

ST AUGUSTINE'S Primary School

8th December
2023 Newsletter 5



We want all of our community to have equal opportunities to experience life in all its fulness (John 10: 10). We encourage all community members to “be the best we can be” in every aspect of their lives as we grow in, and reflect on, the Christian virtues of Faith, Hope and Love (1Corinthians 13).

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF PRIMARY

This term has flown by and it's hard to believe that we have less than two weeks left. The children are really enjoying the new units of learning that we have introduced this year and have achieved a great deal, of which they should be very proud. It has been a pleasure to visit classes over the past few weeks to talk to children about their learning.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for the fantastic support for the school that you have shown over the past term. It was great to see so many of you at the Parent Meetings last week. The teachers enjoyed meeting you and sharing information about your child's learning and progress with you. If you were unable to attend your parent meeting for any reason, please contact your child's teacher to arrange a time to meet before the end of term.

We have a very busy two weeks ahead, with lots of fun-filled festive events. Our nativity performances will be taking place on

Wednesday 20th December from 2 pm in St Augustine's Church and we would like to invite all parents/carers to join us. We will be enjoying a very special Christmas lunch on Thursday 14th December and Christmas Jumper Day is on Friday 15th December (see below for more details). Class parties will be held on Tuesday 19th December and School will finish at 1:30 pm on Thursday 21st December.

Ruth Vince, Head of Primary

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Christmas lunch will be served on Thursday 14th December. Children who usually bring a packed lunch can have a free school Christmas lunch if they would like. Please ask your child whether they would like to have a school Christmas lunch next Thursday if they usually bring in a packed lunch.

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ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to Year 6 who won the attendance award last week and years 4 and 5 who won this week.

Our attendance was 94.4% last week and overall attendance has been 94.4% since the start of the academic year. This continues to be higher than this time last year, but we can do even better. Once again, please try to make sure that your children are in school, on time, every day, so that we can carry on working together towards excellent levels of attendance. If your child is well enough to be in school, please make sure that they attend.

We will be holding our 100% attendance awards Collective Worship on Monday 18th December and there will be a special attendance party for all children with 100% attendance during the final week of term.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Paddington Rec last Friday. The choir sang beautifully and everyone had a wonderful time singing, drinking hot chocolate and eating mince pies. Special thanks go to Ms Toussaint and Joshua V's mum for all of the work that they did to help the choir to prepare for the event.



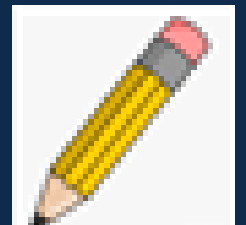
SHINING STARS 24TH NOVEMBER

Reception – Nader
Year 1 – Adam
Year 2 – Zeen
Year 3 – Amr
Year 4 – Mikhail
Year 5 – Georgia
Year 6 – Aya



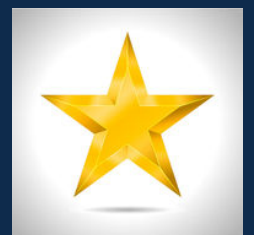
WONDERFUL WORK 1ST DECEMBER

Reception – Anayia
Year 1 – Nyla
Year 2 – Shouq
Year 3 – Amir
Year 4 – Noah
Year 5 – Bruno
Year 6 – Yahia



SHINING STARS 7TH DECEMBER

Reception – Zahra A
Year 1 – Ali
Year 2 – Hussein
Year 3 – Zakariya
Year 4 – Abdulrahman
Year 5 – Aya
Year 6 – Hassan





NURSERY PARENTS APPLYING FOR A RECEPTION PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

Please remember that your application for a Reception place for your child for September 2024 must be made by 15th January 2024. If your child is currently in our Nursery, you must still complete an online application form to secure a place in Reception for September 2024, so it is really important that you make your application as soon as possible. The online application form and a Hints and Tips' guide can be found by clicking the following link: www.westminster.gov.uk/admissions.

If you need any help with making an application, please speak to Mrs Wiggins, Mrs Shah or Ms Vince. We will be very happy to help.

RECEPTION AT FOREST SCHOOL

The children had a great time at Forest School this term. We focussed on leaves this session and the children enjoyed finding leaves of different colours, shapes and sizes around the Forest school grounds. They then used them to make mobiles, which are proudly hanging in the Reception classroom.



OUR VALUE THIS HALF TERM IS RESPECT

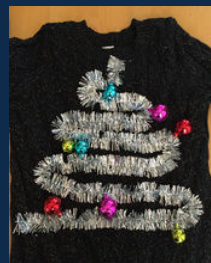
The children have enjoyed exploring our school value of respect over the past half term. They have developed a deeper understanding of the meaning of respect and have been able to link this to our anti-bullying focus.

The children have also been considering how our value of respect can be applied more widely in our lives, for example through showing respect for the environment and all that God created for us.



CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

We will be celebrating Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 15th December. Children can come into school wearing a Christmas jumper, but must be wearing the rest of their uniform. Please do not go out and buy a new one; you can decorate a plain jumper, wear one you already own or even swap one with a friend. Children might also want to bring in a donation of £1 – all the money donated will go to the 'Save the Children' charity. We will be awarding prizes for the **best homemade** jumper in each phase. We look forward to seeing you all in your Christmas jumpers!





GROWING HOPE

This term we have officially started our 'Growing Hope' group. Pupils have been working closely with Miss Bettoni to plan a wonderful display of herbs, vegetables and flowers that represent loved ones in their lives. The Year 6 pupils have made an excellent start to their garden by planting a mixture of herbs this week. We are really looking forward to seeing them begin to grow. Next time the pupils meet, we will be choosing a flower to plant that makes us think of our special people. Miss Bettoni



ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADOR'S WORKSHOP

The Anti-bullying Ambassadors attended an online workshop recently which allowed them to link up directly with Anti-bullying Ambassador hosts from the Diana Award and take part in fun and exciting activities. Well done to our school ambassadors for being so enthusiastic during the workshop, and creating a wonderful rap to deliver this year's theme of 'Make a Noise'. Miss Bettoni



BIRTHDAY BOOKS

We are a healthy school and we always try to encourage children to make healthy eating choices, which includes avoiding cakes and sweets. Please remember not to send in cakes or sweets for your child's birthday.

If you do want to send in a treat for your child to share with their class, a book is a far better – and much longer lasting – choice. It can also be a cheaper choice. You can ask your child's teacher for their book suggestions. We will also be putting together a wish list of books for each class from which you can choose and will send more details about this soon.



ANTI-BULLYING HOME LEARNING

The theme of Anti-Bullying week this year is 'Make a Noise'. Pupils were asked to complete a home learning project to present during anti-bullying week. We were so impressed with the creativity and the strong messages written by all of the pupils. Home learning projects consisted of poems, posters, 3D signs, drawings and even a home video! The effort made by all of the children was so impressive. Thank you everyone for working hard on such a strong and important message. Miss Bettoni





HEADTEACHER AWARDS

Congratulations to all of the children who have been awarded Headteacher's certificates over the past two weeks for demonstrating our school values.

These children have earned 100 Dojo points, which means that they have received the Bronze Headteacher's certificate.

Year 1: Nyla **Year 2:** Abdulrahman and Majd

These children have earned 200 Dojo points, which means that they have been awarded the Silver Headteacher's certificate.

Reception: Daniyal, Nader, Tim and Zarah A

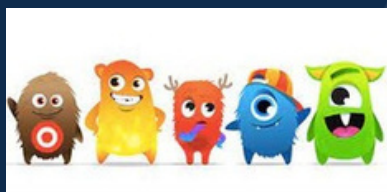
Year 1: Ali

Year 2: Shouq and Wessam

Year 5: Aya, Lanwe, Joshua and Georgia

These children have been awarded the Gold Headteacher's certificate, which means that they have earned an amazing 300 Dojo points!

Year 1: Hakim, Jad, Rayan, Monaco, Adam, Amine, Alex and Aleen



LOST PROPERTY

During the Christmas holiday, please make sure that all items of school uniform are labelled with your child's name. You can use a name label or simply a marker pen.

Y2 DT STARS

Year 2 have been working particularly hard in DT this term! We tested different 3D shapes and compared their properties to create a stable and stiff chair for Baby Bear. We worked as a team to design our structures. We created strong paper rolls that will hold Baby Bear's weight and used all of our skills to put all the parts together. The children are finding it a quite challenging, but they're nearly there and they're really proud of how the chairs look so far! Ms Garcia



MIND KINDNESS WORKSHOP

The Reception children had a visitor from Mind, the mental health charity. We discussed what kindness is and how we can show kindness to others. The children looked at different photos and had to decide whether the people were being kind or unkind and talk about why. Following our workshop, the adults noticed lots of moments of kindness in the classroom and the playground!





NEURODIVERSITY WORKSHOP

On Thursday 30th November, we held a parent workshop for parents/carers which was hosted by Mrs Cunningham with the speaker, Dr Jaspar Khawaja, an Educational Psychologist from the Bi-Borough. The focus was on Neurodiversity and how to support our children with how they experience the world. It was a brilliant session and Jaspar was able to impart a lot of 'the science' alongside practical ways in which we can all support our children.

Jaspar then held similar workshops for all our Support Staff. All in all, it was a very productive morning with a valued professional who works with our school on a regular basis.

Mrs Cunningham



CHILDREN IN NEED

To celebrate and raise money for Children in Need this year, pupils came to school dressed in their brightest outfits and donated at the school gate. To assist in raising even more money for Children in Need, the Charity committee from the high school ran a competition for Year 4-6 pupils. Pupils were asked to re-create Pudsey Bear in any way they would like. Most creative wins! Thank you so much to all of the wonderful entries. I know it was extremely hard for the committee to decide a winner. Well done to Rafif in Year 6 and Fatima P in Year 5 for your wonderful creations. Both pupils received a £10 Amazon voucher for winning. Thank you to the high school for such a brilliant idea. Miss Bettoni



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Year 1 Tower of London trip
Year 5 and 6 Anglo Saxons workshop
Christmas lunch
Christmas Jumper Day
Class parties
Reception, Year 1, 2 and 3 Nativity in the Church (afternoon)
Year 4, 5 and 6 Nativity in the Church (afternoon)
End of term - 1:30pm finish
INSET day (Children not in school)
Start of Spring term (Children return to school)

Tuesday 12th December
Wednesday 13th December
Thursday 14th December
Friday 15th December
Tuesday 19th December
Wednesday 20th December
Wednesday 20th December
Thursday 21st December
Friday 5th January
Monday 8th January