

Learning and growing together, inspired with the love of Jesus.

It has been a busy, few weeks of challenging learning and I am glad to say our pupils are always trying to do their best and achieve. Despite the cold weather arriving and darker mornings, we all continue to make St Aidan's, a warm, caring and enjoyable place to learn every day. I cannot quite believe how quickly November has flown by! It has been a good time to look back as everything pupils have achieved so far. Pupils are especially excited for Christmas, and we are all beginning to prepare for Christmas events and enjoying the season of Advent especially thinking about how we can all support and help each other this Christmas time.

Miss Doyle, Acting Headteacher

Upcoming Events

- Reception and Y6 Nativity -Monday December 5th
- Panto Visit -Tuesday afternoon December 6th
- Nursery Singalong -Wednesday December 7th 11.30am
- EYFS /KS1 Christmas Dinner - Wednesday 14th December
- KS2 Christmas Dinner Thursday 15th December
- KS1 Carols at Christmas (Y2 Parents) Friday 16th December
- KS1 Carols at Christmas (Y1 Parents) Monday 19th December

November Attendance

Nursery AM	85%
Nursery PM	99%
Reception	90%
Year 1	92%
Year 2	94%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	93%
Year 5	97%
Year 6	88%

**Our target
96% and
above**

Met targets

Just below

Below

Religious Education

Come and See topic: Advent/ Christmas - Loving. This topic focusses on loving relationships and the perfect gift and revelation of God's love, Jesus, born of Mary, born as one of us. It is important we remember the important aspects of this season such as love, giving to others and goodwill to all.

Each year group topics:

- Nursery/Reception: Birthdays
- Year 1: Waiting
- Year 2: Preparations
- Year 3: Visitors
- Year 4: Gift
- Year 5: Hope
- Year 6: Expectations



Attendance

Thanks to classes who are trying hard to improve their attendance. Good school attendance really matters. It provides you with the best start in life and opens up more opportunities to learn, achieve and succeed. We keep striving to reach our target of 96% for the whole school.



PE News

Children **should** wear their school PE Kits to school on the day of their PE lesson. No football kits please. Pupils might want to wear school hoodies or pants during colder weather. Or similar in school colours.



Live Simply Award

Since last year we have been working towards the 'Live Simply' campaign. The 'live simply' award is an opportunity for Catholic communities - parishes, schools, religious orders and chaplaincies - to respond to Pope Francis' invitation in 'Laudato Si' to "work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us". Here at St Aidan's, we are already thinking about the ways we can care for our community and live more simply. Find out more at <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Livesimply-award>

After School Clubs

Monday	Y1 /2 Gymnastics with Happy Hedgehogs
Tuesday	Y1 /2 Multi Skills (Mr McHale)
Wednesday	Y3/4 Multi Skills (Mr McHale)
Thursday	Y5/6 Multi Skills (Mr McHale)
Friday	Y3/4 Gymnastics with Happy Hedgehogs

British values - Rule of Law



Not all countries across the world have agreed to have a **Rule of Law**. It is essentially about making sure that there are a set of rules that **everybody** agrees and that **nobody can ignore**. It also means that everybody should be treated equally when thinking about whether the rules have been broken or not.

Some countries have laws which do not apply to all people and people who are **rich** or **powerful** do not have to follow the rules in the same way as everybody else.

Even in the UK, we have to make sure that all people are challenged if they do not follow the rules – unfortunately, even in our own country **some people** think the rules do not apply to them.

A Theatrical Triumph

After many weeks of rehearsals, Year 4 performed at the Shakespeare Theatre in Prescot in front of family, friends, and other schools from Knowsley.

The children were fantastic! They performed *A Midsummers Nights Dream* brilliantly and were an absolute credit to St Aidan's.

Many thanks to Mr Wear, Mrs Holmes, and Mrs Murphy for all their efforts in preparing the children.



Help! Staying Safe Online Social Networking

Social networking lets people share loads of information about who they are and what they like doing – with lots of different people. This can put you in **difficult situations**.

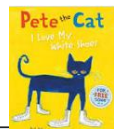
Anyone can post videos, pictures or ideas on social networks. That means you might see or hear things you don't want to. More info below on how to deal with such incidents-

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_13/Need-advice/Ready-for-social-networking/

Welcome back!

We are glad to welcome back Mrs Magill at the end of December after her maternity leave. She is looking forward to working with all our pupils and returning to her role as SENCO.

Learning in classes



Nursery – a term filled with rhyming words and sounds. Making pumpkin soup and counting and recognising numbers to 5. Pete the Cat has been the children's favourite read.

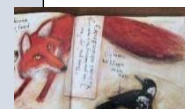
Reception – learning about shapes in maths, practising pencil hold and writing. Children are starting to learn their lines for their Nativity too.

Year 1 – enjoying reading and writing about fairy tales involving the Three Bears. Making toy cars in DT and practising rhythm in music with percussion instruments.



Year 2 – enjoying learning about the work of Mary Anning and exploring fossils. Sorting and comparing living and non-living things in science.

Year 3 – Exploring friction in science. Drawing self-portraits in art and enjoying the English lessons with a story about a fox and a magpie with a moral twist.



Year 4 – learning about the country of Spain in Geography, its famous artist Gaudi and creating mosaic influenced by his work in art and design. Y4 also began making their own Advent calendars.

Year 5 – designing and sewing their own Tudor pouches in DT. Exploring the abstract artwork of Peter Thorpe in art and design. Getting to grips with equivalent fractions in maths.



Check out even more on class pages or follow our twitter feed @StAidanHuyton

Year 6 – investigating electric circuits in science and making periscopes in DT. Working hard on reading strategies for comprehension and improving their arithmetic and mental maths.

Christmas Arrangements

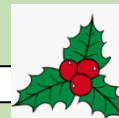
We have decided to have a **Carol Concert** in school just for the children in KS2 on Monday 19th Dec to finish off the year.

Nursery will be performing a range of carols and Christmas songs, parents and carers are invited to come along on 8th December for a singalong.

Reception will be performing **Whoops-a-Daisy Angel** supported by **Y6** and we welcome family members. This is ticketed due to the available space in the hall.

Y1 and **Y2** are hosting a Carol Singalong -info has been sent out with dates for families to attend if they wish

Christmas Lunch will be on Wednesday 14th (EYFS/KS1) and Thursday 15th December (KS2) – separate letters have gone out about this. Please let the office know if your child would like a Christmas dinner. Christmas jumpers can be worn on your child's Christmas Dinner day if they wish.



PTA Christmas Events

The PTA will be hosting a **Christmas Fair and Grotto** on 8th December after school. Tickets for the Grotto can be bought from PTA members in the foyer of the main office every afternoon after school. Tickets cost £1

There will be several stalls and games for all. Please do drop by from 3.15pm on Thursday 8th December and support the PTA as they continue to raise funds for our pupils.

Donations welcome – bottles of any kind, teddies, prizes, unwanted Christmas jumpers in good condition.

Reception Open Day and New Admissions 2023-24

We had a lovely open day where both familiar faces and new families could come and have a look around school for new admissions to Reception for next September 2023. Thank you to all who came.

The application process for **Reception places for September 2023** is now open via the Knowsley Council website www.knowsley.gov.uk/residents/education-and-schools/apply-for-a-school-place/annual-school-admission-procedures **The closing date is 15th January 2023.**

When applying for a **Reception Place** please also complete the Supplementary Faith Form 23/24 – these can be found on the school website under Admissions. Please hand the Supplementary Faith Form into the School Office or email to staidan@knowsley.gov.uk.

Please also note that for your child to be considered as baptised Catholic, they must be baptised by the **closing date of 15th January 2023.**

Please contact our school office **if you would like to visit our school** and you are considering applying for a place in our Reception class.

