

CURRICULUM

Newsletter

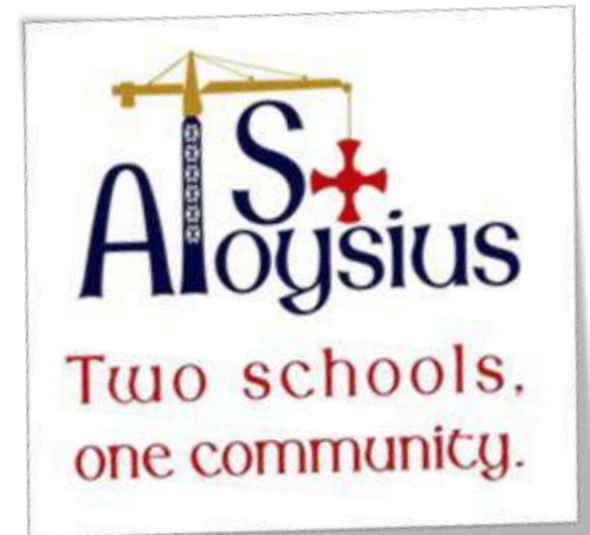


St Aloysius

Autumn 2025

Welcome to our termly newsletter where each year group has provided an overview of the learning planned for the coming weeks. Inside, you will find information about the key curriculum areas, themes, and activities your child will be engaging with this term.

We hope you find this useful in gaining an insight into the learning journey ahead and in supporting your child throughout the term.



Nursery



Classroom Highlights

We are really pleased at how well the children in both Nursery A and Nursery B have settled into our nursery. They have enjoyed exploring their new environment and learning the nursery routine.

Important Reminders

The children will come home with their Home/School Diaries every week. Please feel free to share any news and achievements. Children will have these over the weekend, please return them to school on their first day back the following week.

Upcoming Events

- 22nd October- Autumn Festival in the Secret Garden after school- information to follow
- November (TBC) – Stay and Play Session
- Nursery A 16th December – Nativity Play
- Nursery B 11th December – Nativity Play

What We're Learning

Communication and Language: This term we are doing lots of speaking and listening in small groups, including story and singing time. We will encourage the children to develop a more thematic vocabulary during their play and in the wider environment. We will support the children to talk to each other and share their experiences, thoughts feelings and ideas. Good talking and listening is always acknowledged and celebrated.

Physical Development: During Autumn, we will be focusing on gross motor skills and movement. The children will be designing and navigating their own obstacle courses. Fine motor control will be developed through finger gym activities.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: This term we will be concentrating on sharing, turn taking and developing relationships between the other children and adults in nursery. We will also be supporting the children to enter the nursery confidently and building upon their independent skills.

Literacy: In our literacy lessons, we will be sharing daily stories with the children and developing their early mark making skill using a variety of resources.

Maths: We will be developing the children's early number skills, singing lots of number songs and lots of practical counting activities.

RE: Our topic this term is 'Myself'. We will be talking about our names, our talents and what makes us unique and precious to God.

Understanding the World: Autumn term is the perfect time for learning about seasonal changes, we will spend lots of time investigating using our senses and discovering the 'Secret Garden'.

Expressive Arts and Design: We will be exploring and describing a range of sounds. We will also make our own musical instruments using a variety of materials and tools.

Reception



Classroom Highlights

We are so proud of how well the children have settled into school life. They have enjoyed exploring their new environment, building new friendships and learning their new school routines. We have loved getting to know them and are excited about the year ahead!

Important Reminders

- PE day will be on a Friday- children come into school in their PE kits and black trainers.
- Reading books and reading records will be given out in October. Your child's reading day will be on the front of their record.

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday 17th September – flu vaccine (Rec-Y6) and Commando Joe's launch day.
- 26th September- Kindness Café **8.30am** (Junior Hall) followed by Phonics Café **9.15am** (Infant Hall).
- 8th October – Cafod Movie Night
- 22nd October- Autumn festival in the Secret Garden after school- information to follow

What We're Learning

Communication and Language: This term we are focusing on building strong foundations in speaking, listening and understanding. We will be focusing on turn taking, following instructions and building vocabulary. Children will be talking about themselves in our topic, 'Magnificent Me' and building vocabulary through singing and learning rhymes.

In **PE** we will be working on multi skills. We will learn how to find a safe space before we start moving around. Over the weeks we will practise movement, directions, co-ordination to roll and stop a ball, balance and coordination to jump and land safely.

As part of **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**, we will be helping children to understand themselves and manage their feelings, build relationships and grow in confidence. This is woven into everything we do such as routines, interactions and play as well as focused circle times.

We will introduce **phonics** by teaching the children the letter sounds which they will then blend to read words and segment them to support spelling. Children will work through the initial code which will be explained in more detail during our Phonics Café.

In **Literacy**, we have been practising pre-writing mark making. Our text will be 'How to catch a star' by Oliver Jeffers. We will be learning the story with actions and building CVC words.

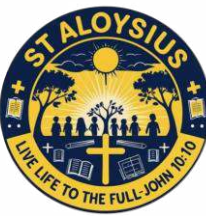
In **Maths** this term we will be developing lots of different skills; from counting to subitising. We will achieve this by doing lots of hands-on activities such as sorting and singing, using real life contexts to help develop early number and problem solving.

Our **RE** lessons we will be focusing on 'family' and what it means to us. We will explore the importance of our name and how we are a part of God's family.

In **Topic** (Understanding the World), we will be exploring the Secret Garden, focusing on the seasons, the weather and noticing changes.

In **Expressive Arts and Design**, we will be looking at different mark making skills such as zig zag, swirls and cross hatching. We will be making marks using different tools such as pencils, chalk and oil pastels. We will also be getting messy in the Secret Garden, mark making with mud and berries. We will also be working on keeping the beat and practising our singing skills.

Year 1



Classroom Highlights

We are so proud of how well the children have settled in and adapted to a new way of teaching in Year 1. The children were excited when they found their class trays!

Important Reminders

- Monday and Thursday each week: PE kits to be worn for PE days.
- Our spelling quiz will be on a Friday each week. Please refer to the sheet that was sent home or via the school website: www.st-alloysius.co.uk > our curriculum > reading and phonics and scroll down to 'spelling overview homework sheets'.

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday 17th September – flu vaccine (Rec-Y6) and Commando Joe's launch day.
- Wednesday 24th September – St. Aloysius talent show auditions
- Wednesday 8th October – Cafod Movie Night
- Friday 24th October – Year 1 Kindness Café **8.30am** (Junior Hall) AND Curriculum Café **9.15am** (Infant Hall).

What We're Learning

Phonics lessons this year will help us develop our reading fluency and an understanding of how there are multiple spellings for different sounds. For example, the four different spellings of <ae> such as in the words in **play**, **rain**, **make** and **steak**.

In **English** we will be looking at non –fiction texts such as instructions and we will be looking at poetry. Our fiction units will be based upon a traditional tale, The Enormous Turnip, and a moral tale, The Lion Inside. We will be using colourful semantics to support us with our sentence construction.

This term, in **maths** we will begin by focusing upon 'place value'. The children will learn to sort, count and represent objects and numbers, find 1 more / 1 less and compare numbers . We will then explore addition and subtraction by using various models such as part-whole models, bar models and ten frames to develop confidence when of adding and subtracting.

Our **science** focus in autumn will be 'everyday materials'. The children will identify, group, compare and describe everyday materials and their properties. We will then focus upon Space and our Solar System. We will explore the meaning of 'space' as well as the different planets and matter in our Solar System.

We will be very busy in our **RE** lessons this term where we will be exploring the theme of 'families'. We will explore the roles of people within our families and how we are loved by our family and God. We will also explore another faith, Judaism. Nearer Christmas, we will explore 'Advent' and learn how we prepare for the birth of Jesus.

In our **history** lessons this half term we will be learning about toys through time. The children will identify toys and their materials by comparing modern toys to those from the past.

Geography lessons will begin after half term where our focus will be 'where I live'. The children will identify different types of homes, settlements and various human/physical features.

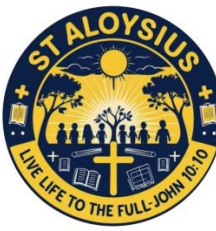
In **Art and Design**, we will be inspired by the work of Vincent Van Gogh and Sophie Munns and will explore a range of mark making techniques.

Design Technology lessons will begin after half term; we will be focussing on food and nutrition and will be designing and making our very own fruit smoothies.

Our **music** lessons this term will cover the following themes: pulse and rhythm. We will learn to keep a steady pulse in a group and a 1 bar repetition using crotchets, quavers and minims.

In **PE**, we will practise the skills of running, jumping and skipping. The children will begin to work on their ball hand-eye coordination skills of catching, throwing and hitting.

Year 2



Classroom Highlights

We are delighted to welcome the children back from the summer break! The children are excited to take on the responsibility of being the oldest children in the infants.

Reminders

- PE days in Year 2 are on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please ensure that your child is wearing the appropriate kit on these days.
- Your child's reading day can be found on the front cover of their reading journal. When you read with your child please leave a comment inside of the journal.
- Our spelling quiz will be on a Friday each week. Please refer to the sheet that was sent home or via the school website: www.st-alloysius.co.uk > our curriculum > reading and phonics and scroll down to 'spelling overview homework sheets'.

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday 17th September – flu vaccine (Rec-Y6) and Commando Joe's launch day.
- Wednesday 24th September – St. Aloysius talent show auditions.
- Wednesday 8th October – Year 2 Curriculum Café (Infant Hall) AND CAFOD Movie Night.

What We're Learning

Phonics lessons will help us develop our reading fluency and an understanding of how there are multiple spellings for different sounds. We will be looking at additional spellings to build on prior learning from Year 1.

In **English**, our fiction units will be Little Red Riding Hood and Gorilla, we will use these texts as inspiration to write our own innovative stories. Our non-fiction piece will be a discussion based on whether Little Red Riding Hood should be allowed to go on her own to her Grandma's house. We will also cover acrostic poetry, our theme this term will be fireworks.

In **maths**, our first unit this term is 'place value', we will then move onto addition and subtraction. We will develop our problem solving and reasoning skills as well as our rapid recall of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

Our **science** focus in Autumn will be 'everyday materials' where the children will investigate the most suitable material for a raincoat. We will then explore living things and their habitats.

We will be very busy in our **RE** lessons this term where we will be exploring new beginnings.

In **history**, we will be learning about the Great Fire of London. The children will write their own diary entries imagining they are an eyewitness on the streets of London during 1666.

Geography lessons will begin after half term where our focus will be on Planet Earth, we will explore the seven continents and five oceans.

In **art and design**, we will be inspired by the work of Paul Cezanne and will develop the skills of using tone and pressure to create our own still life artworks.

Design Technology lessons will begin after half term; we will be focussing on food and nutrition and will be designing and making a healthy sandwich.

Our **music** lessons this term will focus on exploring time signatures such as a 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4 rhythm.

In **PE**, we will practise multi-skills and team sports. We will work on our co-ordination and balance as well as our ball skills.

Year 3



Classroom Highlights

The children have made a great start to Y3. We have been impressed by their attitude and determination to do their best. We look forward to working with them on their learning journeys this year.

Important Reminders

- Your child will be bringing home their reading books this week, can they please be returned weekly. Their reading day is written on the cover of their reading record book.
- PE days this year will be Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Spelling tests will be every Friday. Spelling words have already been sent home for this half term.

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday 17th September – flu vaccine (Rec-Y6) and Commando Joe's launch day.
- Wednesday 24th September – St Aloysius' Got Talent auditions.
- Wednesday 8th October – Cafod movie night.
- Wednesday 15th October – St Aloysius' Got Talent.
- Thursday 16th October – Year 3 Curriculum Café 9.15am.

What We're Learning

In **English** we will be learning the story of 'The Great Kapok Tree'. We will be focussing on nouns and pronouns, including expanded noun phrases. We will end by writing our own rescue story based on the text. This will be followed by our non-fiction unit, where we will create leaflets about the rainforest.

This term, in **maths** we will begin by recapping and extending our knowledge of place value. We will focus on recognising the value of hundreds, tens and ones within a 3-digit number. Our next topic will be focussing on addition and subtraction, learning to add 1-digit, 2-digit and 3-digit numbers, including using the column method.

Our first **science** focus in autumn will be 'Animals including humans'. We will explore the different food groups, compare skeletons and learn their functions. We will then move onto our 'Forces and Magnets' topic.

We will be very busy in our **RE** lessons this term where we will begin by exploring 'Homes'. We will be thinking about what makes a house a home by discussing and understanding how we can live our lives following in the footsteps of Jesus by loving one another. We will then move to our Baptism and Advent units.

In our **history** lessons this half term we will be learning about Prehistory, focusing on The Stone Age, The Bronze Age and The Iron Age. We will discover what life was like and how people survived.

Geography lessons will begin after half term where our focus will be volcanoes and earthquakes. We will learn the features and effects of both on the landscape as well as on the people who live near them.

In **art and design** we will be inspired by the work of Julian Opie and will develop our use of line and colour. We will then create our own self-portraits.

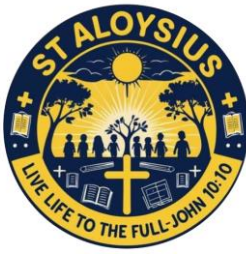
Design Technology lessons will begin after half term; we will be focussing on food and nutrition and will be designing and making our own fruit crumbles.

Our **music** lessons this term will cover the following themes: basic notation for musical notes and rhythm, and tempo including correct terminology. We will study the 'Ode to Joy' and use singing and body percussion to study these themes.

In **PE**, we will practise the skills of indoor athletics, based on sports hall athletics as well as skipping. After half term our focus will move to team skills.

French lessons this year will help us develop an understanding of basic greetings and classroom commands, family, animals and numbers to 20.

Year 4



Classroom Highlights

We are so proud of all the children in Year 4 and how quickly they have settled into their new classrooms. We are looking forward to an exciting year full of learning.

Important Reminders

- PE days are a Thursday and Friday each week (swimming on a Friday)
- Our spelling quiz will be on a Friday each week.
- Your child will be bringing home their reading books this week, can they please be returned weekly, their reading day is written on the cover of their reading record book.

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday 17th September – Flu Vaccine (Rec-Y6) and Commando Joe's launch day.
- Wednesday 24th September – St. Aloysius talent show auditions.
- Monday 29th September - Bikeability (AP Class) and Tuesday 30th September – Bikeability (LC Class)
- Wednesday 8th October – CAFOD movie night.
- Thursday 9th October - Curriculum Café **9.15am**.
- Monday 20th October – Wednesday 22nd October – Boggle Hole Residential.

What We're Learning

In **English**, we are exploring adventure fiction through the story '*Flat Stanley: The Great Egyptian Grave Robbery*'. We will be exploring and focusing on how to develop our story writing skills and learning the features used to write adventure stories. The children will then independently write their own adventure tale.

This term, in **maths**, we will begin by focusing on '*Place Value*', developing our understanding of how to represent, identify and partition numbers. We will then begin to focus on '*Addition and Subtraction*' using the column method to solve a range of calculations.

Our **science** focus in autumn will be '*materials*'. The children will study different states of matter and how particles are arranged in solids, liquids and gases. We will then move on to explore '*electricity*' where the children will take part in different investigations around circuits.

We will be very busy in our **RE** lessons this term where we will be exploring Domestic Church through the theme '*People*' where we will look at the family of God in Scripture.

In our **history** lessons this half term we will be learning about '*Ancient Egyptians*'. The children will look at who they were, what their major achievements were and the many pharaohs who ruled.

Geography lessons will begin after half term where our focus will be on '*Rivers*'. *We will explore the water cycle, three causes of rivers and the impact of flooding.*

In **art and design**, we will be inspired by the work of Gustav Klimt, we will also learn about illuminated lettering (featured in the Lindisfarne Gospels) which we will use as inspiration to create artwork and patterns in this style.

Design Technology lessons will begin after half term; we will be focusing on food and nutrition and will be designing and making our own pasta sauce.

Our **music** lessons this term will cover the following themes: pulse, rhythm, melody, active listening appraising, performance, singing and composition building on prior learning.

In **PE**, we will practise the skills of indoor athletics developing many key skills such as, jumping a distance, jumping for height and speed also throwing for accuracy and distance.

French lessons this year will help us develop an understanding of everyday vocabulary including members of family, friends, food and weather.

Year 5



Classroom Highlights

We are delighted with how well the children have settled into their new classes. They have approached the start of the school year with enthusiasm, kindness and a real eagerness to learn. It's wonderful to see new routines already taking shape and friendships continuing to grow.

Important Reminders

- Children are to read their book as often as possible at home – ideally to a grown up.
- PE days are Tuesday and Friday

Upcoming Events

- Week beginning 16th September - Bikeability
- Wednesday 17th September – flu vaccine (Rec-Y6) and Commando Joe's launch day.
- Wednesday 24th September – St. Aloysius talent show auditions.
- Wednesday 8th October – CAFOD movie night.

What We're Learning

In **English**, we are really enjoying exploring adventure fiction through the exciting novel '*She Wolf*' by Dan Smith. The story is captivating so far, and the children are engaging brilliantly with its characters and themes.

This term, in **maths** we will begin by focusing on place value, developing our understanding of the number system, recognising the value of each digit and using this knowledge as a foundation for all our future learning in maths.

Our **science** focus in autumn will be **Earth and Space** which promises to be a fascinating topic that really sparks curiosity – we're going to learn all about the failed Apollo 13 mission!

We will be very busy in **RE** this term where we will begin by reflecting on what makes each of us unique and special and how we are all part of God's family called to shine our own light in the world.

In **history** lessons this half term we will explore the **Saxons and Vikings** - linking our English book '*She Wolf*' to bring this fascinating period to life and deepen our learning.

Geography lessons will begin after half term, where we will be learning all about **natural resources**. We will explore where they are found, how they are used and the impact they have on people and the environment.

In **Art and Design**, we will be inspired by the work of Andy Warhol – drawing portraits focusing on facial features, and we will be creating our own pieces inspired by Andy Warhol's iconic pop art style, experimenting with colour, pattern and creativity.

Design Technology lessons will begin after half term; we will be focusing on food and nutrition and will be designing and making our own pretzels!

Our **music** lessons this term will develop skills in keeping a steady pulse, reading rhythms and music that includes syncopation, helping to build our confidence and musical understanding.

In **PE**, our focus is football, we will be developing key skills: passing, dribbling, shooting and teamwork - building both fitness and confidence on the pitch.

French lessons this year will help us develop an understanding of the weather, building our vocabulary and confidence in using everyday language in fun and practical ways.

Year 6



Classroom Highlights

The Year 6 children have all settled in very well and have made us all extremely proud with their brilliant attitudes towards their learning. Their desire to strive to be their best has blown us away.

Important Reminders

- PE Days: Monday and Thursday
- Reading Days will be in their reading record
- Homework and Spellings: Handed out on a Friday, handed in on a Wednesday

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday 17th September – flu vaccine (Rec-Y6) and Commando Joe's launch day
- Wednesday 24th September – St. Aloysius talent show auditions
- Friday 3rd October - Y6 Curriculum Café
- Wednesday 8th October – CAFOD movie night.

What We're Learning

In **English**, we will be looking at a fiction mystery and suspense story. We will be focusing on the story of 'Alma' where we will analyse different literacy features as well as sensory experiences before innovating our own mystery and suspense story.

This term, in **maths**, we will begin by starting with our 'Place Value' unit where we will be recognising and writing numbers up to 10,000,000, understanding the powers of 10, as well as adding and subtracting negative numbers to solve problems.

Our **science** focus in autumn will be 'Living Things and Their Habitat'. We will be using classification keys to group plants and animals, whilst also recognising micro- organisms as living things.

We will be very busy in our **RE** lessons this term where we will be exploring the unit, 'Family'. In this unit, we will develop an understanding how to love and care for people, explore Psalm 23 and our understanding of how God loves and cares for his people in difficult times, as well as studying the life of St Maximilian Kolbe.

In our **history** lessons, we will be learning about 'Conflict Through Time', developing our chronological understanding. We will start with prehistoric warfare, comparing the similarities and differences all the way through to Modern Warfare in WWII.

Geography lessons will begin after half term where our focus will be 'Biomes'. We will be looking at climate and the equator, focusing in on tropical rainforests in South America, before discussing and debating human use of the rainforest.

In **art and design** we will be inspired by the work of 'Change Makers' focusing in on key artists such as Barbara Kruger and Shepard Fairey. We will develop our own propaganda art.

Design Technology lessons will begin after half term; we will be focusing on food and nutrition and will be designing and making Vegetable Curry. We will research packaging and ingredients, examine ingredients, review recipes, taste and evaluate before working out costing and advertising.

Our **music** lessons this term will introduce the song 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough'. We will sing the piece musically and include an extended harmony. We will follow the direction of the conductor and performance directions (dynamics – *mp*, *f*).

In **PE**, we will practise the skills associated with indoor athletics. We will be focusing on chest push, soft javelin, speed bounce, standing long jump, standing triple jump, vertical jump as well as different relay races.

French lessons this year will continue to help us develop our conversational vocabulary to use when talking about members of family, friends, food and weather.