



St Aidan's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Friday 11th September 2026

Head Teacher's Message

It has been a very busy week this week, the children are working hard and have settled in well to their new year groups. I would like to offer a warm welcome to our lovely Reception Class who started this week for half days. The children have been very grown up and we are very proud of how quickly they have settled in. The rest of our children are looking forward to welcoming Reception Class on Monday.

We have some of our children presenting our Catholic Social teaching learning to the St. Aidan's parish on Sunday Mass at 11 am when Archbishop John Wilson is visiting St. Aidan's parish.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Hughes

'Living and
growing in
Christ'



Our value this term is

Kindness

Important dates for your diary...

14th September	New Reception children start full days
16th September	Y6 Secondary School Transition meeting and PGL information evening 6pm
18th September	MacMillan Coffee Afternoon - time tbc
25th September	Whole School 50th Year Celebration - details to follow
25th September	10am Whole School Mass
28th September	Y3 Trip to Lullingstone
28th September	Y2 Meet the teacher for parents to attend 3.30pm - 4pm
29th September	Open Morning 9.30am
29th September	Y3 Meet the teacher for parents to attend 3.30pm - 4pm
30th September	Y6 Meet the teacher for parents to attend 3.30pm - 4pm
30th September	Y4 Meet the teacher for parents to attend 4pm - 4.30pm
1st October	Y5 Meet the teacher for parents to attend 3.30pm - 4pm
2nd October	Y6 Visit from the nursing team: Height and Weight
2nd October	Y1 Meet the teacher for parents to attend 3.30pm - 4pm
7th October	Open Morning 9.30am
12th October	PGL Week
21st October	School closes at 3.30pm
22nd October	INSET DAY
23rd October	INSET DAY

New Reception Starters



New Reception Starters



New Reception Starters



St. Aidan's 50th Mass



Dear Parents, past pupils and members of our community,

You are warmly invited to join us in celebrating our special 50th anniversary. We are marking this wonderful milestone with an anniversary Mass on Friday, 25th September at 10 am at St. Aidan's Church. This is a fantastic opportunity for our whole community to come together, reconnect, and celebrate five decades of our history.

We look forward to welcoming you there.

St. Aidan's University

Aim of St. Aidan's University

We believe that it is important to extend our children beyond school work and to support them to develop in many diverse aspects of life. Part of our role is to prepare our children for their adult lives, teaching them to understand how to engage with culture and society, providing them with plentiful opportunities to do so. **St Aidan's University** enables us to recognise the substantial amount of extra-curricular activities completed by our children, to develop a love of learning in our children and to encourage children to experience a range of learning activities and opportunities.



Learning Beyond School

On Fridays, our children are used to bringing in evidence of awards gained outside of school for a wide range of activities, such as swimming, scouting, mathematics and martial arts. This will now be used as evidence towards their potential graduation.

In addition, if the children:

- ◆ Visit places of educational value, such as museums, art galleries or historical monuments
- ◆ Take part in charitable work or giving (raising money, donating toys etc)
- ◆ Helping in their community (organising a cake sale, litter pick or similar)
- ◆ Extra-curricular research or projects

Children can bring evidence of these extra-curricular activities to school or parents can email university@st-aidans.croydon.sch.uk with any photos/evidence of trips that will count towards St. Aidan's University. This email will be monitored and credits tallied in school. (Please only use this email for St. Aidan's University evidence).

Each visit or extra-curricular activity will account for 1 'hour of activity' towards St. Aidan's University. In order to graduate from St. Aidan's University, pupils will need to accumulate points of extra-curricular activities across a whole school year. These points will be tallied and monitored by the school.

Who can graduate from St. Aidan's University?

Any pupil from Reception to Year 6 can graduate and children can graduate multiple times throughout their school career. They will receive a certificate and wear a graduation sash and cap. If your pupil does not graduate this year, they can try again in following years.

Clubs, trips and extra-curricular activities in school such as Catholic Social Teaching charitable work will be automatically counted towards extra hours towards graduating.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

Advice for Parents & Educators

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



This Week's Awards at St Aidan's

Congratulations to these children who won awards this week. These will also count towards their St Aidans University points, working towards graduation at the end of the year!



St Mary: -

St Francis: Leo D

St Joseph: Emilia R

St Bernadette: Olivia C

St Theresa: Iyla S

St Peter: Jasmine D

St Paul: Mia E

St Mary: -

St Francis: Eva T-S

St Joseph: Darcey D

St Bernadette: Oliver W

St Theresa: Chiara N

St Peter: Charlotte M-F

St Paul: Jake W

