



St. Aidan's Catholic Primary School, Winstanley AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER

December 2025

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Dear Parents and families,

It is always a true gift to be able to take the time to reflect and be proud of what we have achieved. The term has been packed with learning, laughter and incredible experiences which excite our children and prepare them well for life. We try to share as many as possible with you via Seesaw, X, 2Simple or the Weekly Diary. Here is a reminder of just some of our memorable events.

Our Mission statement remains the statement that drives all areas of our school

**'Hand in Hand, in the image of Jesus,
we grow together and celebrate who we are.'**



Catholic Life and Mission of School - the Come and See curriculum works alongside the Catholic Life and Mission of school and our links with an incredible range of charities during the term. Children visited church and we enjoyed learning about Judaism, including tasting apples and honey. In November, we sold poppies



and other items for the Royal British Legion **Remembrance Appeal**. On several occasions during the term, we supported **The Brick**. We all wore our Christmas jumpers and wore **odd socks** to recognise our identity, individuality and difference, during **Kindness Week**. We do all this in the image of Jesus and because it is what God would want us to do as the Bible and scripture say.



We have been delighted to welcome families into school to join our 'Stay, Pray and Celebrate' this term, where **Year 4G** and **Year 6W** have led these reflections.



Jubilee: Year of Hope. In November we celebrated the end of this year-long Papal event. The Senior Prefects and Hands Disciples led the celebration assembly and then every child shared love, joy and hope in their **pledges** to make a better world for us all.



We are also proud of our parish links, with our **Year 4** children beginning their preparations for the Sacrament of **Eucharist and Reconciliation**. We held the annual 'Seeds and Gardeners' Assembly where parents from



Reception and Year 6 witnessed children paired to grow together and share their school experiences. It was a wonderful event!





Senior Prefects - once again in September, the children in school found themselves voting for senior prefects. We proudly presented the results: Orla and Mason as Head-Girl and Head-Boy alongside Deputies, Georgia and Bobby, and Senior Prefects: Lucie, Jack, Imogen and George.



FOSA have continued to work so hard for the benefit of all our children, raising money through so many events this term. They've provided wonderful colour-themed hampers, the 100 Club, led the incredible Elfridges Store, tuck-shops and continue to provide the pre-loved uniform resource. A sincere thank you to this group for everything you do!



Care Club continues to offer a wonderful service to our parents and provides amazing activities for the children including crafts, cookery and outdoor play. Their activities are always chronicled on the Weekly Diary, Seesaw and via X and it is fair to say it's a happy group to be part of.

Forest School experiences for the children in Reception have been incredible this term. Making fires, drinking hot chocolate and playing in the woods are all part of the vision of our forest schools programme where wellbeing and fostering a greater sense of connection with nature and match with our **Mission Objective** of 'taking an active role in serving our world'.



Our **Early Years** curriculum settles the children into school and very quickly the children are working independently both in class and the outdoor provision.



Well Being and Enrichment Experiences - The PE

curriculum has covered Invasion and Targets Games and Dance, where children have loved the range of lessons and activities with these foci.

In October, we introduced **Sports Ambassadors**, four children who will promote sport and healthy living throughout school. Already this term they have spent time with our KSI children at lunchtimes and will attend after-school clubs in preparation for the competitions we have entered during the spring term. **Sports Ambassadors, Senior Prefects and Hands Disciples** attended a leadership event at Robin Park Arena which culminated in the opportunity to meet the



England men's team and some of the Wigan Warrior Women's Team.

The children have taken part in a fabulous range of activities this term, with all KSI and 2 classes able to access an extra-curricular club led by Miss Davies and Mr Bowling. We had children representing school in inclusive and competitive events including bowling, lacrosse and football. **Road Safety** was celebrated by a visit from one of our parent-governors, with children rewarded for some amazing posters.



We hosted the inaugural 'Bring Your Chap for a Chat' event supporting the men in our families to have the skills and support to guide their own, and their children's, wellbeing. More events like this one are planned for the spring term.



In December, children from Years 5 and 6 spent the afternoon developing their rugby skills with the Wigan Warriors men's team.



We also celebrated children's achievement in sport away from school and this term this has included swimming, women's Rugby League experiences, gymnastics and football, with a new Wigan Athletic future star making us proud signing his first contract.



Our Curriculum: We are so proud of our ambitious school curriculum created by the staff specifically for our children. We cover Core subjects (RE, English, Maths and Science) and the foundation curriculum covers all others.

Reading: reading continues to be a school priority. Our phonics scheme, Little Wandle, successfully introduces the Reception and Year 1 children to their early reading experiences and has been rolled out into KS2, helping more children with their reading. Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed the day when they visited St. Edmund Arrowsmith and enjoyed their incredible production of 'Sister Act' and then a Mission afternoon with pupils from other feeder primaries. Live theatre is one of the many enrichment experiences we plan for our children during their journey through school. Upper KS2, created their own theatre experience learning about the Greeks and performing their theatrical learning for family members.



Maths: is really exciting again this year and children have been using a variety of resources and teaching styles to ensure we all have a great understanding. We sent a team of expert Year 6 mathematicians to an inter-school festival at St. Edmund Arrowsmith where they represented school so well and returned with silver medals. Our re-launch of Roblox and Rockstars was a great day celebrating 'number'. Children came to school in an array of incredible costumes within these themes and showed that number and maths is fun!



In **Science** the range of topics has been incredible. Children throughout school have learnt about seasonal changes, animals including humans, plants, materials and much investigation and scientific enquiry. Lower KS2 studied the digestive system and created the journey our food makes through our bodies! Hands-on experiences ensured the electricity/circuits topic was a success and Upper KS2 can tell you great facts

about their light topic if you ask them!



In DT, KSI have been designing and making pizzas and the Lower KS2 Canopic Jars showed skills in drawing and sculpture and supported the History topic of Egypt, an 'earliest civilisation'. The children have all evaluated their work as is the Art and DT way. There has been an exciting term

studying **History**, where children in Upper KS2 studied Ancient Greece and made pots out of clay. In Geography, KSI studied Africa and developed their skills. **Music** has been heard around school in lessons with a range of instruments and many Christmas carols and songs being sung!

Staff really do create a sense of awe and wonder and a passion for learning which we know children and their families really appreciate.



Christmas is a time for precious memories too. It is a time for kindness and joy and we have witnessed much of this throughout Advent. **Nursery** children and their families had a great time singing carols and enjoying other activities at their annual 'Christmas Crafts and Carols'. We were delighted to welcome families into school for Reception and KSI nativity performances and the Year 5 carol service in church. I'm sure you'll agree, the perfect blend of joy, fun and reflection.



The message of peace and goodwill means it is a time for us to reach out to others, and I would like to thank all our families, the amazing staff and our truly wonderful children - together we make St. Aidan's a unique and happy place to **'Walk Hand in Hand with Jesus'**. Thank you for your support, honesty, patience and pride in our school. I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of staff and governors to wish you all a peaceful, happy, family-time this Christmas and hope you achieve everything you dream of in 2026.

See you all on Tuesday, 6th January! Mrs Farrimond

