

# St. Augustine's CE Primary School

## Newsletter 2 - 30th September 2022



### Message from the Head of Primary

It hard to believe that we are already at the end of September and over halfway through the half term! It has been wonderful to hear how much the children have been enjoying being back in school over the past four weeks and how enthusiastic they are about their topics for this half term. Our Nursery and Reception staff have been particularly impressed by how well the children have settled and have enjoyed watching them grow in confidence over the past few weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Ms Adams, who joined the staff team this week. She is teaching Year 4 and has enjoyed meeting and getting to know the class. I know that you will join me in welcoming her to St Augustine's.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who helped to organise and run our Autumn Fair last Thursday and all of you who came to the fair. It sounds as though it was a wonderful evening and over £600 was raised for the school!

Ruth Vince, Head of Primary

### Autumn Fair



Thank you to everyone for a wonderful and successful Autumn Fair. We managed to raise just over £600 for the school! It was lovely to see so many families in the playground, taking part in the activities and rummaging through the stalls. Congratulations to the raffle winners and a huge thank you to all parents and other adults who assisted with the running and set up of the fair. We really appreciate your on-going support and are very much looking forward to the next big whole school event! Miss Bettoni.

### Celebrations Assembly

#### Shining Stars

Year 1 - Hussein

Year 2 - Hossein

Year 3 - Raef

Year 4 - Abdallah

Year 5 - Giorgi

Year 6 - Janiah



#### Wonderful Work

Year 1 - Mazim

Year 2 - Ziad

Year 3 - Mahdi

Year 4 - Joshua

Year 5 - Sophia

Year 6 - Nabil



### Attendance and Punctuality

Sadly, attendance was only **94.6%** over the past week, which is well below our target of at least 96%. Although this is a slight improvement on previous weeks, it's really important that we all work together to ensure excellent attendance. Please don't book medical appointments during the school day, unless these are unavoidable hospital appointments. Also please think carefully about whether your child is well enough to be in school and do not keep them at home with minor coughs and colds

Congratulations to **Year 4 and Year 6** who have been the winners of 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 this term is friendship



In our Values Collective Worship, we have been exploring what a friend is. We have talked about how a good friend is faithful, reliable, has an interest in sharing their thoughts with you, is neighbourly, dependable and is someone special who makes you happy and will always care about you. This led to us looking at the Bible story 'Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man' in Luke 5. 17-26, which is about four friends who take their paralysed friend to see Jesus. The value of friendship is shown through the loyalty of the man's friends and the faith that they had in Jesus. This faith encouraged Jesus to perform miracles. Ms Ludolf

## Black History Month 2022

During October, we will once again be celebrating Black History Month, a celebration of black history that takes place every year throughout the month of October. During the month, the children will have the opportunity to learn about the history of black people from Britain and around the world through collective worship, stories, films, research projects and the wider curriculum. We will also be celebrating the achievements of inspiring black British role models, including sports people, authors, politicians, poets, actors, inventors and musicians.

As part of Black History Month, we will be asking all children to complete a home learning project about a key figure from an African, Caribbean or African-American background who has made an important contribution to society around the world. Mrs Toussaint will be sending more information about this to you next week.

## National Poetry Day

We are delighted to announce that we will once again be celebrating **National Poetry Day** this year on Thursday 7th October with a special Poetry Day assembly during which some children will be performing poems. All children will be asked to learn a poem that they will be given for homework. They will have a week to learn the poem then recite it to their class. Each class will then select a child to perform their poem in our special Poetry Day assembly. Please support your child with this and also share your favourite poems and rhymes with your children at home.

## Harvest Festival at St Augustine's

We celebrated harvest this year with a special Harvest Collective Worship in school on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> September, during which we thought about our responsibility for caring for one another and the importance of sharing with others. This is linked back to our school vision - specifically love. The children enjoyed singing some harvest songs that they have been learning this term. Each class also focused on a colour and thought of all the things in nature that we can attribute to that colour and for which we are grateful. They then presented their ideas during the assembly in many different ways in order to create a Harvest Rainbow.

Thank you for your generous donations to our Harvest Festival collective worship. The food will be distributed to local people in need, in partnership with the Church.



Year 1 artwork

## Dates For Your Diary

National Poetry Day	Thurs 7th Oct	Author Workshop and Assembly	Fri 14th Oct
Year 5 Sharing Assembly	Fri 14th Oct	Year 3 Stone Age Workshop	Wed 19th Oct
Y6 Outward Bound Week	Mon 17th - Fri 21st Oct	Parent Coffee Morning	Wed 19th Oct
Year 3 Sharing Assembly	Fri 21st Oct	Half term:	Mon 24th - Fri 28th Oct

## COVID Updates

As I am sure you are aware, COVID cases are beginning to rise again. We are continuing to encourage all members of the school community to maintain social distancing where possible; ensuring good hygiene procedures including regular hand washing/sanitizing and 'catch-it, bin it, kill it; and maintaining good ventilation throughout the school buildings.

If your child has mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or a slight cough but is otherwise well, DfE guidance states that they can and should continue to attend school. Children who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can return to school and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend school.

## Secondary Transfer Meeting - Thursday 13th October

The closing date for applications to secondary schools for 2022 is Monday 31st October. Parents of children in Year 6 **must** submit an application form by this time, otherwise your child will not be considered for a place until after everyone else has accepted their places in March or April of next year. This is also the procedure you must follow if you are applying for a place at St Augustine's CE High School. The easiest way to make your application is online. If you need any help with this process, please see Mrs Laouar or Mrs Wiggins.

To help you to make your application, we have arranged a meeting about the process for applying for Secondary school places on Thursday 13th October at 3:45pm in the school hall. At this meeting, an Admissions Manager for Westminster will explain how to make an online application and will be able to answer any questions that you have about the process.

## Author Visit - Eloise Smith

The author Eloise Smith visited our school on the 16<sup>th</sup> September. She is an Olympic standard fencer and allowed some children to try on her fencing attire. She also read parts of her new book 'Sister to a Star' to the children. Many children purchased her book and she kindly signed copies for the children. She is currently writing her next book and she has promised to come back to our school to share it when it is published. Mrs Toussaint.



## School Vision

During Collective Worship on Tuesdays, we have been exploring our school vision, *"As a community, we try to 'be the best we can be' in every aspect of our lives as we grow in the Christian virtues of **Faith, Hope and Love.**" (1 Corinthians 13).*

We have looked at the Christian virtues of faith, hope and love individually:

Faith - we trust in God and his promises.

Hope - we have a confidence that God will always provide.

Love - unselfish love for others, Jesus being the ultimate example.

Next week we are going to look further into how we can *grow as a community* with *faith* giving meaning in what we do, *hope* that our hard work will make a difference, and *love* in doing things for others.

This week we connected our vision to the Harvest Festival - the children showed how brilliantly they are understanding and living out our school vision. (Get them to show you the actions!). Mrs Cunningham.

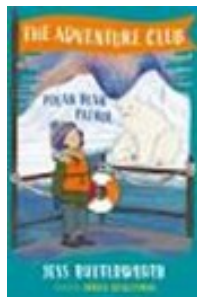
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## Author Visit - Jess Butterworth



The author, Jess Butterworth will be visiting the school on Friday 14th October. She will be spending then morning running writing workshops with Year 6, who are studying her book, 'Running on the Roof of the World' as part of their English curriculum this term. She will also be delivering a special assembly for children in other year groups and will talking to them about the writing process and sharing her new book, Adventure Club: Polar Bear Patrol.

## Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

At the beginning of the term, the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors were involved in a training session run by The Diana Award that focussed on anti-racist bullying. This training was a continuation of, and addition to, the initial training the ambassadors completed last year. The training allowed us to understand how racism can affect people's lives and provided us with some wonderful actions that we can put in place to ensure that St Augustine's Primary School remains inclusive and safe for all. Ms Bettoni

## Meet Our New Sports Coach - Cyrus Vanterpool

We would like to introduce Cyrus Vanterpool to you. Mr V has joined us from *Let's Leap Sports Academy* and will be running our Physical Education lessons from Reception to Year 6. He will also be in the playgrounds during playtimes and lunchtimes, introducing a range of sporting activities, supporting games and encouraging children to become more physically active. Mr V will be working closely with our soon-to-be selected sports councillors, helping them to develop sport and physical activity across the school.

Mr V also runs three multi-sports after school clubs on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for children of a variety of ages. There are still some places available in these after school clubs, so please inquire at the office if you are interested.



## Allergy Forms

Our school meals provider, Harrisons, have asked for all parents with a child who has an allergy to complete a new allergy form in accordance with the company's policy. If you are a parent of a child with a food allergy, please come into school so you can complete your form as soon as is possible. Mrs George, our first-aid officer, will also be phoning parents of children with known allergies to invite them into school to complete the form.