

St Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy

Benton Road, Ilford, Essex. IG1 4AS

Tel: 020 8590 5223 Fax: 020 8503 8344

email: admin@st-aidans.redbridge.sch.uk

website: www.staidansacademy.org

Headteacher: Mrs Victoria Campling (BA Hons)



Monthly Newsletter December 2025

'Together we enjoy Learning, Achieving, Sharing and Praying. Let Jesus Love shine through in everything we do.'

Dear Parents/Carers,

The fourth Week of Advent is the week of Love. Jesus came because God loves us so much! Love is what shines through our school community and during this season of Advent as we prepare for Christmas we have shared love together in many ways as our St Aidan's family.



'Love is the gift from God'

Christmas Bazaar:

A wonderful community event, thank you to all who attended and supported the bazaar. It was lovely to have the school community together for a festive event. A HUGE thank you to all the staff who together worked tirelessly to create and run the stalls with the children. A special thank you to Miss Chambers & Mrs Elsey who created a beautiful Santa's grotto and wooden sleigh and of course thank you to Santa for coming all the way to visit St Aidan's again this year to see the children.

EYFS & KS1 Nativity:

Well done to the younger members of our school who created beautiful ways of sharing the most important story with us. I am very proud of how confident the children were with their speaking and singing which is not easy in front of an audience. The children shared with us the true meaning of Christmas and the gift that God gave us is the most important gift.

KS2 Nativity:

It was wonderful to see so many parents join us for the KS2 Christmas story performance. The children were amazing with beautiful singing and thoroughly enjoyed themselves too especially with the African Noel and O come all ye faithful! Well done KS2.

Christmas dinner & Jumper day:

We had a wonderful festive time on Thursday for our Christmas meal together pulling crackers and dancing to Christmas music. We had a special visit from the Elf this year who kept us entertained. Quote - *'Miss this is the best day ever!'* Thank you to our kitchen staff who work tirelessly to produce a wonderful Christmas meal experience for our children.

Rock Steady Concert:

We ended the term with a very festive Rock Steady concert where the children showcased their talents and skills they have learnt with their Band Lead Gareth. The school hall was rocking along to the bands and the children were amazing performers. If you wish for your child to learn an instrument in a band then enquire at the school office for the new term.

St Aidan's staff:

May I take this opportunity to thank every staff member that is part of our St Aidan's family who work so hard each day to ensure the children have the best experiences and opportunities. Thank you to them all for their commitment, care and passion that drives the standards here at St Aidan's.

Journalists:

Please enjoy the children's articles this month –

Nursery, Reception, Noah's Ark, Charlise (Yr2) Rumaisa (Yr4), and Viaan (Yr4).

I wish you all a truly blessed Christmas with your families, thank you for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday the 6th of January 2026.

Kind regards, *Mrs. Campling*

Diary dates

5/1/26 – Parent/teacher consultation day – pre-booked appointments

6/1/26 – Pupils return to school 8:45am
Epiphany Holy Mass at 2pm (Parents welcome)

7/1/26 – Swim lessons start for Yr5
Yr 6 Class trip to the London Eye

9/1/26 - Parent coffee morning at 9am

12/1/26 – Yr 6 Parents SATs meeting at 3:30pm

21/1/26 – NHS Height & weight follow up

22/1/26 - Yr 1 phonics parent workshop at 3:30pm

27/1/26 – Opal parent play session 12-1 book a space

28/1/26 – Yr 5 Class trip Hampton Court

5/2/26 - Yr1 phonics parent workshop 3:30pm

6/2/26 – Number day – dress up day!

9/2/26 – Mental Health week

13/2/26 – Half term – school ends at 3:20pm

Parent/teacher consultation day

Monday 5th January 2025

Pre-booked appointments via parentmail.

Please arrive at the main school office to sign in for your 10-minute appointment.

Please bring your child with you to the appointment so the teacher can share their achievements and targets.



Yr 5 made beautiful Rosary beads

Christmas Bazaar

Total raised: **£1075**

Thank you for your support with our Bazaar, the funds will go towards a new music speaker for the school hall.

PE days

Please note the days for PE for each class in the new term:

Mondays – Year 1 & 2

Tuesdays - Reception

Thursdays – Year 5 & 6

Fridays – Noah's Ark & Year 3 & 4

The children are required to wear their school PE uniform on their allocated day. Please check the uniform policy on the website.



Thank you to the Vinodhkumar family (Sasha Yr6) for the generous and kind gift of a candy cane and chocolate for every child in the school. They are all very thankful!



**Join us for coffee morning
Friday 9th January at 9am**

Pre-loved uniform will be available

Primary school applications

If your child turns 4 years old before the 31st August 2026 then you apply for a school place online with the Local authority.

<https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/schools/primary-school-admissions/>

Deadline is – 15th January 2026

If you are selecting St Aidan's then please also collect an application pack from the main school office asap.

If you have any questions about admissions then please see the school office staff.

St Aidan's News!



**Christmas
fun!**





Nursery Newsletter - December 2025

Christmas jumpers!

We all got into the festive mood by wearing Christmas Jumpers!



We listened and danced to Christmas songs together.



The Nursery Christmas tree

Nursery were lucky enough to help decorate the big tree in the hall.



Children took turns to choose a special bauble from the box, then hung it on the tree.



It looked magical!



The Nativity performance

Nursery worked really hard to learn all the songs for the Nativity performance and attended all the rehearsals.

Even after the performance, everyone was still enjoying singing and dancing to all the songs!





The Nursery tree

Everyone chose a piece of tinsel to decorate the nursery tree then worked together to carefully place them on.

Nursery also made special salt dough decorations to sell at the Christmas bazaar!



Notes

All Nursery children will attend the morning session from January. We can't wait to see you all on Tuesday 6th January at 8.45am.



Please bring your library books on the first day back so your child can choose a new story to take home.



Don't forget that all children need a warm coat. Please provide wellington boots for your child to wear in the garden, we go out and play in all weathers!



Advent

This month we have been learning about Advent. Sometimes it is not easy to wait for things, but we learnt that we can use this time to prepare for Jesus' birth!



Merry Christmas!



Merry Christmas from the Nursery Team, we hope you have a fun and but break!



December in Reception

In Reception we have been learning all about the Nativity as well as how and why we celebrate Christmas.

We have been looking at '**The Owl and the Star**' in Literacy which shows us an owl's point of view of the excitement of following the Bethlehem star to Jesus' birth.



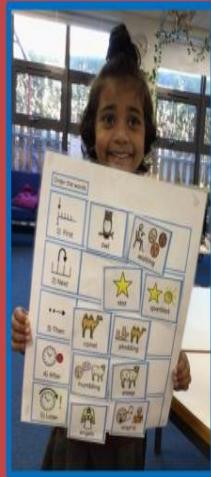
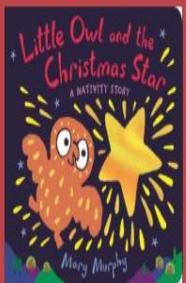
owl



Star of Bethlehem



baby



Christmas

We even got a visit from Santa and Mrs Claus who we were very excited to see! We also got to wrap toys from the classroom and chose friends to give the gifts to as a link to the message of spreading joy and kindness in advent for our RE lessons!



In Art we have been creating a variety of Christmas decorations. Such as the salt dough Christmas decorations for the Christmas Bazaar and painting Christmas angels and trees.

In Maths we have been looking at the composition of number 5 and have been exploring 4 sided shapes!

Reception

Noah's Ark

Newsletter



St Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy

December 2025



This month in Noah's Ark

Welcome to the fourth edition of our Noah's Ark newsletter! Each month we'll be sharing a little window into our classroom, celebrating the children's learning, exploration, and achievements. We'll also keep you updated on our current topics, special events, and ways you can support learning at home.

We are so excited to share the wonderful things the children get up to in Noah's Ark.

Thank you for being part of our adventure! Miss Chambers.



Merry Christmas
We would like to wish all our Noah's Ark families a very Merry Christmas and a happy, restful holiday. Thank you for your continued support this term — we look forward to welcoming you back and seeing everyone again in 2026.



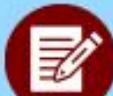
Christmas Jumper day and Christmas dinner!



DT / Art



Notices



We would love to hear what you would like to see in our next newsletter.



Keep an eye out for the next stay and play date for next half term!

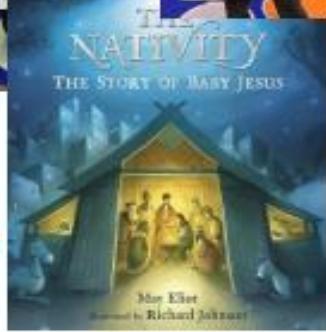


As colder weather is here please remember to send in coats and wellies.

Classroom Moments



We have
been
reading.....



The children have enjoyed exploring the people in the Nativity through role-play, dressing up, and sensory activities. They loved taking on different roles and bringing the Nativity to life, which helped them create their own Nativity book. We hope you enjoyed sharing this special book at home as much as we enjoyed creating it together.



Sensory Calming time!

The children have been enjoying calming sensory time with lights in a darkened space. This has now become a regular part of our day and helps support emotional regulation, focus, and relaxation, giving the children time to reset and feel ready for learning.



Week 6



help

Gestalt Core Words AAC Literacy Program

Week 7



more / again

Gestalt Core Words AAC Literacy Program

Week 8



finish / all done

Gestalt Core Words AAC Literacy Program

Teacher's Note

This month, the children have continued exploring their Core Words through lots of fun, sensory activities, supported by Makaton signs and visuals. They are becoming more confident using their words to communicate in their own way — whether through gestures, signs, vocalisations, visuals, or AAC. Our core words for this month were: want, go, stop, and like. Families will continue to receive a weekly information sheet to help practise each word at home, and we hope you've enjoyed exploring these core words together. We are so happy to hear your positive feedback and to see how the children's communication is growing and developing.

People Who Help Us



Our next learning focus!

Noah's Ark



St Aidan's Times



ALL THE BREAKING NEWS FROM THIS MONTH

A highlight from this month has been When I performed in my nativity concert, I played the part of Mary and I had to look after baby JESUS. I wore a blue and white beautiful dress. My favourite song that we sang was in a Manger because I liked the tune and doing the actions to it.

I really liked looking after baby Jesus in his crib.



I had so much fun learning to play the glockenspiel. We played a tune called christmas Holidays.
By Charlise
Merry Christmas!

Charlise (Yr2)



St Aidan's Times

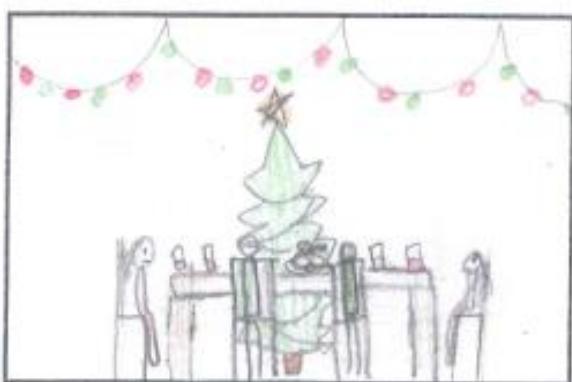


ALL THE BREAKING NEWS FROM THIS MONTH

A highlight from this month has been Advent is a special time of year for Christians. It is also a time when Christians look forward for Jesus's coming. Advent comes from an old word "Adventus" which means the coming of an important person. Advent is a time before Christmas to enjoy time with our family and friends. In our school we display an Advent wreath. The first candle represents hope, then peace, then joy, then love and on Christmas day the final candle is



lit which represents Jesus being the light of the world. Christians believe this is the coming of Jesus. Today, often people have Advent calendars at home.



WHY WE LOVE OUR SCHOOL

I love my school because we have a lot of equipment in the playground and a Christmas Bazaar, but best of all, everyone is fair.

Rumaisa Year 4



St Aidan's Times



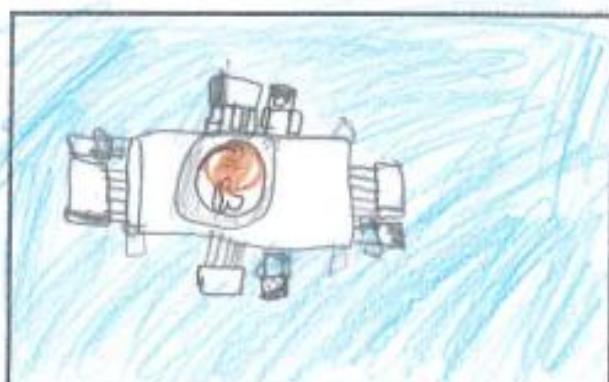
ALL THE BREAKING NEWS FROM THIS MONTH

A highlight from this month has been
ADVENT

Advent is the start of the Christian year. It is a time when Christians look forward to a time when Jesus will return. Churches display an advent wreath. There are 4 candles standing in a circle and in the centre there is a 5th candle. In churches on the 1st Sunday of Advent the 1st candle is lit and then each candle every Sunday after. In School, we've been lighting our advent candles. In our class we have already displayed 3 candles in preparation for Jesus on Christmas day. Hope, peace, joy and love. Jesus is the light of the world.



ADVENT is a special time of year for Christians.



WHY WE LOVE OUR SCHOOL

We love our school because we have a big playground and at breaktime and lunch we can play tons of different games.

Viaan. Year 4.