



St. Augustine's  
Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Emma Berry



Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parent/Guardians

Welcome back! I hope you have had a wonderful summer and are feeling ready for the new school year. If you are new to the school, welcome to St Augustine's, we are delighted that you have joined us. The children have made a fabulous start to this year and have come into school, smart, calm, smiling and ready to learn! It is wonderful to have them back!

Please can I remind you that it is vitally important we have accurate contact details for you and your child. If your details have changed in anyway, e.g. address, telephone number, contact details for designated persons; please ensure that you complete the attached contact form which can also be found here: [http://www.staugustines.dorset.sch.uk/website/school\\_forms/393072](http://www.staugustines.dorset.sch.uk/website/school_forms/393072) . Please email this form to [office@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk) or pop it into the School Office and office staff will disseminate appropriately.

### Meet the Teacher

Meet the Teacher meetings for each class will be held on the following afternoons:

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September - Y2

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September - Y5

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September - Y6

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September - Y3

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September - Y1

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September - Y4

The meetings will take place in the classrooms at approximately 3.25pm. The children will be released at 3.15pm as usual. Then if you would like to attend, please come to the school office and you will be let in when the teacher is ready. These meetings are a great way to get to see the children's new classrooms, meet the staff and ask any questions you may have. If you are unable to attend, we will be putting the PowerPoint presentations on the school website for your reference next week.

### PE Kits and Uniforms

Please can we request that all items of uniform, including PE kits, lunchboxes, water bottles etc., are clearly named. Should you wish to be reminded of our uniform policy, please note it can be found on the school website here: <http://www.staugustines.dorset.sch.uk/website/policies/69157>

Please remember that the children need their PE kits in school all week. Each class has two PE slots a week on the following days:

YR - Monday and Friday

Y1 - Monday and Wednesday

Y2 - Monday and Thursday

Y3 - Tuesday and Thursday

Y4 - Wednesday and Thursday

Y5 - Tuesday and Thursday

Y6 - Monday and Friday

### Home Learning

This year we are streamlining our home learning. We have decided to lessen the load by removing the topic grids and concentrating on the key areas of learning. Therefore, each week we will be asking that the children read, practise their spellings and learn their times tables.

Each Friday, a home learning letter will be sent home with your child and also uploaded on the school website. This will outline the reading, spellings and times tables tasks set.

Please note that KS1 are continuing with their Read Write Inc. phonics and their new books will be sent home on Wednesday next week. They will also have an online Oxford Owls book (that they are reading in class) and a reading for pleasure book. KS1 books will be sent home on a Wednesday and are to be returned the following Wednesday.

KS2 children are currently being reassessed through the Accelerated Reader Star Reader tests to identify their ZPD codes. These will be completed and all KS2 children will also bring home their book by next Wednesday at the latest. The KS2 children can then bring in their books to change whenever needed.

Please see the year group minimum expectations for home learning in the table below:

	Phonics/Spelling	Reading	Times Tables
YR	Phonics	5x per week	-
Y1	Phonics/Spellings	5x per week	TTRS 15 mins weekly
Y2	Spellings	5x per week	TTRS 15 mins weekly
Y3	Spellings	5x per week	TTRS 20 mins weekly
Y4	Spellings	5x per week	TTRS 20 mins weekly
Y5	Spellings	5x per week advised	TTRS 20 mins weekly
Y6	Spellings	5x per week advised	TTRS 20 mins weekly

Children from Y1 upwards have their own Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) login. When the children log in to TTRS, they have a selection of games to access where they can earn coins, which can then be spent in the TTRS shop. They can then buy new clothes, instruments etc. for their characters.

Teachers will set the children specific times tables to practise on TTRS. In order to access these questions (rather than all tables questions up to 12 x 12), the children must select the 'Garage' game area. Teachers will discuss this in class with the children.

When learning spelling, we expect that the children learn their spellings each week and write their spellings into a sentence to show they understand the word meaning.

### **Website**

Please note that as we are no longer using Google Classrooms, we will be uploading class information on the class tabs on the school website.

We will no longer be using Google Classrooms or IXL.

### **Afterschool Clubs**

As usual, we will be holding a selection of Afterschool Clubs for both KS1 and KS2. These clubs will be starting in Week 4 (week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> September). Please look out for further information on Parent Mail regarding the clubs on offer and how to sign up for them. Please also note that the clubs spaces are limited and are offered on first come, first served basis.

### **Family Partnership Zone Drop In Sessions**

Zoe Smith, our Family Liaison Officer from the Chesil Family Partnership, will be holding drop in sessions for any parents that would like support or advice. These will take place on the following dates:

18<sup>th</sup> September

16<sup>th</sup> October

6<sup>th</sup> November

11<sup>th</sup> December

Zoe will be available from 8.30 until 10.30am. The sessions do not need to be booked, please simply pop your head into the school office on the morning of the drop in and let them know that you are here.

### **Staffing**

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the staff for their hard work over the holidays getting their classrooms ready for the new year. We are also very fortunate to welcome Mr Edmonds to the teaching team. Mr Edmonds will be teaching Y4 this year and has already made such a bright and positive start to the school.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Me-in. Mrs Me-in has worked in the school for many years in many different roles and has also committed a huge amount of her own time running FOSA (Friends

of St Augustine's) with a small group of parent volunteers, organising many fund raising events to raise extra funds to put towards funding school trips, Reception reading bags and other special items for the children. Her hard work and dedication to the children and the school has been spectacular. She will be greatly missed.

We are also looking to appoint a new Midday Assistant to support with lunch times. If this is of interest, please have a look at the advert on our school website: [http://www.staugustines.dorset.sch.uk/website/job\\_vacancies/9951](http://www.staugustines.dorset.sch.uk/website/job_vacancies/9951)

### **Administering Medication**

Finally, please be reminded that if your child has a medical condition, all up-to-date medication is brought into school as soon as possible as we will not be allowed to administer medication which has expired. If your child has developed a new medical condition over the summer, please complete the 'Medical Need to Know' Form found here:

[http://www.staugustines.dorset.sch.uk/storage/secure\\_download/aXRzVFkvRW01VGR2S0FMaWxVY1QwQT09](http://www.staugustines.dorset.sch.uk/storage/secure_download/aXRzVFkvRW01VGR2S0FMaWxVY1QwQT09). Please email this form directly to [office@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk) or pop it into the School Office and office staff will disseminate appropriately.

Thank you for your continued support. I and all the staff are looking forward to another successful year.

Yours sincerely,

Katie Bladon  
Deputy Headteacher & Inclusion Manager