

Dear families

Welcome back to school for those families that have been part of our school family for a while and a new welcome to our new families. We hope that you all had a lovely break. The children have arrived back in school looking really smart and are (as always) polite and keen to work.

We are working hard to keep the communication clear between home and school and for this reason, we have a new communication policy. The policy needs to be ratified by governors prior to being shared, but essentially it covers how and when we communicate with families and how families communicate with us. Moving forward, you will receive a monthly letter (like this) from myself, you will then also receive a termly class/year group letter (three times a year) that covers the curriculum. The Key Stage Leads will send out half termly letters that cover anything specific to the Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. These letters will all be sent via email and will also go on the school website.

We will also send out text messages as needed. More staff have access to this system now so you may receive more than previously, and I can now access messages from home so you may receive a weekend message if it's important (school closures etc), but hopefully it will help you when you do get the messages. We will put reminders on Facebook, but will try not to put new information on here, however sometimes we do need to for speed, so please check the Facebook account regularly.

We are going to try to get dates out to you in plenty of notice. They are already set for the whole year, but we need to clarify some dates with Church before we can share these. You will see some dates further down this letter.

As a school, we want to get it right with the amount of events that we invite you in to. We know that some families feel that we have too many dates and some feel that we don't have enough so it is finding the middle ground. Some of our events are before school and some are during. This year we will hold curriculum café meetings, kindness cafés (before school), SEND coffee mornings, Easter Egg decoration, Easter Class Celebration of the Word and then the normal nativities, fayres, sports day etc. There are no more than ten events that you are invited to and some of these are whole school, so it is not ten events per child if you have more than one child in school. We do hope that you feel that the events are beneficial and always remember that you can send another family member or school staff can support the children.

If there is confusion of any events, activities etc. then please do contact school. We know that you use class/year group chats and these are important, but they do sometimes cause more confusion. We are happy to discuss anything that helps to make your life easier... as a working parent I do know myself the difficulty on keeping up to date with it all!

A member of the leadership team is on the yard daily to discuss any concerns that you may have; attached is a document that explains our roles. Please feel free to approach any of us regarding your child's education.

We have a lot of in-school events for children this half term as we are trying to spread them out across the year, so that the children can enjoy the activities/ school enrichment alongside the quality curriculum that we teach.

Thank you again for the support.

Mrs Tumelty

Medication

If your child needs any medication to remain in school, it is vital that it is in school asap. Please send inhalers, Epi Pens, etc. into school so that we can help your children if needed.

PE days

This academic year the PE days will be

Reception-Friday

Year 1-Monday and Thursday

Year 2-Tuesday and Thursday

Year 3- Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 4- Thursday and swimming on Friday

Year 5-Tuesday and Friday

Year 6- Monday and Thursday

Please continue to send your child into school on their PE day in their PE kits. A reminder that this is NAVY shorts/ tracksuit bottoms, St. Aloysius branded PE t-shirt and either a PE hoody or a branded school jumper/ cardigan.

School uniform

Please continue to provide your child with a smart uniform; we can help out where needed - please ask if you would like any confidential support.

We know there have been some issues getting uniform from the suppliers, so we will be as supportive as possible. I have spoken to the uniform shop, and this will hopefully be sorted out soon.

Long hair needs to be tied fully up (no half and half) and no metal earrings are to be worn- plastic clear retainer type earrings only to be worn. We cannot allow the children to take part in PE whilst they wear metal earrings due to Health and Safety. Many schools say no earrings at all, but we do feel that the plastic retainers are safe and help to keep the hole open. Please send your child in with a named coat every day.

Please name all items so they can be returned if lost.

Packed lunches/ snacks

The junior children are able to bring in packed lunches if they wish; this can be alternated with dinners as frequently as needed. The kitchen collect the dinner numbers in the morning and then make the dinners accordingly, so as long as your child knows if they are dinner or packed lunch then it is fine to change frequently.

We are a NUT FREE school. If nuts are listed in the ingredients, then they are not allowed in school. Any items that we see that has this will be removed for safety reasons. If it is made in a factory that may contain nuts then that is allowed in school. Last year, I individually spoke to the parents of children with nut allergies to confirm this, but if anything does change for children with nut allergies then please let school know ASAP.

There was a previous packed lunch policy, and I know that this said only crisps on a Friday, but this is an old policy, so crisps are allowed to be eaten on different days. We may look at writing a new policy soon, but please keep packed lunches healthy, e.g. sandwich, crisps, fruit and a biscuit. Children can bring in pasta pots, yogurts etc but we cannot keep the packed lunches cold (they are kept out of the sun). Please also provide a spoon, fork etc. The children (and staff!) often struggle to open flask pots, so although we know you will want them tight, please check that they are able to be opened. We do have water available, but you can send a drink in also for ease (no fizzy drinks).

If you are sending grapes into school, then please cut them long length ways to prevent choking.

Kindness Café

We offer a kindness café to each of the classes; they are all going to be held in the junior hall this year; between 8:30-8:55am and give you the chance to meet school staff and other families and have your breakfast. Children and siblings are welcome before they go to class and best of all they are free!

Reception- Friday 26th September 2025

Year 1- Friday 24th October 2025

Year 2- Friday 28th November 2025

Year 3- Friday 30th January 2026

Year 4- Friday 20th February 2026

Year 5- Friday 27th March 2026

Year 6- Friday 24th April 2026

St Aloysius' Got Talent

We are holding a school talent show for years 1 to 6 on Wednesday 15th October 2025. Each class will enter one talent to the show.

To determine who will represent each class, we will have class auditions on Wednesday 24th September. Children can bring in props etc if they wish to audition (no costume changes). The class will then decide who will represent them.

If they are chosen for the final, then they can bring in a costume; you will be informed if this is your child.

Please help them to decide if they wish to enter and to prepare an audition. Group auditions are allowed. The process will be very supportive and all acts will be celebrated.

Nursery and Reception children will celebrate their talents.



CAFOD (Catholic Charity) movie night

On Wednesday 8th October, we are hosting a CAFOD movie night after school for Reception to Y6 children. The cost is £4 and children will stay in their classrooms and watch a movie; they will also be given a hot dog, crisps and a drink. Children can bring in a blanket and a small bag of sweets if they wish.

You can sign up for this on ParentPay. Please do this before Tuesday 30th September so that we know final numbers.

Collection is 4.55pm for infants and 5pm for juniors.

Normal wraparound will still be taking place on this day.

Commando Joe's Launch Day

Last year, we purchased a package called Commando Joe's and the staff were fully trained in it. The purpose of it is to build character, self-worth and confidence in young people- for happier, healthier living. [Commando Joe's - Commando Joe's](#)

On Wednesday 17th September, we will be launching CJ with all of the children from Y1-Y6. EYFS (nursery and reception) will be launching this on Wednesday 24th September.

On these dates, we would love the children to come dressed in army/cargo/camouflage clothes, face paints are allowed. If you cannot arrange this then PE kit should be worn.

Wraparound Club

Prior to my arrival at St. Aloysius, there was no wraparound after school on a Friday. We will open this up on a Friday starting on Friday 19th September 2025. Please inform the office if you want your child to attend on the Friday's in this half term.

Harvest Festival

If you have kitchen cupboard items that you would like to donate for our Harvest Festival then please send them in on Monday 6th October 2025. The RE ambassadors and Mini Vinnies will remind you of this nearer the time.

Clubs

We are finalising after school clubs and will begin them soon. The clubs will all run for the same weeks and will finish at the same time; this will help stop any confusion. We have some external agencies also to deliver a wider range of clubs; these clubs are more costly than when school staff run the club. If you need any financial assistance, then please ask.

We will be sharing a list of clubs prior to them opening on ParentPay so that you can discuss them with your children before booking them. All clubs will be released at the same time.

Clubs are not open to nursery children. Reception children will be able to attend clubs next half term when they are fully settled into school life.

More information will be given soon regarding the clubs, however, please see the link on the website that has the future dates on. [After School Dates](#)

Parking

On our return to school, we have found out about the proposed parking restrictions around school. We were not informed of these and have had no contact from South Tyneside Council. We have made contact with the council to discuss it further as whatever decisions are made need to be well thought out- we are all aware that there is difficulty parking around school and we all want the best and safest options for the children.

Curriculum Cafes

We would like to invite you in to meet with the staff this half term to hear about the overview for the school year. You will see examples of the type of activities the children will cover. We can send the information out afterwards to families that cannot attend.

Reception- Friday 26th September 2025 (straight after the Kindness Café- back in infants)

Year 1- Friday 24th October 2025 (straight after the Kindness Café- back in infants)

Year 2- Wednesday 8th October 2025 @ 9:15am- infant hall

Year 3- Thursday 16th October 2025 @ 9:15am- junior hall

Year 4- Thursday 9th October 2025 @ 9:15am- junior hall

Year 5- Thursday 2nd October 2025 @ 9:15am- junior hall

Year 6- Friday 3rd October 2025 @ 9:15am- junior hall

Birthday celebrations

A reminder that due to our work with the healthy school award, oral hygiene and poverty proofing agenda, we don't allow cakes or sweets to be brought in for birthdays. Children are welcome to bring in their favourite book or toy to share on their special day.

Prayers to share

