



St Louis Catholic Academy News for Advent 2024



ADVENT AT ST LOUIS

It is Advent already and we are busy as we prepare for Christmas. This year, Reception are performing Nativity songs for parents in school and KS1 are planning to hold their Nativity performance in Church. We are grateful to Fr. Leo for allowing us to use the Church so that everyone can enjoy seeing this. We are very busy over coming weeks, so please check the school calendar regularly.

Our Cafod fundraisers will start next week as part of living out our Gospel Values of Justice, Service, Responsibility and Generosity.

God Bless

Sue Blakeley, Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Everyone is welcome to all Masses



DECEMBER

Friday 6th December at 2.30pm (NOT 2pm as previously advised)

Advent Service for families in Church with Fr Leo

9th December 9.15am EYFS performance in the hall

10th December Flu Immunisations taking place in School

12th December Flu Immunisations taking place in School

16th December at 2pm in church - KS1 Nativity in church

16th December 2024 starting at 3.45pm Choir Concert for KS2 children who attend choir in Hall

18th December Christmas Dinner – children wear party clothes

20th December at 2pm - Carol Service in church

2025

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

12th February KS2 Valentine Discos

13th February Reception and KS1 Valentine Discos

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

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



Thank you to our wonderful PTA for yet another brilliant Advent Fair. They raised **an amazing £2069.50** to go towards the trim trail and school.

Our PTA give so much time and energy towards fundraising for school and creating many opportunities to bring children and their families together.

Thank you also to all families who supported the PTA so generously.

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 6th December for an Advent Service in Church at 2.30pm. Everyone is welcome.



Cafod Fundraisers are held each week during Advent. 5th December 50p for a hot chocolate. For more events, read inside the newsletter.



Mrs Brankin has been meeting with School Council to discuss ways to improve school. Children from Year 1 upwards meet to share ideas and classes vote for their class representative to sit on School Council.

Children discuss a variety of subjects from improving playtimes, charity fundraising, saving energy to the school dinner menu.

Last year, school council's work helped us improve playtime sports equipment. Unfortunately, we need to replenish our stocks again because balls go astray often. We will challenge our School Council to help us with this.

Thank you Mrs Brankin for supporting our Councillors so well.



This Year, our Fairtrade Raffle at the Christmas Fair raised

£71 for CAFOD. The Lacey Family won the hamper and took home a bag full of treats. Thank you for helping to raise this fantastic amount to start us off raising funds in Advent.

Join in the other CAFOD Advent fundraisers

Thursday 5th December Hot Chocolate 50p

Please order by 4th Wednesday

Thursday 12th December KS1 fundraiser

Organized by the Phase

KS2 Mini Vinnie led fundraiser supported by Year 6

12th December EYFS – will have a snowman ice cream cone for 50p delivered to class by Mrs Blakeley. Please order by 11th December.

Thursday 19th December Hot Chocolate 50p

Please order by 18th December

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development



Christmas in the School Kitchen



Victoria and Helena are busy planning the annual Christmas Lunch. This will be served on Wednesday 18th December. We'll all

gather in the school hall, with phases eating together for their sitting. Victoria and her team will be working hard to make this celebration a great one for our children. We are so thrilled to welcome our nursery children to join us in the celebrations. The children come to the school hall for lunch daily as part of their preparations for Primary School.

As usual, school dinner registers will be taken on the morning of 18th December and children should let their Teacher know if they would like a Christmas Lunch or have a packed lunch from home. The cost will be £2.30 which is payable by topping up your child's dinner account on Arbor (free to children in Reception up to Year 2 and those entitled to free school meals).

Children can come to school dressed in their party clothes that day (no football kits please).

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 15 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

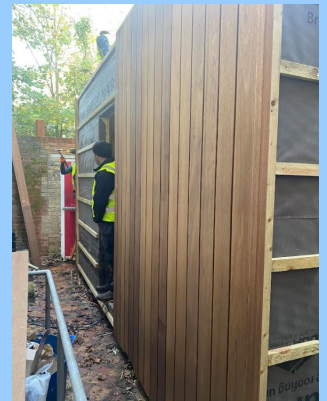
Bishop Peter has kindly agreed to celebrate Mass for the whole school, families and parishioners on 21st March. This will be followed by a blessing of the new Sisters of St Louis Wellbeing Hub. Sister Blathnaid from the St Louis Sisters will be flying over from Ireland to join us too.

The Sisters have funded this mental wellbeing hub and we have been sending regular updates about progress.

Eco Classrooms and Nurseries arrived on site in late November and work began with great pace. The building has arrived in sections and is built on site within our courtyard, beside the library. Made using highly insulated construction, the building will need little energy to use. There will be a walkway all around the light-filled room and calm areas for children to go.

The multi-purpose space will be used for parent outreach and workshops, therapies for children, a sensory space and a place to meet with other wellbeing professionals. Located in a courtyard, the building will have skylight views of the sky, be surrounded by a walkway to sit and be calm within and have wide glazed doors that allow the internal room to open up to the outside. We are currently approaching charities to assist us in purchasing the furniture and sensory equipment that we'd like to use in this new room, pots and planting for outdoors. If you know of potential sponsors, please let us know.

We have taken the reception children over to see the building grow. They loved seeing the giant screws that have been drilled into the ground to create a platform for the base of the hub to sit upon.



OUR PRAYERS DURING THE SEASON OF ADVENT

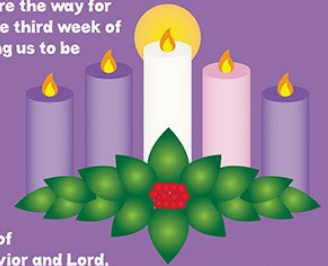
We to continue come together as a whole school for lighting of our Advent wreath in the hall this year. We come together in prayer in many ways.

On Mondays we hold Gospel Assemblies in the hall with children leading some of the prayers.

On Tuesdays, we hold Celebration Assembly on alternate weeks for KS1 and Reception or KS2. Wednesday is a time for prayer in class. On Thursdays, children sing together in the hall. Our Year 6 Chaplains help prepare and lead Friday whole school assemblies. We use TenTen Catholic resources to support our daily classroom prayer life and each day starts with a reflection and prayer linked to the Monday assembly theme of the Gospel. Children are being increasingly supported to lead and develop the prayer life in their classrooms and wider school. Each class has their own advent wreath as a symbols of Advent and stimulus for prayer and reflection.

THE ADVENT WREATH

An Advent wreath is a circle of evergreen branches, with four candles that represent the four weeks of Advent. Three of the candles are purple, reminding us to pray and offer up little sacrifices to help prepare the way for Jesus. The candle for the third week of Advent is rose, reminding us to be joyful since the birth of Jesus is drawing near. Some Advent wreaths include a white Christ candle which is lit at Christmas Eve or on Christmas Day, symbolizing Jesus, the Son of God and son of Mary, born to be our Savior and Lord.



Our Advent journey



Week 1:
Hope



Week 2:
Peace



Week 3:
Joy



Week 4:
Love

Missio

Missio ignites God's love by helping local missionaries to work alongside global communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief.

Sometimes this need might be very specific: a motorbike for a Priest to celebrate Mass in remote villages; a simple community hall so people can gather together; vaccinations to protect vulnerable children. Whatever our missionaries need to help them share the joy of the Gospel, Missio strives to provide it.

By [supporting Missio](#), you play a vital part in creating a vibrant Catholic Church for the future.

Visit the online [Advent Calendar - Missio](#)

To support you in your Advent observance, our online Advent Calendar includes daily scripture, a small reflection or thought for the day, and an invitation to join us in prayer and contemplation. We also invite you to pray daily for missionaries, and the people they accompany around the world. By Christmas Eve you will have prayed for our sisters and brothers in all the countries supported directly by Missio England and Wales. ***Thank you for joining us this Advent!***



Jubilee 2025

Find out more about the 2025 Jubilee Year

[Jubilee 2025](#)

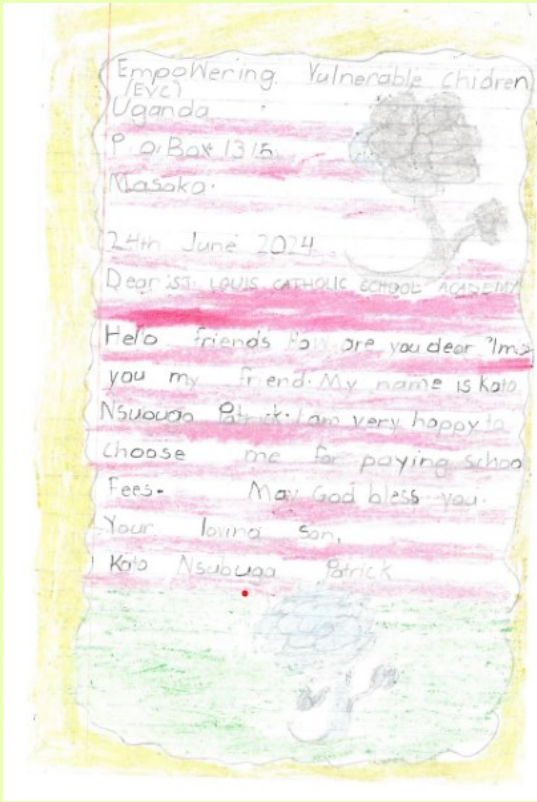
Our Lady Immaculate & St Etheldreda Newmarket

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.

Mini Vinnies

Our wonderful Mini Vinnies have been busy writing letters to send to Patrick. Our families support Patrick to attend school and we will have a fundraiser in February to pay for his next school year.

Patrick writes to let us know how he is progressing in his school in Uganda.



Our children wrote to tell him about their term in school and what they are learning.

We fundraised with All Saints Primary School last year and hope that they will join with us again.

Our children understand that not all children around the world are able to access an 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.

We will continue to discuss safety around school with the Suffolk County Council. If you have any concerns, you can email:

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

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



We Remembered

On 11th November, we all took part in Remembrance Prayers and classes laid their wreaths in our Prayer Garden.

We all assembled in the Hall for our collective silence.





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 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

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

DROP AND SHOP

Premier Education | INSPIRING ACTIVITY

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION
or visit premier-education.com/holiday-camps

Trustpilot 4.7/5
Based on over 20,000 reviews

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

Mental Wellbeing Support

From time to time, children in school become anxious. We have many ways to support each individual child to meet their distinct needs. Mrs Wyatt and Mrs Conway are our named Mental Health Leads in school and Emily Burbridge is our Lead Safeguarding Governor who oversees our school wide wellbeing support. We have Mental Health First Aiders in every phase who look out for signs of anxiety, Drawing and Talking trained staff to support children over the longer term and wider special support that we may need to support families to access. We have a staff member trained in Sand Play Therapy and another in Lego Therapy.

Sometimes, external specialist trained adults come into school to support children too.

You can find resources to help at home

Young Minds [Parents Mental Health Support | Advice for Your Child | YoungMinds](#)

NHS [Children's mental health - Every Mind Matters - NHS](#)

BBC [Five ways to help with children's wellbeing - BBC Teach](#)



Suffolk Family Carers

We have a number of registered Young Carers in school. Suffolk Family Carers provide support and some great experiences for these children. There are many different reasons to be registered, including, living with a family member impacted by cancer, sharing a home with someone who is disabled, or experiencing bereavement of a parent. Sue Blakeley is happy to make a referral on your behalf.

[Suffolk Family Carers | Support for unpaid family carers](#)

