



St Louis Catholic Academy News for Christmas 2024



DECEMBER AT ST LOUIS

We have had a very busy ADVENT with our wonderful Acorns, Holly and Cherry classes performing a Nativity in school. KS1 performed their Nativity in Church and were brilliant too. Thank you to the staff for all their hard work, families for the great costumes that you provided and most of all, for your kindness and support.

We had a successful two day RE Inspection and were delighted to be categorized as GOOD. The teachers and all support staff have made this possible by all their hard work.

The children have had a busy term and I hope that you all have a well-earned break and return on Tuesday 7th January ready to begin the Spring Term.

Have a wonderful Christmas.

God Bless

Sue Blakeley—Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY—Everyone is Welcome 2025

9th January 2025 at 9.15am – Whole School Mass for Spring Term in Church

14th January at 3.30pm—Spring Curriculum Parent meeting - all classes in the hall as we did in Autumn. RE books will be available to view

24th January at 8.15am—Jubilee Launch—all families invited for a light breakfast and to take part in our Pilgrims of Hope activity

Monday 27th January at 2.45pm Phonics screening Parent Meeting For Reception and KS1 parents (All Yr1 Yr 2 invited)

4th and 5th February 2025 : Parent consultation meeting (RE English, and Maths books will be available to see for your child)

Friday 7th February 2025 fundraiser for Patrick –wear colours of Uganda (Yellow, Black and Red)

12th February KS2 Valentines Disco

13th February Reception and KS1 Valentine Disco

13th February - Reception Class Mass at 9.15am in the School Hall

Lent 5th March: Ash Wednesday Parish Mass for all

6th March: World Book Day (wear pyjamas and bring a bedtime book)

Thursday 13th March—Pilgrims of Hope Walk of Witness in Jubilee 2025 circuit around school and church : All families and parishioners are invited

21st March – Mass led by Bishop Peter at 11am followed by a blessing of the Sisters of St Louis Wellbeing Hub

22nd to 23rd April Year 4 Visit to Burwell House

24th April 2025 at 9.15am – Whole School Mass for Summer Term Mass in Church

Year 6 Leavers Mass July – (date to be confirmed after secondary schools confirm transition days)

LKS2 Phase Mass in school – Spring Term date to be confirmed

UKS2 Phase Mass in school – Spring Term date to be confirmed 8th May requested

KS1 Phase Mass in school – Summer Term 1 date to be confirmed

Yr 6 Residential 9th to 11th July



FOR YOUR
SUPPORT IN
2024



Remember to apply for your school place in Reception now. We have had many enquiries this year and it is very important to submit your application on time. If you have children in school, you still need to apply for each child. [Apply for a primary school place 2025/2026 - Suffolk County Council](#) Final date for applications is 15th January 2025

We have spaces! Please tell your friends. We have spaces in some years.

We are an inclusive Catholic school, welcoming of all children.



Join us on
9th January 2025
for a Mass in church
at 9.15 pm. Everyone
is welcome.

CAFOD
Just one world



Mrs Brankin has been meeting with School Council to discuss ways to improve school. This Advent, the children prepared to interview candidates for the new Headteacher vacancy. They took their role very seriously and spent time preparing their questions.

The school council will be engaged in January in developing plans for Jubilee 2025.

The school councilors represent the views of their wider classes and provide feedback. From Year 1, they are confident in representing their peers. This is one way that we teach them about democracy.



We have had an amazing response to our CAFOD fundraising during Advent.

We raised the following:

Fairtrade Raffle raffle at the Christmas Fair
£86.25

Thursday 5th December Hot Chocolate raised
£160.10

Thursday 12th December KS1 fundraiser
raised £65.77

KS2 Mini Vinnie led fundraiser supported by
Year 6 raised £146.53

EYFS snow cones raised £17

Thursday 19th December Hot Chocolate
raised £187.01

**This came to a Grand
Total of £662.50**



Suffolk Money Advice Services

There are a number of money advice services in Suffolk available and if you would like to speak to Suffolk Council about some help, these include:

- Benefits and allowances, tax, pensions, managing direct payments and personal assistants
- Money worries – budgeting, advice on increasing income and reducing expenditure
- Grants and Funding – information on charitable grants and funding support for individuals and families
- Business grants, funding and support

https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/advice?page?id=bkAM_wL2Qdw

Free School Meals

You may be eligible for funding for a hot lunch. In addition, school may access funding through Pupil Premium Grant. The pupil premium is extra money for schools to help disadvantaged pupils of all abilities achieve their full potential. School receives £1,480 towards extra support for eligible children. When you are eligible for free meals, this grant is also given to school. All children in Reception up to Yr 2 may access a free hot meal. However, only those applying through Suffolk for Free School Meals will trigger the additional funding to school. There is an online checker available on the Suffolk Website to see if you are eligible.

Apply for free school meals - Suffolk County Council

You must apply for a primary school place for the 2025/2026 school year by the closing date of 15th January 2025. We are always available to show families around. We have had many more enquiries this year than before, so please get your application in on time.

Bishop Peter will celebrate Mass for school on 21st March 2025: Everyone Welcome

Eco Nurseries and Classrooms completed our new Sisters of St Louis Wellbeing Hub at a surprising speed and the room is ready to use. The team travelled down from Cumbria and were highly efficient. We have submitted bids to various charities to fund the final fitting out of the multi-purpose room with cosy seating, fold away furniture, outdoor pots and greenery.

A generous parent has started us off with an indoor / outdoor seat (Extreme Lounging Kids' Mini Outdoor Bean Bag, John Lewis). If you would like to sponsor one, please let us know.



This will be a quiet space to carry out therapies, support families and provides a calm area away

from the busy classrooms.



The room is now surrounded by an outdoor path to sit calmly and read. Currently, the library is having some building work to comply with the latest Building Control Regulations.

Mrs White is planning a library tidy up once these builders leave us in January and then we'll have the

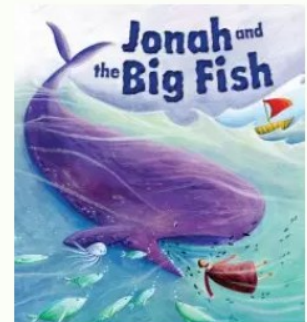
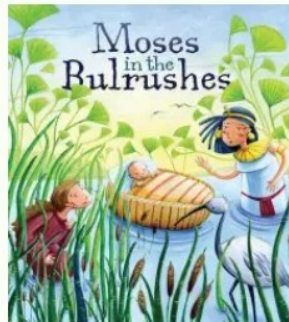
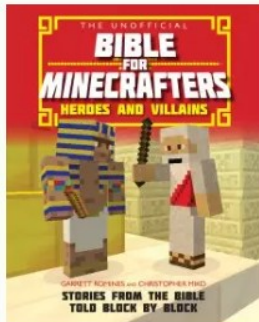
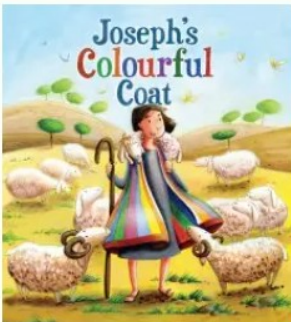
library open after school on some days, subject to staffing.



Beech children sitting on the indoor/outdoor cushion seat for the new hub bought by a kind family

NEW CATHOLIC BOOK SWAP SHELF FOR BIBLE STORIES AND PRAYER BOOKS

In response to parent feedback, we'd like to set up a little **Bible Study Bookshelf** in the main reception for families to exchange books. Some families have offered to start this off with donated books. If you have any in good condition and we'll establish a book swap area. Please drop donated books for the Bible Study Bookshelf.



Jubilee 2025 'Pilgrims of Hope'

Pope Francis has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years.

The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope", and is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis.

Preparations for the 2025 Year of Jubilee began in Advent 2023, which marked the start of a year of prayer. The Bishops' Conference have produced resources for the preparatory year of prayer, focusing on the Our Father, as well as resources about Jubilee in the Catholic Church.

"Jubilee" is the name given to a particular year. A time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

JUBILEE PRAYER

Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen



Only a few days remain until the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, marking the beginning of the Holy Year 2025.

The Jubilee offers a special moment for plenary indulgence, conversion, and grace to rekindle hope in the daily journey of life and the proclamation of the Gospel. Follow the opening of the Holy Door on December 24 at 7:00 PM (Rome time) and all events of the Holy Year 2025 with Vatican News and Vatican Radio via our YouTube channel or Facebook Live.

Some of our families may be fortunate to be visiting Rome this year but for most of us, we will join events at home.

We are launching the start of Jubilee 2025 by creating a Jubilee doorway as you enter the reception building. Children will all contribute to this artwork.

Jubilee 2025

Find out more about the 2025 Jubilee Year

[Year of Jubilee 2025 - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)



All Saints School and St Louis Fundraise for Patrick

We continue to work with All Saints C of E School in Newmarket to support Patrick at his school in Uganda.

On Friday 7th February, we are having a non uniform day and so please wear the colours of Uganda and donate a £1. All proceeds go towards the next year of school fees for Patrick. EVC Uganda provide his schooling.

EVC Uganda raises funds to provide desperately poor children with an education in a loving, caring and supportive environment. Our Sponsor a Child Programme provides a route out of poverty and destitution, offering real hope for the future. It costs £300 to sponsor a child. This provides a child with an education, accommodation, clothing & food and pays teaching and non-teaching staff. Children are supported in both primary and secondary education.



Horse Safety

Please take care crossing Rayes Lane and Fordham Road.

The new barriers along Rayes Lane and the recently installed traffic lights are designed to improve safety for horses and pedestrians. There are still some concerns about drivers being focussed on traffic signals and failing to notice people and horses.

Together with Fairstead School, we have written to Councillors to request a meeting to resolve ongoing concerns.

Suffolk County Councillor Andy Drummond—Andy.Drummond@suffolk.gov.uk

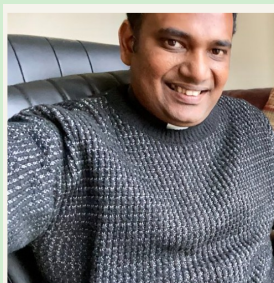
West Suffolk Councillor Sue Perry - sue.perry@westsuffolk.gov.uk



Our Parish Contacts

Our Lady Immaculate & St Etheldreda Newmarket

Warmest Welcome to our Parish, Our Lady Immaculate & St Etheldreda. Newmarket is not only full of horses but also people filled with love and kindness. You are welcome to visit our Parish to feel God's grace and experience hospitality of the Parishioners. If you are new to the Parish please introduce yourself to us. Blessings to all who visit us. With love.



Our Parish Priest: Father Leo Michael Marianu



Father John Morrill



Deacon James Hurst



JOIN THE PTA

TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH

Email pta@stlouisacademy.co.uk for more info on how you can help raise funds so we can provide more opportunities for our children.

Join Our Wonderful PTA

The PTA or Parents Teachers Association is an opportunity for all parents to become more involved in life at St Louis. Whether your child already attends the school or is joining for the first time, as parents we are automatically members of the PTA. This year we would like to invite everyone to step up and to get involved. Don't be shy, please come and demonstrate interest and support for your own child by participating in PTA events which we run for the benefit of all. These events are fun and inclusive and are used to raise funds which we can spend immediately in the school where there is a particular need and more generally to use our funds to enhance the lives and happiness of all our children.

We hold regular PTA meetings to plan and discuss future events, so please attend these whenever you can as we really value your input. We alternate

these meetings, some are held in person and others are held online, in the hope that everyone can take part as often as possible.

Every year is a different PTA as we lose some parents and gain new ones. We hope you will help us with a fresh enthusiasm to make this the happiest school year our children have ever known.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
NEWMARKET PONY ACADEMY

- Do you enjoy interacting with children?
- Are you able to lead a pony?
- Are you over the age of 16?

FOR MORE INFO Phone 01638 501820 Email npa@brs.org.uk



Mrs Bosley's Star Bakers

The cooking club have been busy baking Christmas themed treats. Look at the fantastic tree that the children learnt to bake and build.



New St Louis RE Forum Takes Shape

We held meetings with parents on 11th and 12th December to find out how we can improve communication with you about all the wonderful RE teaching and Catholic Life of our school. From this, a new parent led RE Forum has been established. To find out more, use your class WhatsApp link to connect to the new St Louis RE Forum WhatsApp group. Here is a summary of all the things that the Forum and school wish to improve:

Suggestions: FAMILIES

Weekend family visit to Walsingham arranged through school

Involve families in Cafod Lent Walk as part of Jubilee 2025 celebrations

Establish a prayer group for families

Parish families lead a family mass

Invite families to join Stations of the Cross during Lent

Suggestions: SCHOOL

Have a suggestion box on reception and ask for contributions through WhatsApp parent group and parentmail

Wider offer of Catholic learning visits for children in years below Yr 6 to Norwich Cathedral and Clare Priory

Post age related prayers on RE site on website

Invite families to talks in Faith Life Fortnight

Invite families in to share their faith with the classes

Provide RE curriculum overviews on website and through parentmail

Launch the Pebble Creation Path in March

Incorporate outdoor space for RE learning

Use class links to disseminate RE and Faith Life information

Suggestions: FAMILY LEADERS

Establish a Catholic Mothers Group involving clergy

Suggestions: ST LOUIS RE FORUM

Establish a St Louis RE Forum with a WhatsApp link for families to join. Share the number through class WhatsApp groups to request to join

Hold meetings of the forum

Invite Fr Leo and the wider Parish clergy to the first meeting

Celebrate Catholics celebrating their faith at retreats, in the home etc.

Set up a book loan shelf in reception for bible stories and other Catholic young reader books.

Discuss ideas with clergy

Celebrate first English Miracle [Merseyside man Jack Traynor's sudden recovery declared first English miracle at Lourdes | ITV News Granada](#)

Suggestions: SCHOOL

Celebrate House Saints with a special dinner menu

Organise a join your child for an RE lesson

Send RE postcards home that celebrate great RE work and living out our Catholic Faith, showing commitment to our Gospel Values through actions in school .

Call classes by the names of class saints from September

Celebrate the feast days of children's saint's names as they occur

Promote Parish events more

Promote prayer for children preparing for sacraments

Share more images of children engaged in RE, Catholic Life activities in school

Send home prayer cards and images to discuss at home

Invite clergy to school dinners

Invite clergy to teach RE lessons

Celebrate class saint's feast days

Dress up as your favourite saint day

Vocations Fortnight held in Summer Term to include a celebration of St Louis

Let all Reception children's families know their House Saints and remind other families of their children's house saints where needed

(record in back of home reader record book)

Share religious vocabulary by age related year to support home discussion

Please let us have your
suggestions for
improving
communication
about our teaching of
RE and the Catholic Life
of the school.
Thank You

Christ at the Centre: Children at the Heart
Learning to Love: Loving to Learn

Please join the new RE Forum

You can post your RE ideas and suggestions in the suggestions box located at the customer reception desk.

Please include your ideas for taking part in Jubilee 2025 too.

Suggestions: PARISH LINKS
Organise SVP and Mini Vinnies combined meetings and events
Widely promote sacramental preparation through multi-media routes Parentmail Newsletter WhatsApp group
Celebrate in school when children receive Holy Communion for the first time.
School lead a Sunday Mass in school uniform
Invite Parishioners to Parish Mass led by the Bishop on 21 st March and to the blessing
Ask clergy to lead an RE club for children
Celebrate Youth Sunday by attending school in St Louis Uniform
Have termly Mass run by children
Copy Parish Office into forum notes
Outreach to wider local Catholic clergy and religious orders Clare Priory Mildenhall Parish (where some of our children live) Walsingham Sisters Dominicans in Cambridge Great Barton Catholic Care Home
Produce a leaflet/ flyer to promote church sacramental preparation in the Parish

We now have a long list of your ideas and the Forum will help school to prioritise actions over the coming months.

The Forum has volunteered to lead some of these.

We are so grateful for your support with this.



St Louis in Advent Photo Album



St Louis Choir sang at Kingfisher House Care Home



Reception classes have been taking turns to share a nativity bag and book at home with their families during Advent

Our Mini Vinnies took cards and cards for residents living at Bampton Manor care home. Bampton Manor gifted us wonderful new books for class libraries in UKS2



We enjoyed a delicious Christmas Lunch. Thank you Victoria, Helena and Mrs Bosley for a wonderful meal.



PTA Updates—Please check your Parentmail for the Full Letter Content

Hello Everyone

We would like to start with a very big thank you for all your support both practical and financial for the PTA this term. We really appreciate it. The Advent Fair was great fun. Thank you for taking part.

Fundraising Update

We have been raising funds to pay for a new Trim Trail for our Years 3 and 4. At the end of last year we had raised, £6,000 of the £10,000.

The good news is that the International Food Festival this term raised £319 and the Advent Fair raised a huge £2,069.50.

We are £2,000 off our target!

PTA Events for Spring Term

Lego After School Session – Thursday 9th January 2025 in the school hall.

Year 3 cake sale - 31st January 2025

Valentines discos - 12th and 13th February 2025. More details will follow in the new year.

Foundation classes cake sale – 28th March 2025

PTA meeting – Wednesday 8th January 2025 in school teaching kitchen.

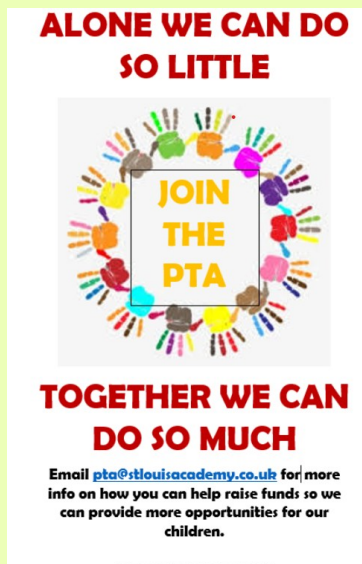
We look forward to seeing you then.

Finally, we send you and your loved ones our very best wishes for Christmas and the forthcoming year.

Many thanks,

St Louis PTA

Advent Fair raised a
huge £2,069.50
THANK YOU



St Louis
PTA
says