grasped this concept well especially with all that information they have had to remember. In Science, the class finally tested their parachutes; each group had a different investigation but they were designed well and the longest stayed in the air for 5 seconds, which is brilliant considering it was only a short drop. On a final note, could you please bring in a jam jar or something similar to school as they will be needing them for their performance.

Fig Class - What a busy few weeks we have had in Fig Class: exploring complicated maths problems using a variety of methods; creating algorithms to program Roamers; writing character studies in English, working in groups in PE to create performances incorporating a balance, a twist, a roll and a jump; learning to draw using perspective; cooking biscuits; learning about the Sacrament of the sick in RE and carrying out an investigation in Science to find out which shop's bags are the strongest. In English, we have been looking closely at the character of Aslan from the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and writing a detailed character study that describes not only how he looks but explores his inner qualities. The children used thesaurus's to gather as many adjectives as they could and have used these effectively in their writing. In Science, we have learnt about fair testing, introducing the concept of variables (dependent, independent and control or constant variables), making predictions, recording findings and discussing what the results might tell us. We have been testing the material used in shopping bags and have been amazed at how strong some of the bags have been. We will let you know our findings. The spelling pattern for this week is: double the consonant before adding

the suffix 'y'.

Ash Class - Ash Class have been busy this week making soup for The Gatehouse; washing, peeling and chopping vegetables and then blending the soup. Thank you to Mr. Murphy for delivering the soup to The Gatehouse for us. We then wrote instructions for The Gatehouse to use for future soup projects. In Maths we have continued to work on written methods for addition and subtraction, with a particular focus this week on exchanging for subtraction. We have also been revisiting the 6x tables and explaining methods for mental calculations with Mrs. Black. In English, we have continued to read our class book and develop our comprehension skills based on this. We have also been on our own adventure to the South Pole and have written diary entries from our visit. We have continued to enjoy our topic work, last week we were animators - building sets, planning stills and filming using Duplo figures. We have also quite enjoyed learning about the digestive system in Science. In grammar, we continued to look at adverbial phrases - see if your child can pick one out when you are reading together. During RE lessons we looked at Jesus' ancestors and created Jesse trees. They are displayed on the classroom windows so come and take a look!

Oak Class - Oak Class have been exploring the lives of the Anglo Saxons. We have learned about their settlements and lifestyle and now venture into the mysterious world of Beowulf. We will be going to the Ashmolean Museum for an interactive workshop on 6th December which we are very much looking forward to. We are exploring the nature and effects of light in Science and are becoming experts in quiz technique as we make team challenges for each other. We have enjoyed the works of Roal Dahl and George's Marvellous Medicine supporting our writing and recreating the art work of Quentin Blake. Christmas season is upon us and we are busy creating fantastic crafts that will be on sale at our exciting craft fair that will be held on Tuesday 11th December at 2.15pm in The Courtyard. Final date for your diary Oak Class mass will be held on Tuesday 4th December at The Oratory at 2.00pm - all class parents are welcome to join us.

Fir Class - In Fir Class in English lessons the children have been writing perfect sentences and in phonics working hard on learning the more complicated sounds. In Maths, they are continuing to tackle simple word problems. We are also all very much enjoying learning the songs for our Christmas play. Please help your child learn their lines!

Acorn Class - In Acorn Class we have been exploring different transport by building, drawing and junk modelling aeroplanes, cars, trains, boats and buses. After reading The Naughty Bus, we decided to make our very own big red bus and the children had a wonderful time driving it! In Maths we have continued to look at Ten Town and this week we visited Eric Eight the Snowman. It is wonderful to see how the children's counting and numeral recognition has developed and how much they are then able to use this in their play. In phonics we have been concentrating on tuning into sounds as well as making them and the children very much enjoyed joining in the sounds for We're Going on a Bear Hunt! It's been a month of celebrations, starting with Bonfire Night and then we learned all about Diwali, acting out the story of Rama and Sita and the children made beautiful Diva Lamps. I was extremely impressed with their efforts! We are carrying on the celebrations with birthdays and weddings and then Advent and the celebration they are very much looking forward to, Christmas! Nativity practice is in full swing and the children are enjoying all the songs with actions to match!

Mary's Meals

We would like to congratulate the Student Council on a very successful fundraising event in aid of Mary's Meals. Along with Porridge Day and a cake sale, they raised a total of £286.60 and a cheque to Mary's Meals has been posted today Well done!

Dodgeball

Some children from years 3,4 & 5 played in their first ever dodgeball tournament last week at The Oxford Academy. They had a fantastic time and I was really impressed with the team effort and spirit they showed.



School Motto

Be ambitious for the higher gifts.

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

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