

St. Augustine's CE Primary School

Newsletter 2 - 23rd September 2021



Message from the Head of Primary

What a fantastic first three weeks of term we have had and it has certainly flown by! Our new Nursery and Reception children have settled really well and are growing in confidence. The rest of the children have returned to school with very a great deal of enthusiasm and energy and are clearly enjoying their learning. We have also selected our new school council for this year and I know that they are going to be fantastic representatives for their classes. You can read more about them on page 3 of this newsletter.

I would like to thank you for making sure that almost all children are arriving at school on time in the mornings. This helps to prepare them for the day and means that they are not missing out on any learning.

Finally, I am delighted to announce that we will be celebrating **National Poetry Day** this year on Thursday 7th October with a very special Poetry Day assembly during which some children will be performing poems. For homework, we will be asking the children to learn one of the poems that their teacher will be giving them. They will have a week to learn the poem then they will have a chance to recite it to their class. Each class will then select a child to represent them and 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.



Ruth Vince, Head of Primary

Celebrations Assembly

Shining Stars



Year 1 - Lareen
Year 2 - Sukayna
Year 3 - Amir
Year 4 - Ayah O
Year 5 - Janiah
Year 6 - Ayub



Wonderful Work



Year 1 - Basma
Year 2 - Milena
Year 3 - Bruno
Year 4 - Yahia
Year 5 - Salma
Year 6 - Madihah



Attendance and Punctuality

Sadly, attendance was only **94.5%** over the past week, which is well below our target of at least 96%. Let's all try really hard over the next two weeks to reach our target of 96% attendance.

Congratulations to **Year 5 and Year 3** 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 collective worship, the children have been thinking about the power of words and the importance of stopping to think before we speak. We have also been thinking about how sharing our worries with someone we trust can make them smaller and more manageable. This week, we discussed how Jesus gathered a group of friends around him—the disciples—and how this shows that friends are with us through good and bad times.



Black History Month 2021

Once again, we will be celebrating Black History Month, a celebration of black history that takes place throughout the month of October every year. Through Black History Month in the UK celebrates the history, arts and culture of black British people. During the month, the children will have the opportunity to learn about the history of black people from Britain and around the world through stories, films, collective worship, 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, African-American or Caribbean background who has made an important contribution to society around the world. More information about this will be sent to you next week.

Uniform



Please do not send your child to school in a hoodie. This is not part of our school uniform. If you would like a uniform list, please look on the school website or ask in the office.

Harvest Festival at St Augustine's



We are excited to be able to come together again as a whole school to celebrate harvest this year with a special Harvest Assembly in school next **Tuesday, 28th September**. The children will be singing some harvest songs and thinking about the importance of harvest and of sharing with others. Harvest gives us an opportunity to be thankful for everything we have and to show appreciation for the food that is produced for us. We also have a responsibility for caring for one another and Harvest is a time when we can help others. We are therefore asking all children to please bring a non-perishable item of food or drink to the school office by Tuesday 28th September (e.g. cans of food, dried pasta or rice, biscuits, teabags etc.) The food will be donated to the local foodbank, in partnership with the Church, and distributed to local people in need.

Dates For Your Diary

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Harvest Festival | Tuesday 28th September |
| Y5/Y6 Science workshops | Tuesday 5th October |
| Y6 Secondary transition meeting | Wednesday 6th October |
| National Poetry Day | Thursday 7th October |
| Half term: | Mon 26th - Fri 30th October |

Toys and Games



I would like to remind you that children should not be bringing any toys or games into school. This includes Pop Its. If teachers do see a child with a toy, it will be taken away from them and returned to their parent/carer at the end of the day. Also, children should not be wearing jewellery in school.

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School Council

On Tuesday afternoon, the School Council had their first meeting for the new school year. Our school councillors have been elected by their classes to represent each year group and the school. The first meeting was extremely successful. The councillors have so many brilliant ideas and thoughts that we already want to start moving forward with. We discussed what the roles and responsibilities of the School Council would be and how we were going to do the best that we can in the position that we hold. The councillors discussed and debated what is great about our school and how we can make it an even better place for everyone. I look forward to our future meetings and want to say a big congratulations to all of the School Councillors on such a constructive, positive first meeting. Ms Bettoni



Secondary Transfer Meeting - Wednesday 6th October

The closing date for applications to secondary schools for 2021 is Sunday 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. The easiest way to make your application is online. If you need any help with this process, please see Mrs Laouar, Mrs Wiggins or Miss Vince.

To help you to make your application, we have arranged a meeting about the process for applying for Secondary school places on Wednesday 6th October at 3:45pm in the school hall. At this meeting, Douglas Shaw, the 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.

Illness

If your child is feeling ill, please remember to call the office as soon as possible. If they are displaying any COVID symptoms - a persistent cough, a high temperature (over 38) or no sense of taste or smell - then you must keep your child at home and book a test immediately. Please contact the school office so that remote learning can be provided. Pupils under the age of 18 years and 6 months and fully vaccinated adults do not need to isolate if someone in their house or someone they are in close contact with tests positive. Close contacts will be advised to get a PCR test but do not have to isolate while they wait for the results. If the PCR comes back positive, then they must complete the full 10 days of isolation from the date of their test.

Please remember, children do not need to be absent from school if they have a normal cold without any of the Covid symptoms.

Cooking Club

There have been some amazing aromas drifting out of the DT and cookery room over the past two Wednesdays. It's all down to our new cooking club, led by Mrs Toussaint and Ms Ricart. So far the children have made potatoes



bravas and stuffed peppers and they're really enjoying every minute of it—even peeling onions! Having seen what they've produced, I think we have some very promising chefs of the future at our school.

