

January 2021

# St Louis Catholic Academy News



We start the New Year with the hope of the Covid 19 vaccination reaching us all soon. We are thinking of the many families who have continued to work over Christmas in the health sector. You remain in our thoughts and prayers. We had no bubble closures throughout Autumn term and staff remained Covid –free. We now enter a period of further lockdown with school open to critical workers and vulnerable children. For those attending school, we continue to work with all our community to stay safe and ask you to continue to arrive alone to drop off and collect your children, to stand apart and to wear a mask. Please remind your children about the importance of sanitising. We have adjusted the way we work to further limit risks of crossovers between bubbles. We will wear masks when we collect and return children at the gates. Please understand that we cannot chat but send us an email and we will get back to you.

Thank you for the 117 responses to our parent survey. I am taking all your suggestions about what could be better to Governors in January and a report about our next steps to improvement will be included in the February 2021 Newsletter. If you want to discuss your ideas for improvements or you have concerns, please drop me an email at headof.school@stlouisacademy.co.uk at any time.

Thank you for all your wonderful comments about what we are already doing well. Our fantastic teaching team were mentioned many times and appreciate your kind words and support.

Our new website should be ready in January but meanwhile, please use the back page of your newsletter as the guide to what is happening in school. We will be delivering online teaching and mirroring what takes place in school for children who are at home. Many of you have said you want more involvement in school. Whilst tricky in times of Covid, please look at the many opportunities available to you to help us at a distance or online. And as soon as Covid restrictions relax, we need a list ready to action. If you are at home, we will be calling you each week to deal with online learning and other concerns.

I wish you a safe period of lockdown.

With best wishes, Sue Blakeley



## ST LOUIS NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS WE ARE:

- \* Increasing spaces in before and after school sports clubs after lockdown
- \* Working with partners to improve our school meal food offer
- \* Committing and working towards receiving Healthy School status
- \* Enrolling with Arts Council England to work towards receiving Artsmark
- \* Continuing to take part in inter– school sports’ competitions (virtually)
- \* Widening the number of partners that we work with to develop more opportunities for our children
- \* Using art to improve our outdoor areas and we’ve been selected to take part in an Arts Council project which will be delivered with our local **Bridge** organisation
- \* Creating a trail of stones decorated by each child along the edge of Rayes Lane telling the story of Creation
- \* Redeveloping our outdoor learning areas for our nursery and foundation children in Spring term using Godolphin and Sports Premium funding
- \* Working towards being accredited as an Eco-school



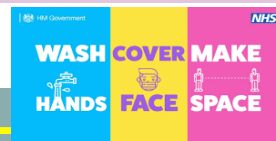
Foundation are busy mark-making, part of their journey to being great writers.

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Our Lady Immaculate and St. Etheldreda Catholic Church, Newmarket

For all church dates and news, check the weekly church bulletin <http://www.olise.co.uk/wordpress/> Link to the latest newsletter from the parish home page



# PLEASE HELP US TO IMPROVE

## YOUR SCHOOL

### Crafters

**To run a craft group**

**We need knitters**

**Potters**

**Cross stitchers**

**Card crafting experts**

Green fingered gardeners

We'd like to recruit a team to adopt and care for a small area of our grounds each

Adopt a pot to care for

Provide us with landscaping and planting advice

### Chefs and cooks

**Calling chefs and foodies**

Can you help us develop our school menu and join our volunteer nutritionist and our food tasting panel to find new local food suppliers and extend our menu choices to add to our food offer

Can we offer you some new business?

### Scientists

Scientists : can you talk in school about your profession or join us at our jobs fair? We are keen to bring science to life .

### Share your careers

Whatever job you do– can you spare time to talk at our jobs fair

### Handy helpers

**Fence painters**

We are refurbishing our Foundation Year outdoor learning space. It would be great to have a group of volunteers to re-stain the wooden fencing around the area.

### Eco advisors

Can you help us increase the biodiversity of our school grounds?

### Musicians

Can you help us teach keyboards skills or set up a ukulele club? Can you donate ukuleles or keyboards to school?

### Volunteer sports coaches

**Sporty helpers**

**To run sports activities after or before school**

**Cricketers**

**Football coaches**

**Table tennis players**

**Badminton champions**

**Netball coaches**

### Join FOSL

FOSL are always welcoming of new members. If you want to join, let us know.

### Fundraising ideas

**Fundraisers : whatever your skill, we welcome your ideas**

Supporting our families and local economy: let us know if you want to be included in tenders and quotes for work around our school

**We will arrange for your DBS checks before you can join us as a volunteer  
All volunteering opportunities will be subject to ongoing Covid restrictions  
and some could be online**

# WE NEED YOUR HELP PLEASE

Dear families,

Sadly, lockdown halted our plans for a Grounds Day but with vaccinations heading our way, we hope to hold a Spring tidy day instead. Meanwhile, if you can offer time to help raise funds for school or contribute time and energy to help paint fences, plant a small patch of our grounds or share your ideas, we'd love to chat to you. We'd love your New Year resolution to be joining us as a FOSL member. Please make contact with us and let's have a chat. Parents, grandparents and friends are most welcome.

Email us now on [friendsofstlouis2020@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstlouis2020@gmail.com)

Shelley Bosley and Wendy Patman -Smyth (Parents and members of Friends of St Louis )

## THURSDAY 7TH JANUARY IS OUR NEXT FOOD BANK COLLECTION DAY

This month we are collecting: tinned soups, tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned beans, tinned fruit and vegetables and breakfast cereals (within their best before date please).

If you have unwanted Christmas treats that are within date code, please include these in your donations



*"We're back to school during Covid restrictions and we want to help make St Louis a great place to be. Even from afar, we can help teachers and pupils in many ways from improving outdoor learning equipment to buying those extras that help children to learn. Please be part of FOSL volunteers in 2021"*  
Shelley Bosley—Parent and Chair of Friends of St Louis.

### CATHOLIC LIFE

**It feels good to give to others. As a Catholic school working with parents, we are committed to teach**

**our children the habits, joys, and responsibilities of giving. Working together, we can help children see that God has given them many blessings; teach children to be grateful to God for the blessings He has given us; show children how stewardship has built our**

**Church; help children to recognise that stewardship is something we do all the time and help children identify the joy that comes from stewardship.**

*Our Gospel Values are:  
We are truthful and generous*

















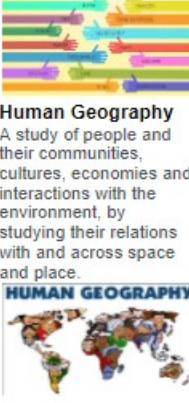
humility  
truthfulness  
forgiveness  
unity  
trust  
peace  
generosity  
thankfulness  
compassion  
wisdom  
reverence  
courage  
respect  
Responsibility  
co-operation  
hope  
justice  
friendship  
happiness  
community  
service  
forgiveness

Newmarket Open Door is a charity providing homeless and vulnerable young people with supported housing and training opportunities in Newmarket. As well as houses, Open Door run two Charity Superstores and Training Centres in Newmarket and Mildenhall to fundraise and the local Foodbank to support the wider community.

Newmarket Open Door  
Churches Together With People in Need



# Our Learning themes for Spring Term

Phase	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Nursery	Settling in Speaking and listening Physical development 	Making friends Speaking and listening Physical development 	Becoming more independent Speaking and listening Physical development 
Reception	Exploring our environment Child led learning 	Embedding learning behaviours Child led learning 	Becoming writers Child led learning 
KS1	Explorers and Discoveries 	Nature and Conservation in our Environment 	Pirates and the Seaside 
LKS2	Planet Protectors 	Inventions through time 	Transport and journeys 
UKS2	 The History of Leadership	 Britain at War	 <b>Human Geography</b> A study of people and their communities, cultures, economies and interactions with the environment, by studying their relations with and across space and place.

Each term, we build our teaching around a chosen theme. We plan to launch each theme with a learning visit off-site but for now, we are adapting to launch in school with an extended day-long event. Our exciting programme of launch dates is as follows:

**14<sup>th</sup> January - LKS2 - Raging robots** A fun-filled opportunity to be engineers and design robots .



**14th Jan - KS1 -Out and About –wellies, garden tools & binoculars at the ready.** A day of outdoor learning about our environment .a) . **18th January**

**– Nursery and Foundation** -Freezing and thawing – wrap up warm! Children will be investigating the science behind the weather



**2nd February— UKS2 - Wartime Britain** -dress up ready for stepping back in time.



## We are working towards Artsmark

The Artsmark Award is the only creative quality standard for schools and education settings,

accredited by Arts Council England.

## Why Artsmark?

It helps to build young people's confidence, character and resilience through arts and cultural education

It helps embed creativity across our whole curriculum

It celebrates our long-term commitment to cultural education with pupils, parents and our local community.

*Cultural education gives children and young people the opportunity to develop their creativity, both individually and collectively, and that's why our goal is for every child and young person to have the opportunity to experience the richness of the arts.*

*It's vital that children have the opportunity to learn and enjoy arts and culture from an early age. It develops their creativity, inspires future careers and enriches their childhood.*



We are working towards a  
Healthy school Award



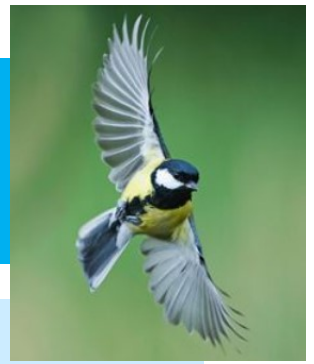
The National Healthy Schools Programme has four core themes: •

- **Personal, Social and Health Education**
- **Healthy Eating**
- **Physical Activity**
- **Emotional Health and Well-being.**

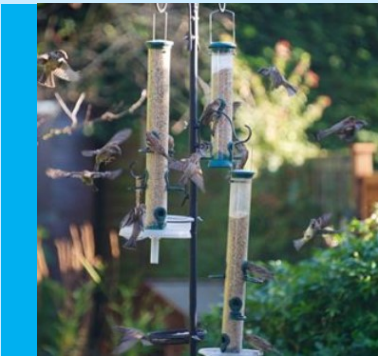




# Biodiversity and Bird Watching



We have become an RSPB member and we'll be taking part in the Big School Birdwatch between 6th January to 23rd February and families can take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch between 29th to 31st January. Join in with us at home, whether you're an early bird or a night owl, you can take part too. We'll be encouraging birds to land on our grounds by putting out feed.



If you have bird feeders or food to donate, we'll use them to encourage birds onto our land. Children have already been making feeders from old food cans. You might spot them in our trees.



**If you have unused birding binoculars lying in a drawer, we'd love to use them to help our children identify the species of birds around our school.**



We've formed our Eco- committee (we are using school councilors to undertake this important role. Our next step for this term is to carry out our environmental review. You can find out more at: <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/primary-pathway/seven-steps/environmental-review/>. Our new class teacher, Miss Haines will be leading this work with school council.

Wildlife can make its home in our school gardens in many different ways. There are lots of things we can do, from planting to maintenance, that will make them as welcome as possible. We want to increase our



## SCHOOL COUNCIL AND FAIRTRADE



This month and going forward this school year, school council will be led by Miss Haines. Mrs Cox is preparing for Fairtrade Fortnight between 22 February and 7 March



**Young people between the ages of 5 and 25 are invited to share their vision of the world they want for farmers and workers worldwide and the planet we share. St Louis will create our vision for the world we want, for the planet and everything on it, to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight 2021.**

**The Fairtrade Foundation is hosting a virtual online festival bringing together schools, universities, businesses, supporters, campaigners and farmers from across the world to choose the world they want this Fairtrade Fortnight.**



## Suffolk Young Carers

In the Spring Term we will be holding a series of events to raise awareness of the responsibility our Young Carers have.

The Young Carers leads within the school will be Mrs Blakeley and Mrs Bryan and if your child is a young carer and you would like some support, please contact [headofschool@stlouisacademy.co.uk](mailto:headofschool@stlouisacademy.co.uk) in confidence. Young Carers are children whose lives are affected due to a family member's disability, long term illness, mental health problem or problematic use of drugs and alcohol. A young carer may take on a physical caring role or they may be emotionally affected and worry about the health and wellbeing of a parent, sibling or maybe a grandparent who lives in the home. Suffolk Young Carers is a voluntary organisation that supports 5-16 year olds across Suffolk. This support may include; providing information, signposting to other agencies, offering group work in school and providing fun activities and opportunities for young carers to socialise with others in similar situations. If you feel your child is a young carer and you would like to find out more about the project, you can contact Suffolk Family Carers on 01473 -835477. Alternatively, you can find out more on this website:

[www.suffolkfamilycarers.org](http://www.suffolkfamilycarers.org)



# We're back to learning in school and online : who can be in school?

## **Vulnerable children and young people**

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
  - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
  - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
  - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
  - those living in temporary accommodation
  - those who are young carers
  - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
  - care leavers
  - others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

## **Critical workers**

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

### **Health and social care**

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

### **Education and childcare**

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

### **Key public services**

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

### **Local and national government**

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of:

- the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), including in government agencies and arm's length bodies

### **Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food:



- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

#### **Public safety and national security**

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

#### **Transport and border**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure through which supply chains pass.

#### **Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors

## Reporting a child at risk of harm, abuse or neglect (safeguarding)

How to make a safeguarding referral and report a concern about a child or young person at risk of harm, abuse or neglect.

If it's an emergency, you can call:

- Customer First on 0808 800 4005 if you're worried that a child or young person is at risk of harm, abuse, or neglect
- the police on 999

Suffolk County Council

Children, families and learning

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/keeping-children-safe/reporting-a-child-at-risk-of-harm-abuse-or-neglect-safeguarding/>





# Our Catholic Faith Shared for Spring Term



Welcome back to a new term and 2021! Having just started a **new Liturgical Year** at the beginning of Advent, we are not far into the new Church year either. There's a few changes in season coming up though this term just to keep us on our toes **and** the Pope declared 2021 to be the year of St Joseph!

## What's going on in the Catholic Church:

### Calendar:

As we return to school, we will have our prayer cloths **white** as we will still be in the **season of Christmas!** White symbolises innocence, purity, victory and joy and is used for joyful and glorious occasions including Jesus, Mary the angels and the saints!

**11/1/21:** We move back into the season of **Ordinary Time**. Our prayer cloths will be **green** to reflect our growth, hope and life in the Lord.

**17/2/21:** We will enter into **Lent** where our cloths will be **purple** to reflect this season of preparation and penance.

(When we return to school after Easter on **12/4/21**, we will be back to **white** again as we will be in the season of **Eastertide**.)

The Year of St Joseph: At the start of December in his Apostolic Letter '**Patris corde**' ('With a Father's Heart'), Pope Francis declared this year to be the year of St Joseph as it is the 150 year anniversary of St Joseph being made patron of the Catholic Church! This runs from 8/12/20 to 8/12/21. Although we know very little about Jesus's earthly 'foster father', we can see him as a model of great courage and humility as he worked with God despite great surprises in his life. Here's an easy, accessible website with ideas on how to grow closer to Joseph this year:

<https://www.churchpop.com/2020/12/08/pope-francis-declares-year-of-st-joseph-8-ways-to-gain-a-plenary-indulgence-over-the-next-year/>

Nearly every day is a saint's day in the Catholic calendar(!), but these **are a few key saints' days and feast days coming up this term:**

- 1/1/21: Mary Mother of God (solemnity)**
- 6/1/21: The Epiphany (solemnity)**
- 10/1/21: Baptism of the Lord (feast)
- 25/1/21: the conversion of St Paul (feast)
- 28/1/21: St Thomas Aquinas (priest, doctor)
- 2/2/21: Presentation of the Lord (feast)
- 3/2/21: St Blaise
- 11/2/21: Our Lady of Lourdes
- 17/2/21: **Ash Wednesday**
- 22/2/21: St Peter's Chair (feast)
- 1/3/21: St David
- 17/3/21: St Patrick
- 19/3/21: St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary (solemnity)**
- 25/3/21: The Annunciation of the Lord (solemnity)**
- 28/3/21: Palm Sunday**
- 29/3/21: start of Holy Week
- 1/4/21: Maundy Thursday**
- 2/4/21: Good Friday**
- 3/4/21: Holy Saturday**
- 4/4/21: Easter Sunday**
- 11/4/21: Divine Mercy Sunday



Let us pray...

Lord, each and every Christmas, you remind us of your everlasting love and deep desire to reach down to us here on Earth. You humble yourself and enter into our weaknesses and challenges; our own poverty of love just as you entered into Israel's poverty in the manger. Give us the strength and courage to be like St Joseph and follow you and make the right choices even when it seems like the most difficult thing to do. Amen.



RE in school: Our Gospel values to start us off this term are truthfulness and generosity.

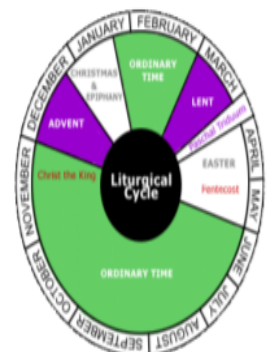
This term, we will be exploring:

EYFS: Getting to Know Jesus, Sorrow and Joy, and Growing and Giving – Lent.

KS1: Families and Celebrations, Prayer, and Giving and Change – Lent.

LKS2: Jesus the Teacher, Jesus the Saviour, and Prayers of the Mass.

UKS2: Jesus Bread of Life, Jesus Son of God, and Prayers of the Mass.



# Mrs Smith's Sports Update



This term we took part in inter-school sporting competitions and were delighted to receive a silver medal in both LKS2 and UKS2 for an athletics pentathlon competition. Well done to every child who contributed to our achievement.



Our two new outdoor table tennis tables are proving popular each break time. We hope to start a table tennis



club once we find a volunteer coach.

The daily mile continues and we can see the impact upon our children's stamina and learning focus. The children go at their own pace. Done properly, it's not a walk – able-bodied children should aim to run or jog for the full 15 minutes with only occasional stops to catch their breath, if necessary.

**Coming soon: Some Year 5 and 6 children have been enrolled on the Playmakers Award.** This does not consider a learners sporting ability but instead helps them develop leadership skills which they can use to lead others in sports activities. Playmakers that complete the Award must be able to communicate effectively, be organised, take responsibility and work with other people; all core skills which are important throughout life.



## PE Kit in school

Remember all children may wear loose unbranded black joggers for colder weather or the loose burgundy ones from Mr Cricket. Tight fitting leggings are not school uniform and children will be given spare kit as a replacement if they come to school wearing them.

## 'Chance to Shine' cricket coaching

**We've booked cricket coaching for Lime and Sycamore classes in Summer term. Their teachers will share their new cricketing coaching skills with the wider teaching team.**



Our teachers are going back to school to improve their teaching of PE. We're bringing in specialist coaches to help them to improve their teaching skills and so help our children to learn greater sporting skills. It's always good to learn new skills.





## Our school meal menus are improving

You've told us your ideas to improve our school food and we are making changes but we have more to do. So far we've :

Established a parent tasting panel,

Changed some food suppliers and we're looking to buy more local produce,

We've stopped using food bags to serve food,

Involved school council in menu development,

Enlisted a parent nutritionist to advise us,

Introduced fresh fruit choices more often (3 x week),

Treetops meals are now prepared by the Treetops team and are proving very popular,

Next steps are:

Mystery child customer tasting each week to test food quality at point of service,

MDSAs and children helping in menu planning,

Wider parent involvement,

Adoption of a School Food Policy by our Governors,

Enlisting local chefs to offer us advice and support,

Posting images of our meals on our new website for you to see.



## School meals are free for all Foundation , Year 1 and Year 2 children



Your child will get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit but **no element of Working Tax Credit** and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenues & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- If you are supported under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after your employment finishes or after you start to work fewer hours per week
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (£616.67 per month), as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).

To check if your child is eligible, apply online for an immediate response or call 0345 606 6067 for advice.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-meals-uniforms-and-trips/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

## Dates for your diary



**January 6th 2021 - February 21st 2021—RSPB Big School Birdwatch**

7<sup>st</sup> January 2021 Food Bank Collection Day.

15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 non uniform day. A fundraising day towards the Friends of St Louis who support the school in its ongoing improvements.

1-7th February 2021 Children's Mental Health Week . This year's theme is **Express Yourself**.

4th February 2021 Food Bank Collection Day.

**22nd February to March 7th 2021: Fairtrade Fortnight**

12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 non uniform day. A fundraising day towards the Friends of St Louis who support the school in its ongoing improvements.



**Season of Lent 17th February 2021 - 29th March 2021 Catholic Charitable Giving.**

**Fairtrade Fortnight 22nd February 2021—7th March 2021**

4th March 2021 Food Bank Collection Day.

4th March 2021 World Book Day We love the **World Book Day** led by the National Literacy Trust! The annual celebration of authors, illustrators, books and reading is one of our favourite **days** of the year. **World Book Day 2020** is coming on Thursday 4 March with this year's theme to 'share a million stories'. Children are invited to dress as their favourite book character. Please donate towards the Friends of St Louis School Fund. Start making your costume now!

5<sup>th</sup>—14<sup>th</sup> March School Science Week—a celebration of all STEM teaching and learning including a whole day of science with lots of fizzes and bangs

12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Mad Scientist dress up day . A fundraising day towards the Friends of St Louis who support the school in its ongoing improvements.

15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 Food Bank Collection Day.

16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 non uniform day.

6th May 2021 Food Bank Collection Day.

14<sup>th</sup> May 2021 non uniform day. A fundraising day towards the Friends of St Louis who support the school in its ongoing improvements.

10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 Food Bank Collection Day.

18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 non uniform day. A fundraising day towards the Friends of St Louis who support the school in its ongoing improvements.

1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 Food Bank Collection Day.

9<sup>th</sup> July 2021 non uniform day. A fundraising day towards the Friends of St Louis who support the school in its ongoing improvements.



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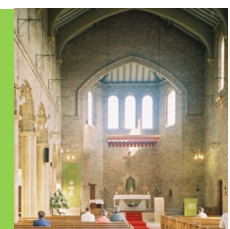


**Saturday—Date to be confirmed:  
Friends of St Louis Spring Grounds Tidy  
- Up Day (in bubbles) 10am to 2pm**

**Our new website will be launching soon. Meanwhile, please use this as your most up to date calendar for events .**

**Our Lady Immaculate and St. Etheldreda Catholic Church, Newmarket**

For all church dates and news, check the weekly church bulletin <http://www.olise.co.uk/wordpress/> Link to the latest newsletter from the parish home page



**We will keep adding more to this list throughout the year but we hope that you find it helpful**