

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR

St Louis Catholic Academy Newsletter
Christmas 2023



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Catholic Life in School	P2 & 3
Governors	P4
Uniform	
Free School Meals	
St Louis PTA	P5
Lost clothes	P6
Panto Time	
Diary Dates	P7
Mass Dates	P8
Artsmark Silver	

Dear Parents and Carers

I think that all the staff at St Louis would agree with me that we have packed our first term full of exciting learning and that we are all ready for a little break. The children have once again excelled in so much, from sporting competitions to live performances and they are looking a little tired in the final week. We have survived coughs, colds, lost voices, freezing days and unusually warm ones. It is always lovely to return to the promise of Spring.

The incredible PTA have done so much to support everyone with another highly successful Christmas Fair. The International Food Festival was a great opportunity to meet together too.

Our Lady of Walsingham Multi-Academy Academy Trust (OLOW MAT) has been busy supporting school in improving reading, writing and other areas of the curriculum and so I am grateful to staff for all the additional time that they have given to preparing for school visits by external monitoring teams. Our children take part in these and they are consistently proud of their school and keen to share examples of their work. Our children are very confident and love chatting to visitors.

School Council is keen to provide more playtime activities as their focus for action. Mrs. Conway has introduced a new lunch time group called Calm Club for children needing a little chill time.

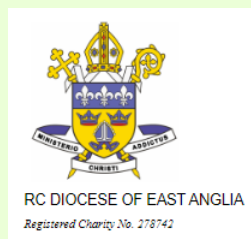
Mrs Das has supported the re-establishment of Mini Vinnies, a junior St Vincent de Paul Society, and the group have set off at great pace supporting the Fairtrade CAFOD Raffle sale, serving hot chocolate and ice-creams to fundraise for our Advent charity, Catholic Aid for Overseas Development (CAFOD) delivering handmade cards to the elderly at Brampton Manor and meeting weekly as part of their commitment to serving school and the wider community.

Finally, Our school chaplains have led Advent prayers at All Saints School and their children have led an assembly for our children. In the New Year, we plan to sponsor the education of a child in Uganda as a partnership.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

God Bless

Sue Blakeley
Headteacher



Please use Ofsted Parent View to give your views

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

Our school supports the work of Cafod <https://cafod.org.uk/>



Catholic life



Prayer Time with All Saints Church of England School

Year 6 chaplains led an assembly in front of All Saints School and this was a step out of their comfort zone but we are all so proud of how their maturity towards this shined through. We were delighted to welcome All Saints prayer leaders to St Louis on the following Friday and these children were equally confident and brave to stand and address our school. We hope to develop more shared prayer opportunities in the New Year and their headteacher, Mrs. Rodel is keen to do this too. When Year 6 children speak to new groups, it is part of their transition process to secondary school.



We are working towards this CAFOD award led by Mrs. Brankin

Planning example

GLOBAL IMPACT	Engage with CAFOD Lent fundraiser on global food poverty.	Set up fairtrade stall or group for school.	Engage with CAFOD's latest campaign.
LOCAL IMPACT	Set up links and create a school action with the local foodbank.	Joint parish and school reduce, reuse and recycle scheme.	Create a family led eco-promise activity, where parents take action.
SCHOOL IMPACT	Create a live simply pledge wall and actions.	Set up eco-club, and target sustainable actions.	Create a prayer garden to pray and reflect on living simply.

Catholic life

Sponsorship of a Ugandan Child to Attend School

Working with All Saints Church of England School, we will be holding a fundraiser in January 2024 to jointly sponsor a child through school. Each school will contribute £120 each annually going forward (but there will be an increase based upon inflation). This is a long term commitment for both schools. We will raise our contribution through an ice-cream sale in January 2024.

Since the beginning of January 2014 a great deal of

elderly residents in the nearby Brampton Lodge Care home.

Mini Vinnies are supporting Cafod fundraising and served midweek milkshakes, ice-creams and hot chocolates during Advent, with all proceeds supporting Cafod. Mini Vinnies will be developing community links throughout the year. They also sold raffle tickets for the Fairtrade Christmas hamper raising £83 towards the total.

Our target is to raise £400 during Advent.

Mrs Saunders Leads our Choir at Tattersalls

Our school choir were fantastic performing in front of an audience of more than four hundred at Tattersalls' annual fundraiser for Racing Welfare Charity. Please consider joining our expanding and talented choir in 2024.



hard work has been undertaken by a group of local people in Bedford, England who are passionately committed to offering a better life to desperately poor and orphaned children in southern Uganda. This has been a response to the work of Father Boniface Kaayabula, a Ugandan priest, who since 1997 has been seeking to offer a better future to some of the poorest children in the world. They now outreach to Catholic parishes to join them. In turn, we have reached out to All Saints School to share a child's sponsorship.

To find out more: <https://evcuganda.org>

Mini Vinnies St Louis Mini Vinnies have relaunched with the support of parishioners Kathleen Das and Ann Sugrue. They delivered fifty six Christmas cards for

Maple Class Sing for the Elderly at Brampton Manor

Maple class visited the care home and sang Christmas Carols. They were excited to meet the children and enjoyed our concert performance.



Meet the Governors

Governors attend seven meetings of the Local Governing Board each year, undertake training, attend school to conduct reviews and take part in external reviews. Please speak to our Co-chairs if you want to find out more about becoming a governor at St Louis or one of our Trust schools.

Bethan Byrne	Co-chair Parent Governor	bethanbyrne@stlouisacademy.co.uk
Mark Walker	Co-chair	marcwalker@stlouisacademy.co.uk
Jenny Balmer	Vice chair SEN lead	jennybalmer@stlouisacademy.co.uk
Karen Varma	Foundation Governor Safeguarding lead	karenvarma@stlouisacademy.co.uk
Charles Dore	Foundation Governor	charlesdore@stlouisacademy.co.uk
Kofi Atuah	Foundation Governor	kofiatuah@stlouisacademy.co.uk
Fr. Leo	Foundation Governor	stetheldreda@btinternet.com
Kiri Wyatt	Staff Governor	kiriwyatt@stlouisacademy.co.uk
Ann Sugrue	Foundation Governor	annsugrue@stlouisacademy.co.uk
Clare Clarke	Primary Improvement Lead	cclark@olow.org.uk
Sue Blakeley	Headteacher	sueblakeley@stlouisacademy.co.uk
Antoinette Jones	Clerk	Antoinette jones@stlouisacademy.co.uk

For enquiries about becoming a Foundation Governor, please contact Jane Delph, Secretary Diocesan Schools' Service, at the Diocese of East Anglia ssc@rcdea.org.uk

Newmarket Foodbank: The Racing Centre, Fred Archer Way, Newmarket, CB8 8NT. To contact The Foodbank call (01638) 561711 during opening hours or leave a message on the voicemail. Alternatively, email: foodbank@newmarketopendoor.org.uk

School Uniform

Please note that much of the school uniform can already be purchased from high street supermarkets or online. We also have a fabulous second hand uniform shop on the school uniform Facebook page.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you, or your child, receive certain benefits, you may be eligible for free school meals from **Year 3 and above**. Check now with Suffolk County Council. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for free school meals regardless of household income.

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



Benefits, money and debt advice -

Suffolk County Council

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/care-and-support-for-adults/help-to-stay-at-home/benefits-money-and-debt-advice>

PTA News

THANK YOU to everyone who joined us at the Advent Fair and we hope that you had as much fun as we did putting this annual event on.

Our PTA total funds raised for Christmas are a fantastic £2750, which all goes towards buying new playground equipment and football goals. That's a big, big help towards it!

It was wonderful to kickstart December in this fantastic way and every single penny spent and every single minute of time given by our volunteers and staff is greatly appreciated. This is simply not possible without all of our families. The funds raised would not have been possible without the generous support from Boogie Babes Newmarket providing beautiful singing, Tescos Newmarket and Powters who gifted time and prizes.

The companies who donated raffle prizes were:

Mr Cricket/Hockey

Lemontree Properties

Montaz

Thai Street Cafe

Rocking Rabbit

QD

Cambridge Ice Arena

Parkside Pool, Cambridge

NHRM

Hairkandi

Powters

Corney & Barrow

Majestic wine

Bedford Lodge Hotel

Wildwood

Moss Hair & Beauty Salon

We are now announcing dates for the 2024 diary.

St Louis PTA Dates for your diary - coming soon:

5th January Lego after school session:

Thursday 15th and Friday 16th February Valentine Discos - details to follow

21st March family quiz night with BYO bottle and food

Easter eggs out at Easter

Lego after school session: 19th April

Gardeners after school session with plant sale: 19th May

5th July Summer Fair

Merry Christmas from all at St Louis PTA.

Cake Sales 2024

Proceeds from cake sales go back to the class for items that the teacher requests from the PTA

year 2: 26th Jan

year 3: 28th March

year 4: 26th April

year 5: 24th May

Reception: 28th June

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



**ALONE WE CAN DO
SO LITTLE**



**TOGETHER WE CAN
DO SO MUCH**

Email friendsofstlouis2020@gmail.com for more info on how your parents/carers voice can be heard and what you can do to help raise funds so we can provide more opportunities for our children.

Lost Clothing Around School

Every week, we collect twenty or more items of unlabelled clothing, wash them and give them to Mrs Das to add to the Facebook Nearly New Shop Uniform page. Some of you may be rebuying your own clothes! Please label clothes with a laundry pen (full name please) or use sew on labels.



All clothes found around school will be stored in the plastic trunk outside the school office for you to collect.

Stikins Uniform Name Labels

These Stikins name labels for clothes and shoes are a great way to avoid your child losing their school uniform and also generates 30% in commission for school! Here is a link with more information and how to place your order—our fundraising number is 20400 <https://www.stikins.co.uk/name-labels/>

Panto Time

We had a wonderful visit to the theatre in Bury St Edmunds. We'll be surveying parents soon to decide if we should book Snow White at Theatre Royal in December 2024.



Diary Dates 2023 2024

Spring Term 2024

Staff Professional Day – Wednesday 3rd January

Term Commences – Thursday 4th January

Half Term - Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February

Thursday 28th March – Term Ends

Summer Term 2024

Staff Professional Day – Friday 12th April

Term Commences - Monday 15th April

May Bank Holiday - Monday 6th May

Half Term - Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May

Term Ends - Friday 19th July

January—July 2024

Fairtrade Celebrations in February—

Wear Fairtrade colours

Fairtrade shop

Fairtrade hot chocolate

All proceeds to Cafod

8 - 17 March 2024 British Science Week

Thursday 7th March World Book Day

Friday 15th March Dress as a scientist

23rd March 2024 World Maths Day

KS2 Easter Play—date tbc

May 2023 KS1 Testing

Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May

2024 KS2 SATS

Yr 4 w/c 2nd June multiplication test

w/c 10th June Phonics Yr 1 screening

Reading at Bedtime with Pizza Supper—
date tbc

Thursday 27th June Summer Art Exhibition

Friday 5th July 3.30pm Summer Fair

Tuesday 9th July Sports Day with

contingency Monday 15th July



Inclusion & Family Support Newsletter

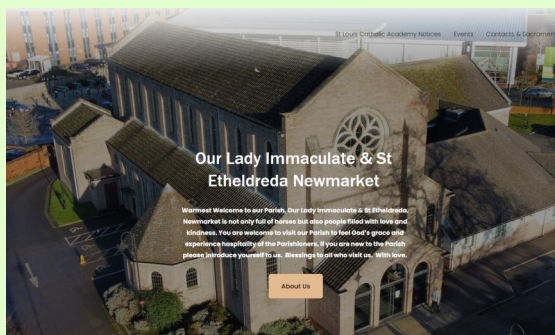


Autumn Term 1 2023

Contact Senco@stlouisacademy.co.uk to go on mailing list for the new Inclusion and Family Support Newsletter

Our Parish Church

<https://www.olise.co.uk/>



St Louis School
KS2 Choir has
40 members!
Let us know if
you wish to join
Wednesdays
3.30pm to 4pm

Ice-cream sale to raise

money to sponsor a

Ugandan child through
school

Wednesday

17th January 2024



Curriculum Class Briefings

Monday 8th January 3pm UKS2

Tuesday 9th January 3pm Holly & Cherry

Wednesday 10th January 3pm LKS2

Thursday 11th January 3pm KS1

This is your opportunity to find out about
what your child will be learning this term.

Our school community library will open to families on
Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays 3.30pm to 4pm for
everyone to enjoy. Each child can loan a book to take home.

Parent Consultations

6th 7th February 2024



Masses 2023 2024

Families are welcome at all of our Masses
(these sometimes need to change if the Priest is
unexpectedly unavailable)

We will update the calendar throughout the
school year

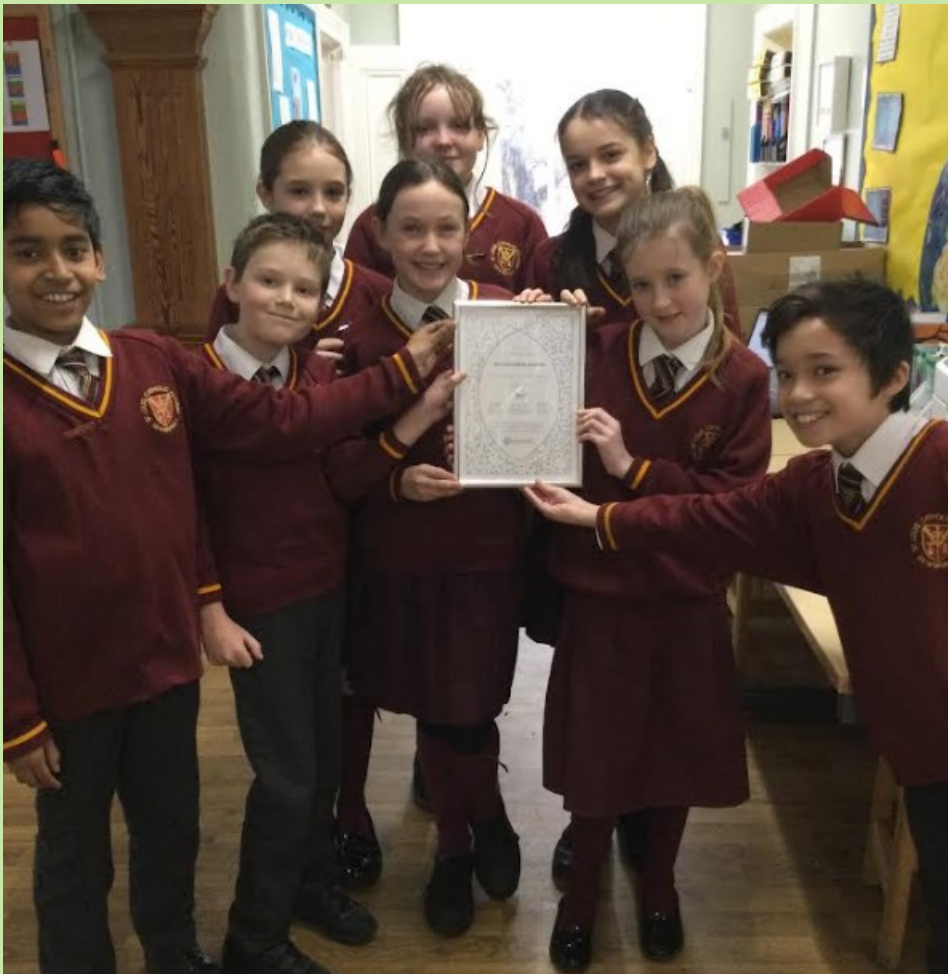
Friday 12th January Start of term Mass: 9:15am whole school

Wednesday 14th February School to join parish Mass for Ash Wednesday

Thursday 9th May School to join parish Mass for Ascension Thursday

**July Leavers Mass - will depend on the transition dates from secondary schools
closer to the time.**

Friday 19th July End of year Mass: 9:15 am whole school



St Louis is proud to achieve

Artsmark Silver Award

Artsmark is the only creative
quality standard for schools and
education settings, accredited by
Arts Council England.

Artsmark's flexible framework is
designed to help you embed arts,
culture and creativity
across your whole curriculum, cele-

