St Aidan's Catholic Primary School Newsletter
Friday 6th November 2026

Head Teacher's Message

'Living and growing in Christ'

It has been lovely to see the children back at school this week. We had open morning on Wednesday and Year 2 visited workers in Coulsdon as part of their Catholic Social Teaching learning.

Please see invitations to our Advent service and Nativity plays.

Have a lovely weekend.
God Bless,

Mrs Hughes

St. Aidan's School Value this term:
Kindness

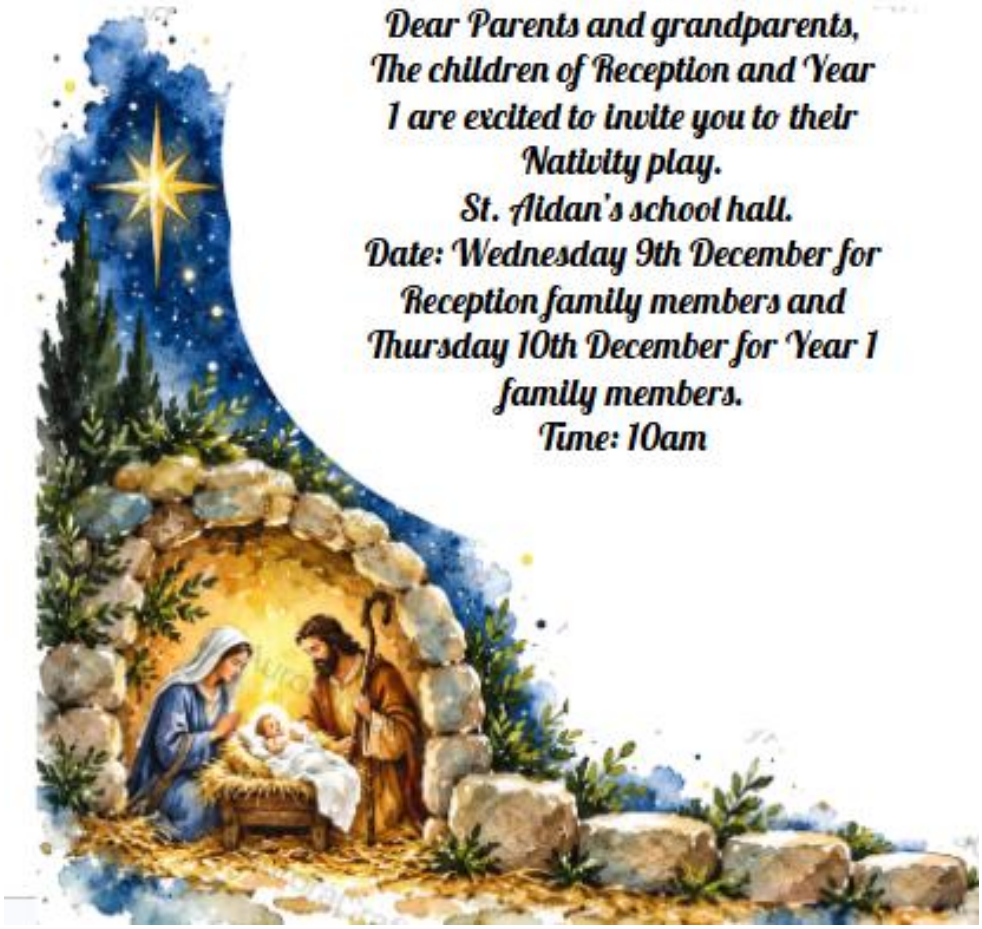
Our School Councillors and Prayer Leaders have been on the lookout for **children giving examples of showing kindness.**



Important dates for your diary…

11th November	Gaelic Football Tournament pm
12th November	Y4 School trip to the Cutty Sark
13th November	SASA Fireworks night
18th November	Parents Evening 1 of 2
19th November	Wintershall Travelling Crib at St Aidan's
20th November	Wintershall Travelling Crib at St Aidan's
26th November	Panto Day at school!
26th November	Parents Evening 2 of 2
30th November	Whole school flu vaccine
3rd December	Y3 Visitor for Fossil talk
4th December	9.30am Open morning
4th December	Year 5 school trip to the Science Museum
8th December	Nativity performance to the school only - to be filmed
9th December	10am Nativity performance to Reception parents
9th December	School Christmas lunch - MUFTI **CHRISTMAS JUMPERS**
10th December	10am Nativity performance to Year 1 parents

Advent Events



Dear Parents and grandparents,
The children of Reception and Year 1 are excited to invite you to their Nativity play.
St. Aidan's school hall.
Date: Wednesday 9th December for Reception family members and Thursday 10th December for Year 1 family members.
Time: 10am



The children of St. Aidan's primary school wish to formally invite you to our Advent service.
St. Aidan's Catholic Church,
Coulsdon.
Date: Thursday 17th December 2026
Time; 6pm

Catholic Social Teaching Year 2

This week the Year 2 class visited local businesses in Coulsdon to deliver thank you cards for all their hard work in our local community.





















Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Topson

On behalf of all the staff I would like to send huge congratulations to Mr Topson and his wife on the arrival of their beautiful baby boy, Kit Topson.





Chelsea Mascots

Rocco and Jax had an exciting half term, they were mascots for Chelsea vs Tottenham. Here are some pictures of the boys.







Alter Server Recruitment!

Altar Server Recruitment

We are excited to invite new altar servers to join our team for all Masses. We welcome girls, boys, and adults who wish to serve at the altar.

Children should be in **Year 4 or above** and have received their **First Holy Communion**.

A **training session** for new and current servers will take place on:

Date: Sunday, 15th November

Time: After the 11:00am Mass.

If you or your child is interested in joining, or would like more information, please speak with the **altar server coordinator after Mass**, or contact:

Agnelo Braganza – 9:00am Mass
Email: agnelob@yahoo.com
Phone: 07546 113700

We look forward to welcoming new members to our altar server team and thank you for considering this important ministry.

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Online Safety

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones have become a huge part of young people's everyday lives, but new restrictions on their use in schools and proposed restrictions on social media are changing how children and young people can use them. This guide explores mobile phones, their use by young people, what the evidence tells us, the current and future legal position, and what parents and educators should do.

What are the risks?

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The relationship between smartphone and social media use and young people's mental health is complex, and evidence does not establish a simple cause-and-effect relationship. Some researchers and commentators, however, including Jonathan Haidt, author of The Anxious Generation, argue that increased smartphone and social media use may be contributing to poorer mental health and wellbeing among young people.

LEARNING AND ATTENTION

Mobile phones can distract pupils from learning and make it harder to maintain attention and concentration. Research suggests that learning and attention have improved in schools that already prohibited mobile phone use, particularly among pupils with lower prior attainment. Now that the DfE's guidance on mobile phones is statutory, schools should ensure that the whole-school community understands and follows their policy, while monitoring how effectively it is implemented.

HARMFUL CONTENT AND BULLYING

Mobile phones can be a means of extending peer conflict from the community into schools and from schools back into the community. They also provide easy access to harmful and inappropriate content, including content that is sexually explicit, promotes self-harm or eating disorders, or is violent in nature. Exposure to this content can negatively affect children's mental health and wellbeing, potentially increasing the support they require from schools, parents, and support services.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Ofcom research found that 13- to 14-year-olds spend an average of 4 hours 19 minutes online each day across smartphones, tablets, and computers. However, there is considerable variation between children, with some spending significantly more or less time online. Excessive screen time can contribute to disrupted sleep and fragmented attention, both of which can negatively affect children's mental health and wellbeing.

The current and upcoming rules

SCHOOL BANS

As of 1 September 2026, schools are expected to be phone-free environments by default, with any exceptions limited to specific circumstances. Schools can decide how best to implement this. For example, some may provide secure storage or collect phones at the beginning of the school day, while others may prohibit pupils from bringing them onto school premises altogether. Schools can also confiscate mobile phones in line with their behaviour policy, while searches for prohibited phones must follow the relevant legal requirements.

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Schools should make reasonable adjustments where necessary for disabled pupils and may allow exceptions in other circumstances, including where mobile phone use is necessary to support a medical condition or an identified need. For example, a pupil with diabetes may use a continuous glucose monitor linked to their mobile phone to monitor their blood sugar levels. Schools may also make adaptations where mobile phone use provides agreed support for pupils with SEND. Any exceptions should be clearly reflected in the school's policies and procedures.

ONLINE SAFETY ACT 2023 AND 2026 PROPOSALS

Platforms are required to protect children from harmful content and use age checks to prevent children from accessing pornography and certain other types of harmful content. In June 2026, the government announced that it intends to stop social media companies offering services to under-16s. These restrictions are expected to be introduced in spring 2027, but the precise scope and rules have not yet been confirmed.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

While there is ongoing debate about the relationship between smartphones, social media and young people's mental health, there are steps that parents and educators can take to help reduce the potential risks associated with their use:

1. Delay smartphones. Consider waiting until a child is 14 before giving them a smartphone. Where a child needs a device to contact family, a basic phone may be an alternative.
2. Delay social media. Consider delaying access to social media until the age of 16.
3. Support phone-free schools. Parents, pupils, and staff should understand and support the school's approach to mobile phones.
4. Encourage screen-free activities. Promote independent and outdoor play, alongside other activities that give children opportunities to socialise and spend time away from screens.

Meet Our Expert

Mark Emmerson OBE, CEO – City of London Academies Trust. With nearly 45 years' experience in inner-city education, including 28 years in senior leadership roles, Mark was an early advocate for tackling the risks of mobile phones in schools. Introducing a ban as headteacher in 2020, he has also served as a national DfE adviser and held local authority roles, consistently driving improvements in pupil outcomes and Ofsted judgements, particularly in disadvantaged communities.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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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, matheletics 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.

SASA Message

Your Fundraising at Work

Thanks to your fund-raising efforts we have been able to provide or contribute to:
Class trips / PE Equipment / Decoration of wellbeing area / Maths books / Levelling the field / Leaver's hoodies / Improving school security

Summer Raffle

In case you missed it, here are the winners of our summer fair raffle which was drawn in July. Thanks to our local business and class sponsors there were several fantastic prizes up for grabs. Winners were contacted by Classlist or Whatsapp.

£250 cash sponsored by SASA – Anne Sabasinghe
£150 voucher for Well House Inn sponsored by Reception – Daphne Thompson
£130 voucher for Botley Hill Farmhouse sponsored by Year 3 – Roy Misra
Free term at Stagecoach – Helen Hodge
2 months of Kung Fu Classes – Beau Mullen
Discovery Land Family Ticket for 6 – Luna Watts
Epsom Downs Raceday Voucher for 4 – Daphne Thompson
Family ticket for Capel Military Show – Paulene Appiah
Godstone Farm ticket for 4 – Elizabeth Agyepong
Bocketts Farm ticket for 2 – Maks Danidfo
Hobbledown voucher for 2 – Maria Tuffrey
LaserQuest Bromley Family Pass for 4 – Luna Watts
Family swim at DeStafford – Teddy Garrigan
Silent Pool Gin Distillery Tour for 2 – Anthea Mountain
Flip Out Croydon voucher for 2 – Elizabeth Agyepong
Go Karting at Team Sport for 1 – Lucas Heron
3 sessions with Rock Project – Helen Hodge
3 sessions with Rock Project – Beatrice Bradley
1 Pilates Class at Core 6 Studio – Chiara Nash
£10 voucher for Get Fired – Freya Rose
£10 voucher for Coulsdon Hardware – Lucas Garrigan
Woods Jewellers Voucher – Richard Appiah

Save the Date!

Our next big event is just weeks away! Join us for Fireworks Night on 13th November. As always, we can't run these events without our volunteers. Look out for the sign up sheets on ClassList in a few weeks.

More Ways to Support the School:

Easyfundraising: Access your favourite retailers including Amazon, Argos, Boots, Domino's, Waitrose, JustEat, M&S and many more through Easyfundraising.
School lottery: You can sign up to play here. The draw takes place every Saturday and we have on average three winners a month.
Direct debit donations: Contact info@staidanssa.co.uk for a form. Remember that these donations can be gift aided, which means the school receives additional funds at no extra cost to you.

Thank you for your support.

SASA



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!



Excellent Learners

St Mary: Yasmin C

St Francis: Azelie C S

St Joseph: Jax C

St Bernadette: Amerly H

St Theresa: Elena B

St Peter: Emily S G

St Paul: Darcey O

BEHAVIOUR HERO

St Mary: Alexander G

St Francis: Ethan L

St Joseph: Sofia R

St Bernadette: Evelyn M

St Theresa: Ava C

St Peter: Willow R

St Paul: Wilson L