

St. Augustine's CE Primary School

Newsletter 11 - 31st March 2023



Message from the Head of Primary

It has been wonderful to be back in school after such a long time working from home and I would like to thank everyone for the very warm welcome back that I have received. I have really enjoyed catching up with the children and meeting our newer pupils. It has been great to see how much the children are enjoying their time in school and their learning.

I would like to say a big thank you to Mr Fansler and to all of the staff team who helped to make Science Week such a great success. Read on for more details about how we celebrated Science Week.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Easter Bonanza on Wednesday and well done to the children and their teachers who worked so hard to prepare for this event. I would also like to congratulate all of the children who designed and made their own Easter bonnets and took part in our Easter bonnet parade on Thursday. Our thanks go to Mrs Cunningham for organising the Easter Bonanza and making it such a success.

I would like to wish you all a very happy holiday and a happy Easter to those of you who celebrate it. I look forward to seeing the children return to school, ready for the Summer term, on **Monday 17th April**.

Ruth Vince, Head of Primary

Celebrations Assembly

Wonderful Work 23rd March

Reception - Zayan

Year 1 - Ramh

Year 2 - Joud

Year 3 - Nour

Year 4 - Ali J

Year 5 - Naba

Year 6 - Reem



Shining Stars 31st March

Reception - Ali

Year 1 - Qais

Year 2 - Aliyah

Year 3 - Year 3 class

Year 4 - Rijad

Year 5 - Lea

Year 6 - Las



Attendance and Punctuality



Sadly, despite a very pleasing 95.3% attendance figure last week, it has once again fallen well below the national expectation this week, which is the week before a school holiday. This week's attendance is a very worrying 91.4%. We will be contacting the families of children with attendance below 90% (which means that they are classed as persistent absentees) after the Easter holiday to look for ways to improve their attendance before the end of the academic year. In a number of cases, these are children who have been taken out of school during term time to visit relatives without our agreement. This means that these absences are classed as unauthorised absences and may well lead to fines.

Congratulations to **Year 6** who have won the attendance cup over the past two weeks!

To be the best that we can be in faith, hope and love so that we may live life in all its fullness

Our Value for this half is Wisdom



I have been really impressed by how knowledgeable our children are about this half term's value of Wisdom and how well they have been demonstrating this in all aspects of school life since I have been back in school. This week, classes have been discussing what they think it means to show wisdom in our lives and the staff have been really impressed by how much the children know and understand about this value and how the children have been able to make connections with their own lives and experiences. Please try to find time to talk about this with your children.

School Uniform

Please use the Easter holiday to ensure that your child has the correct school uniform, which includes a white shirt, grey trousers or skirt and a navy blue jumper. I have noticed that a few children are wearing black jumpers or hoodies, neither of which are in our uniform policy, which can be found on our website in the Parents section. You can also speak to a member of SLT on the gate, or contact the school office, if you are unsure about what we expect with regard to school uniform.

Also, despite many reminders, some children are wearing trainers with coloured markings, or in colours other than black. Our uniform policy clearly states that shoes and trainers must be all black. Please use the school holiday to make sure that your child has the correct footwear when they return to school for the summer term. If a child continues to wear the wrong colour trainers, we will be calling and asking you to bring in another pair of shoes for your child. Thank you to the majority of parents who do ensure that their children are wearing the correct footwear.

Easter Bonanza and Easter Bonnet Parade

Thank you to everyone who came to the Easter Bonanza after school on Wednesday and bought items that the children had made, including chocolate nests, rabbit puppets, decorated eggs and the splendid slime that Year 5 created. This is what Ms Adams had to say about the Year 4 activity:

Year 4 pupils thoroughly enjoyed creating Easter handprints and posters, fostering a sense of collaboration and community within the classroom. The children were delighted to see their efforts come to life, imagining people buying and displaying their creations in their homes. There was a high level of parental involvement and satisfaction, and the activity was a wonderful expression of the joy and hope that Easter represents as an important aspect of our school's ethos. Overall, the Easter craft activity was a resounding success, and we are incredibly proud of the children's creativity and hard work. **Ms Adams**

It was wonderful to see so many fantastic Easter bonnets during our Easter Bonnet parade on Thursday. Mrs Antoine had a very difficult time choosing the winners from each class because of the amazing creativity that all of the children who took part demonstrated. These are our winners: Alexandra in Reception, Daniel in Year 1, Rina in Year 2 and Jeziah in Year 3.

Congratulations to all of the children who took part.



Dates for Your Diary

Easter Holiday	Mon 3rd - Fri 14th April	Coronation Bank Holiday (school closed)	Mon 8th May
Start of Summer term	Mon 17th April	Year 5 class assembly	Fri 12th May
Take One Sculptor Week	Mon 17th - Fri 21st April	Year 6 SATs tests	Tues 9th - Fri 12th May
Year 1 class assembly	Fri 28th April	Year 2 SATs week	Mon 15th - Fri 19th May
Bank Holiday (school closed)	Mon 1st May	Year 4 class assembly	Fri 19th May

Science Week - Connections



At St Augustine's Primary, we recently celebrated British Science Week. This year's science theme was 'Connections' - an apt theme for British Science Week as we celebrate togetherness following a period where isolation was a sad but necessarily reality for many. Pupils across all year groups participated in science activities that explored this theme and Mr Fansler held a special school assembly in which the connection between climate change and human activity was explored as a whole school.



Dear Parents, please have a short discussion with your child about how our actions affect the environment of our planet and what we can do to protect the one place we all call home. **Ms Fansler**

During Science week, Nursey explored the different buildings that make up a farm and how different animals have different needs. These are some pictures that show our representations of different farm habitats. **Ms Ricart**



In Year 3, the children had great fun learning about the individuality of their fingerprints. The children were engaged and enthusiastic. **Mrs Toussaint**



Our Year 4 pupils participated in a thrilling experiment during British Science Week that left them bubbling with excitement. As one of our pupils exclaimed, "It was so cool to see the fizzy explosion and the colours mixing together!" By combining bicarbonate of soda, vinegar, and food colouring, the pupils created a visually stunning display of colours that produced carbon dioxide gas. Another pupil shared, "I learned that vinegar is acidic and bicarbonate of soda is alkaline, and when they mix together, they make carbon dioxide gas." Through this experiment, our young scientists were able to deepen their understanding of the chemical process at work and whether the reaction was reversible or irreversible. This hands-on experience not only generated enthusiasm and curiosity amongst our students but also sparked a love for science and discovery. **Ms Adams**



Year 6 had a great time, designing making and testing parachutes. They had to decide which was the best material for their parachute, using their knowledge of the properties of a variety of materials to help them to make their choice. They then tested their parachutes to see which took the longest time to return to earth.

Safeguarding - Parents/Carers in the School Building

Since my return to school, I have noticed that a few parents and carers are coming into the school building at the start and end school day without being signed in at the office. In order to ensure safeguarding and the safety of all pupils and staff, this cannot happen.

If you need to contact your child's teacher, please speak to them in the playground at the end of the day during pick-up, or speak to Mrs Wiggins or Mrs Shah in the school office, who will pass on any messages.

Any parents/carers found to be in the building during the school day - except those attending meetings or workshops - will be asked to leave immediately. We appreciate your support in this to ensure the children's safety

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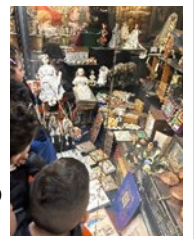
Red Nose Day and Talent Show—Friday 17th March

In recognition of Comic Relief and Red Nose Day, St Augustine's hosted their annual talent show on March 17th. There were over 20 courageous acts to fill our Comic Relief afternoon and the talent did not disappoint. We had a lot of wonderful singing and dancing, as well as joke telling and even an instrument! It was an extremely hard decision for the judges to choose the top four performances. In the end George in Year 6 stole the show, followed by Sukayna and Joshua V in Year 3, Giorgi in Year 5 and Ledion, Janiah and Malak in Year 6. We are incredibly proud of all the pupils who took part in the performances, and we hope to see just as much talent next year! **Ms Bettoni**



Year 1 Visit to the Brands Museum

Year 1 had a brilliant visit to The Museum of Brands. They went on a fascinating time tunnel journey where they saw toys from 200 years ago. They compared the designs and materials of toys from the past to the present. As well as that, they designed their own toys and thought carefully about what materials they would use to make their own toy. **Ms Ludolf**



Online Safety Message

As a parent or carer, you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online. With the increased use of technology, children and young people's lives have changed dramatically. While the internet is a great way for children and young people to communicate with each other, play games, find out information and be creators, it can also bring risks.

Please use the following links to keep up to date with online safety and what you can do to keep your children safe online:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://www.childnet.com/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Also, The National Online Safety website has a great safety poster on 'Safe and Healthy Online Habits' with tips and advice on building a child and young person's digital resilience by equipping them to deal with dangers. Their #WakeUpWednesday guide has a selection of tips for encouraging safe and healthy online habits. This is available to view on the school website. **Mrs Donato**

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/safe-and-healthy-habits-online>



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Headteacher's Award

Well done to the children who have been awarded a Headteacher's certificate over the past two weeks for demonstrating our school values of friendship, respect, inclusion, wisdom, honesty and courage:

Well done to these children who have achieved the Bronze Headteacher's certificate for achieving 100 Dojos:

Year 6: Zein, Muhammed, Las

Congratulations to these children who have achieved the Silver Headteacher's certificate for achieving 200 Dojos:

Year 5: Rafif, Samar and Shaam

Well done to these children who have achieved the Gold Headteacher's certificate for achieving 300 Dojos:

Reception: Amine, Jamal, Kamel, Leena, Manessa, Seren, Stephanie, Sultan, Yad, Yara and Zayaan

Year 1: Ali K and Inaaya

Year 3: Joshua V, Adam, Amira, Eveen, Malaak and Khatab.

Year 4: Janine, Omahn, and Lanwe

Year 5: Brianna, Georgi, Islam, Jawid, Lea, Mahamud, Sophia,

Congratulations to these children who have been awarded the Platinum Headteacher's certificate for achieving an amazing 400 Dojos:

Reception: Adam, Jad, Monaco, Hakim, Aleen, Mark and Morocco

Year 1: Dior, Faiyaz and Shyla

Year 3: Sukayna, Joshua S, Mariam, Amira, Jeziah, Hala, Mahdi and Fatima



Phone calls regarding absence due to visits to relatives

A few parents/carers have been phoning the school office at short notice to report that their child/children will not be in school due to a family visit to a sick relative. I need to inform you that we have to record such absences as unauthorised because the correct procedures have not been followed. This means that fines may be issued to these parents/carers as the absence has not been agreed and evidence to support the request has not been provided.

As I have stated a number of times through both newsletters and letters, parents/carers **must** complete an Application for Time Off During Term Time form, which can be requested from the office, if they wish to take their child out of school during term time, as attendance is compulsory for all children of school age and permission for absence during school time can only be agreed in exceptional circumstances.

www.st-augustines-primary.co.uk