



## St Louis Catholic Academy News for January 2025



### JANUARY AT ST LOUIS

It has been lovely to see the children return to school well-rested after their Christmas break. Thank you to all the families who joined us on Friday 24th January for our launch of Jubilee 2025. We had over two hundred sit down to a breakfast with an opportunity to write family prayers of hope for this special year of prayer. Remember to diary the great stay and read at bedtime pizza evening that also brings families together. If you have any Bible story books to donate, we are keen to set up a bring and borrow book area for Bible stories. The Library is now open after school on Wednesdays. Please use the Playground entrance.

God Bless

Sue Blakeley, Headteacher

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Everyone is welcome to family events



### 2025

Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February—Parent consultation meetings (RE English, and Maths books will be available to see for your child)

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025 fundraiser for Patrick – wear colours of Uganda (Yellow, Black, Red )

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February KS2 Valentine Discos

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February Reception and KS1 Valentine Discos

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Reception Class Mass at 9.15am in the School Hall

Lent 5<sup>th</sup> March at 9.15am: Ash Wednesday Parish Mass for all

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March: World Book Day (wear pyjamas and bring a bedtime book)

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

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

Wednesday 2nd April at 2pm 'Little Louis Toddler Group' in Nursery

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April Year 4 Visit to Burwell House

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> May requested

Thursday 26th June Bedtime Read and Pizza Supper 5.30pm to 6.30pm

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

Yr 6 Residential Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July

Join us on  
5th March for Ash  
Wednesday Parish  
Mass in church at  
9.15 pm. Everyone is  
welcome.



Book your school meals cooked fresh by Victoria and her team daily.

To view the menu, visit the school website:

[St Louis Catholic Academy - School Meals](#)

Year	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1st	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce
2nd	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce
3rd	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce
4th	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce
5th	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce
6th	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce
7th	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce
8th	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce
9th	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce
10th	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce
11th	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce
12th	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce	Spaghetti Bolognese with Cheese Sauce

**We have a few spaces!**  
**Please tell your friends.**  
**We have spaces in some years.** Please enquire now & tell others.

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



**Library Opening** - Wednesdays 3.30pm to 4pm  
Take a book home to read with your child





**Litter Pickers say, “ Please take your rubbish home or use the bins.”**

Teams of litter pickers from across the school have been busy tackling an increase in litter being dropped or blowing into the playground. **If you bring a snack for your child to eat on their way home, please take the wrapper home with you or pop it in one of the many bins around school.**

**Reception Class helped tidy the playground. LKS2 tidied up their gardens to clear the litter too. Well Done!**



**Lent Fundraisers for Cafod starts 5th March 2025**



**Lent**

Begins  
**Mar 5, 2025**

Ends  
**Apr 19, 2025**

### 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?id=bkAM\\_wL2Qdw](https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/advice?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](#)**

**Bishop Peter will celebrate Mass for school on 21st March 2025: Everyone is welcome.**

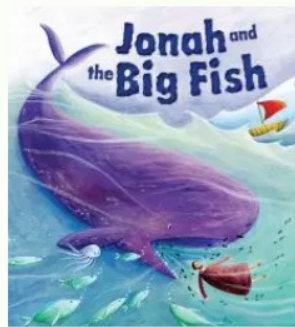
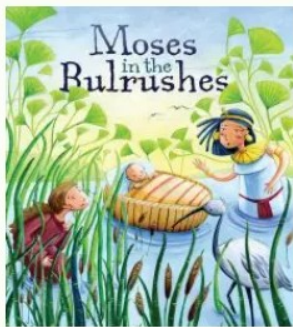


## St Louis Sports Stars Through to the County Final



Mrs Weston-Mann has been busy training Year 5 & 6 for Forest Heath Partnership's Indoor athletics Championship. Competing with more than 500 children, the St Louis Team finished second. This has secured them a place in the County finals. We are extremely proud of the children who have given lots of their time to practicing their athletic skills.

## NEW CATHOLIC BOOK SWAP SHELF FOR BIBLE STORIES AND PRAYER BOOKS



Please donate good condition books off at Office Reception to help us to develop a Bible Study Bookshelf for families to use for book swaps and loans.

Thank you.



## 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



## Jubilee 2025 'Pilgrims of Hope'

Cafod are raising money this Lent with the return of the Big Lent walk.

Some of our families may be fortunate to be visiting Rome this year but for most of us, we will join events at home. [Sign up today!](#)

WALK 200KM IN 40 DAYS TO HELP FIGHT GLOBAL POVERTY



Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk! Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty.

This year, we will be walking around the town together with families to raise money for CAFOD.

Your sponsorship can change lives. Every £1 raised through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

In Ethiopia, CAFOD and SCIAF are working together to respond to the devastating food crisis there. Years of drought caused by the climate crisis means families are no longer able to cope, but your support means we are working with people right now, providing them with water, emergency food and healthcare.

With your hard work and sponsorship this Lent, we can change families' lives for good and tell poverty to take a hike. [CAFOD](#) and [SCIAF](#) are the official relief and development agencies of the Catholic Church for England and Wales (CAFOD) and for Scotland (SCIAF), and are both members of the global Caritas Internationalis family.

Both believe that a green and just world, free from poverty, is possible and they invite you to join together in putting our faith into action this Lent.

The money you raise by taking part in the Big Lent Walk will enable us to continue fighting global poverty and working through expert local partners to bring real change to communities overseas.



13th March 2025

Pilgrims of Hope Walk

We invite families to join us on our walk of faith around town as a whole school.



## All Saints School and St Louis Fundraise for Patrick

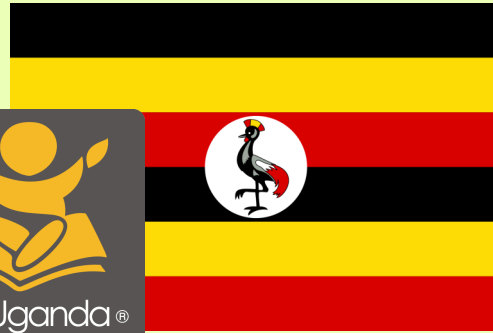
We continue to work with All Saints C of E School in Newmarket to support Patrick at his school in Uganda.

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. Please wear Red, Black or Yellow or a mixture! Every £1 is important for Patrick to remain in school.



[Home](#) | [EVC Uganda](#)



## 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. The phasing of the lights has been monitored but there are still safety concerns. Please take care when crossing Fordham Road and Rayes Lane.

Suffolk County Councillor Andy Drummond [Andy.Drummond@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Andy.Drummond@suffolk.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



**TOGETHER WE CAN  
DO SO MUCH**

Email [pta@stlouisacademy.co.uk](mailto: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

## Valentine's Discos 12th and 13th February 2025



## New St Louis RE Forum Takes Shape

To find out more, use your class WhatsApp link to connect to the new St Louis RE Forum

## World Book Day 2025

World Book Day encourages more children and families to find the fun and enjoyment in reading, because reading for pleasure changes lives.

Every child will come home with a book token.



### What do I need to do with the token?

So your child has come home with a £1/token. Brilliant – There are books targeting all ages to exchange for your token. The tokens are swappable for one of this year's £1 books for free between 13 February and 23 March 2025. Visit the World Book Day website to see the wonderful choice of books [2025s-1-books](#)



### Why is reading in the early years so important?

#### 1. Cognitive development

Put simply, reading stimulates brain cells. It acts as a “workout” for the brain as it stimulates imagination, critical thinking and language skills. The more stimulation the brain receives, the more connections it builds which in turn lays the foundations for later academic success.

The more variety in the books and stories read, the more cognitive development!

#### 2. Later academic success

As mentioned, the cognitive development associated with reading will contribute towards academic success. When children engage in reading from an early age, they improve their general knowledge and language skills and also improve their attention spans and concentration. The latter two are crucial for later schooling.

Additionally to all of these factors, confidence gained through early reading is important to instil a love of learning which will benefit children throughout school.

#### 3. Psychological benefits

Perhaps an often overlooked benefit of reading in the early years are the psychological benefits this can have. Reading and being read to allows children to explore empathy and thus facilitates emotional development. Certain characters and storylines will encourage children to think critically about emotions and feelings whilst in a safe and controlled environment.

#### 4. Self-confidence

Often children can feel pressure when learning new skills in school, particularly if perhaps they feel they are developing at a slower pace than their peers. This can have wider implications for their self-image and thus impact the way they learn and feel about school moving forward. This is one of the key reasons why reading at an early age is so important. Starting to read with your child early on will encourage them to learn at their own pace in a safe environment and will improve their self-confidence amongst peers.

#### 5. Enhanced Communication

• Naturally, early reading will contribute towards children's vocabulary and knowledge but it also increases the exposure children have to the likes of:

- Spelling
- Grammar
- Writing
- Oral communication
- Critical thinking





## Big Breakfast Launch

Thank you to all of our families who joined our launch of Jubilee 2025 on Friday 24th January 2025.

Thank you to Victoria and Helena for preparing the wonderful breakfast and to all of you for writing your prayers.

We were grateful to Father Leo who was kept busy serving bacon rolls too!

Mrs Muscionico is preparing a display of these prayers in the school hall.



Toddler Drop in with refreshments

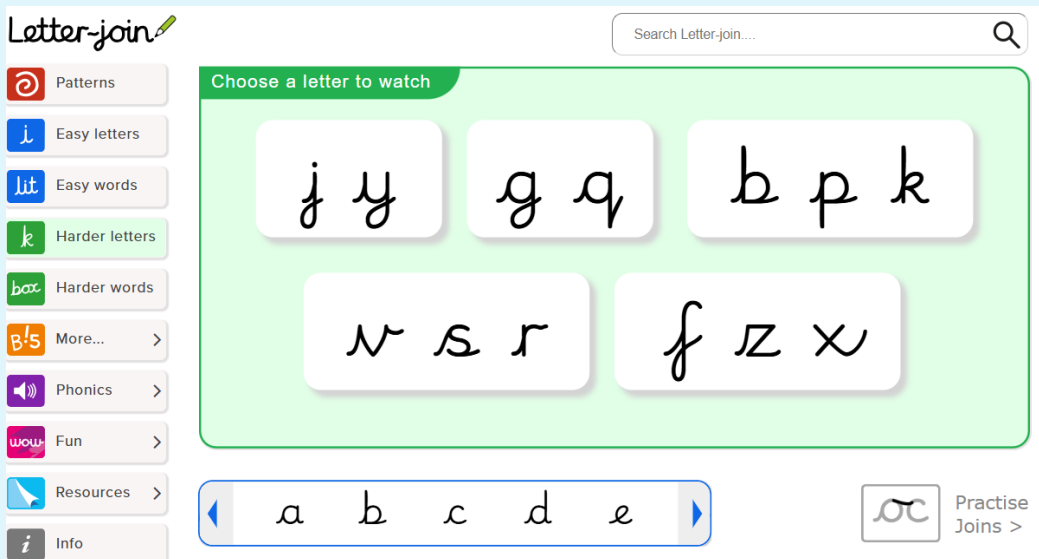


## Handwriting

The school font for handwriting is letter join and children have handwriting practice to help them develop joined up handwriting. Most Year 4 children use a pen. Mrs White checks their consistent presentation before awarding this.

Children aim to write in a consistent size, following the letter formation taught. Once they achieve fluency, their brains are able to move on to focus upon what they write, rather than how they are writing. It is always helpful to practice at home too, to build the stamina and proficiency to meet the required standards. In Year 6, children must join their letters to be secure in their writing skills

because this is a government set standard. The letter-join website includes videos that describe how to form eat letter in detail. There are also practice sheets to use at home.



Please ask your children's class teacher for help if you wish to login to the site and are having any difficulties.

# Letter-join whole school handwriting scheme

**Letter-join is a whole school handwriting scheme offering a combination of traditional and digital resources.**

These include classroom presentations, handwriting activities, online games and hundreds of worksheets using either a printed font, or a cursive font with or without a lead-in line. A school subscription includes free use for your pupils at home.

# School Governors

	Remit	Appointed By
<b>Bethan Byrne</b> bethanbyrne@stlouisacademy.co.uk	Co-Chair Health Safety	Parents
<b>Marc Walker</b> marcwalker@stlouisacademy.co.uk	Co-Chair	Diocese
<b>Kofi Atuah</b> kofiatuah@stlouisacademy.co.uk		Diocese
<b>Jennifer Balmer</b> jennybalmer@stlouisacademy.co.uk	SEND Vice Chair	Diocese
<b>Sue Blakeley (Headteacher)</b> sueblakeley@stlouisacademy.co.uk	-	-
<b>Charles Dore</b> charlesdore@stlouisacademy.co.uk	None	Diocese
<b>Fr Leonard Michael</b>	None	Diocese
<b>Ann Sugrue</b> annsugrue@stlouisacademy.co.uk	RE	Diocese
<b>Emily Burbridge</b> emilyburbridge@stlouisacademy.co.uk	Safeguarding & Attendance	Diocese
<b>Kiri Wyatt</b> senco@stlouisacademy.co.uk	-	Staff

## Crossing Rayes Lane and Fordham Road Safely

Where there is a pavement or footway, use it. Take care when crossing cycle and horse lanes on the road. Cyclists may be travelling quietly but can be faster than other traffic. If you are looking after someone younger than you, always hold their hand when on the road.

Remember to look both ways.

1. Find a safe place to cross.
2. Stop just before you get to the kerb.
3. Look all around for traffic and listen.
4. If traffic (horses too) are coming, let them pass.





# ONLINE CONTENT

## 10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.



1

### MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.



2

### CHECK ONLINE CONTENT

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.



3

### CHECK AGE-RATINGS

Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.



4

### CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.



5

### SPEND TIME ON THE APP

Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.



### LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE

Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.



7

### ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.



8

### LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.



9

### KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

If a child sees distressing material online; listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.



10

### SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT

If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.