



St Aidan's Catholic Primary School



Welcome Newsletter – Autumn Term 2025

From the Headteacher's Desk

A New Chapter Begins

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am honoured and delighted to be writing to you as the new Headteacher of St Aidan's Catholic Primary School. Having been part of this wonderful school community for many years, I feel incredibly proud to now serve in this new role — and deeply committed to ensuring the very best for every child in our care.

Building on Strong Foundations

St Aidan's has always been a place where children are nurtured, supported, and inspired. As someone who knows the staff, pupils, and families well, I bring with me not only experience but a strong sense of what makes our school special. My goal is to build on this, and to make sure that we continue to grow, adapt, and improve — especially in the quality of education we provide.

Our Vision for 2025–2026

This year, I will be working closely with staff, governors, and you — our parents and carers — to:

- Strengthen the curriculum so that it challenges, excites, and supports every learner.
- Raise expectations and outcomes for all children, across all year groups.
- Ensure every child is seen, valued, and given the right support to flourish academically, socially, and spiritually.
- Reinforce our school's Catholic values through everything we do — love, respect, service, and community.

Partnership with Parents

We know that children do best when schools and families work closely together. Communication will be a big focus for us this year. You can expect:

- Regular newsletters to keep you updated.
- Opportunities to meet with staff, including myself.
- More chances to come into school and see your child's learning in action.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas. I am always happy to speak with you.

A Warm Welcome to All

To our new families joining us for the first time: welcome! We're so pleased to have you as part of our school community. And to our returning families: thank you for your continued support and trust.

September will see us welcome Mr Whitelaw, Mr Smith and Mr Barnett as permanent members of our teaching staff and we are happy that Miss Purdy will be with us in the new academic year as she continues to support the school as an HLTA.

See below for the full staff plan:

Year group	Teacher:	Teaching assistant
EYFS	Miss Wright (EYFS Lead)	Miss Halliwell/Mrs Dodds
EYFS	Mrs Traba	Miss Halliwell/Mrs Dodds
Year 1	Mr Barnett	Mrs Gibson
Year 2	Miss Givens (KS1 Lead)	Miss Scott
Year 3	Miss Carrie	Mrs Poynton
Year 4	Mr Whitelaw	Mrs Parker
Year 5	Mr Smith	Mrs Waggott
Year 6	Miss Farrar (Deputy Headteacher)	Mrs Waggott

Parking: I want to take this opportunity to remind **ALL** parents to continue to park safely and respectfully.

Every Day Counts

A key focus for us this year is making sure that every child is in school, on time, every day.

Regular attendance is absolutely vital to your child's learning, confidence, and sense of belonging. Even small amounts of time missed — a day here or there, or frequent lateness — can quickly add up and leave gaps in their understanding.

We know there are times when children are unwell or when families face challenges, and we're here to support you. But we ask all families to do everything they can to:

- Make sure children arrive on time and ready to learn by 8:45am
- Avoid taking term-time holidays
- Keep us informed if there's a genuine reason for absence

Let's work together to give your child the very best chance to thrive.

School uniform and equipment:

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of our uniform policy. Our high standards continue to remain a focus. Our school uniform policy is available on the school website. We will continue to ask pupils in KS2 to wear their PE kits to school on their PE days; however, this should only be navy shorts/leggings/jogging pants, a blue T shirt/polo shirt, and their school jumper, with trainers. Reception and KS1 pupils should bring their PE kit into school; they will remain in school for the half term. This is in order to support physical development and self-help skills. If any parents require support with school uniforms we have a large supply of donated uniforms that can be requested by contacting the school office.

Roof work:

Thank you for your understanding with the on-going work on the school roof, some scaffolding will hopefully be down by the end of the second week of term, allowing families to enter school site through the regular entry gates. Other scaffolding will remain and we will have to continue to modify other school procedures. We ask that you remain patient while this work continues. We are hoping all work will be complete by the middle of October.

Investing in the Whole Child

At St Aidan's, we believe that education is about much more than just what happens in the classroom. This year, we are excited to introduce two new initiatives that will help support our pupils' physical, emotional and social development:

OPAL Play (Outdoor Play and Learning)

We are thrilled to be launching the OPAL Play program this year — a nationally recognised approach to improving playtimes. Through OPAL, we are transforming our outdoor spaces and rethinking how play is structured, so that all children benefit from active, imaginative and inclusive play every day.

Research shows that high-quality play boosts children's wellbeing, learning, physical health, and even behaviour back in the classroom. You may start to see children coming home a bit muddier — but rest assured, that's the sign of happy, active learners!

Commando Joe's – Character Education Through Adventure

We are also introducing Commando Joe's, a program that uses team challenges and missions (inspired by real-life explorers and heroes) to develop children's character, leadership, and resilience.

Through these activities, children will learn to:

- Work together and solve problems
- Develop determination, empathy, and respect
- Build self-belief and perseverance

This aligns beautifully with our school's Catholic values and our vision of nurturing confident, kind, and capable young people. We're very proud to be bringing these initiatives to St Aidan's, and we'll keep you updated as they develop. We're also keen to hear your feedback and share the children's successes with you as the term goes on.

There's lots to look forward to this academic year. Let's make this year one of joy, growth, and achievement for every child.

With warmest wishes,

Mrs Julie Teer
Headteacher