



St. Augustine's  
Catholic Primary School  
Hardy Avenue  
Weymouth DT4 0RH  
Tel: 01305 782600



E-mail: [office@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk)  
Headteacher: Mrs. Emma Berry

## Spring 2 Newsletter 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children have had a fabulous half term and have definitely been conducting themselves with a spring in their step and producing some brilliant school work. As you are aware, Ofsted visited us this term. The children represented the school beautifully and truly highlighted the Catholic ethos and culture of the school. We were very proud of them. I would also like to thank our amazing staff and Governors for all their hard work and commitment during Ofsted's visit and for showing what an amazing school St. Augustine's is.

### Catholic Life

During Lent, we have been focusing our attention on giving more generously, acting more justly and praying more. Our Mini Vinnies have been very busy meeting, praying and planning throughout Lent and have launched our Lent Appeal in support of CAFOD's campaign for global justice. We are proud to have enrolled in the Big Lent Walk. This week all our classes have worn rainbow coloured hats and walked around the school grounds to raise awareness of food poverty and how through positive action we can make a difference. If you are in a position to help support this worthy cause by making a donation to CAFOD, please go to our fundraising page at:



<https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/staugustinesweymouth>

This week (as we are not at school for Holy week this year), we have been carrying out many liturgical events. Throughout the week the Mini Vinnies and Mrs Evans have invited children to learn about the Stations of the Cross in the chapel. On Monday, our Reception class led our Palm Sunday liturgy. It was a joy to see our youngest children enact this story with such energy. On Thursday we marked the events of Holy Thursday with a special liturgy led by Father Anthony who - kindly offered to help enact the washing of the disciples feet for us to help us understand more about the events at The Last Supper and on Friday we are having a prayerful Good Friday Service to mark the end of our term. We thank everyone who has

been involved in all our worship events this term for their commitment to keeping Christ at the centre of all our work at school.

## The Curriculum

### Reception

We have had a really busy half term and here are a few exciting activities we have been involved in.

To mark Book Week, the Reception class had fun dressing up and sharing books with friends in Year 1. They shared stories, said thank you prayers to God for lovely books and listened to special stories.

The children have been making Lenten promises in RE and have been working hard to keep these. They have really thought carefully about giving more kindly, acting more justly and praying more. We have been so delighted with their efforts.

To help the children learn more about the outdoor environment and their understanding of the world, we have had Forest School Sessions with Mrs Harrop. The children have engaged in many fun filled activities and when making their bird houses, they even saw 2 shrews that had decided to make a home in Mrs Harrop's kit bag! Forest School has been a wonderful experience for our children and has really helped them learn about the importance of working together as a team. We're so proud of their efforts.



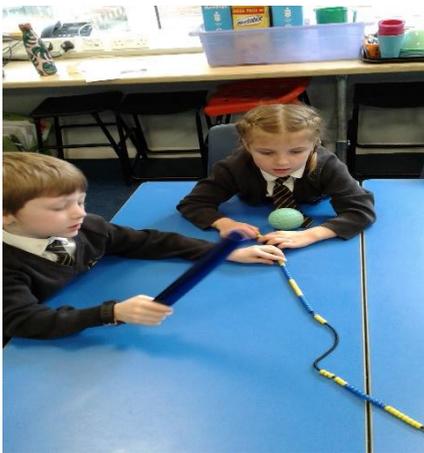
## Year One



Year one have had another busy half term and have worked really hard across the curriculum.

In English, we have been looking at poetry and which words rhyme. We have created our own colour poems using our 5 senses! We tasted oranges and thought about the words to describe the taste and smell of an orange!

In Maths, we have been experimenting with length, weight and capacity. We have had a go at weighing objects in the classroom and measuring our friends using our feet! We also played with the sand and looked to see if something was full, half-full and empty!



In Science, we have been looking at materials and their properties and using words to describe those properties, like bendy, soft, hard and waterproof. We had fun pouring water on things to see if they were waterproof!

In Geography, we have been looking at rural, urban and coastal areas and we have been debating whether Weymouth is an urban or rural coastal area! In PE, we have been practising our ball skills and Julien has been letting us practise our hand-eye coordination using a tennis racket! In DT we have made our own 'Moving Pictures' story books and we are all very proud of what

we have achieved! In RE, we have been focussing on Lent and looking closely at the importance of Holy Week. In Music, we have been using parts of our bodies to make sounds and what each sound would look like.

## Year 2

The children in Year 2 have had a very busy but exciting half term. There have been so many activities that have complimented learning across the curriculum. As always, the children have worked so incredibly hard and we are very proud of them.

Our class assembly at the start of half term was a huge success; it was lovely to see the children share and celebrate their learning with the rest of the school and family members. The highlight from our half term, as the children would agree, was probably our school trip to Monkey World. Linked with our Science topic of 'Living things and their habitats', the trip helped to strengthen the children's understanding



of habitats, food chains and our core life processes. It was a fantastic day and the sunshine made it even better! We can't wait for more sunshine and super learning in summer term.



### Year 3

We have enjoyed a number of different aspects of learning in Year 3 this term. In DT, we have made several different food recipes (based around fruit). While some liked certain parts of the food more than others, everyone enjoyed the making process!

In Geography, we have worked hard to continue to build our knowledge of volcanos. We have looked at both the positive and negative aspects of living by a volcano, writing this in the form of both a poster and a postcard.



On top of all our other subjects, and our school trip, we have enjoyed several visitors this term. This has included members of Weymouth Football Club, and local author Liam Findlay. This really helped to enrich our learning and we look forward to welcoming more visitors in the future.

### Year 4

Year 4 have had an extremely busy half term developing their skills and knowledge across the curriculum.

In English, the children have been learning how to make engaging advertisements. To show their learning, the children made some fabulous posters for their favourite books.

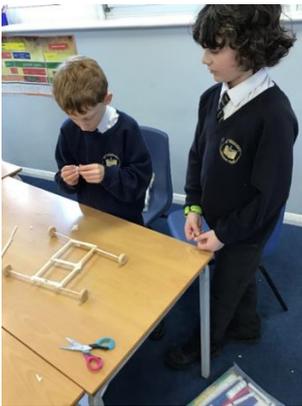
In Science, the children have been learning about sound and did lots of different activities such as making cup phones, playing 'pass



the sound' and creating a sound circus where they explored changing the volume and pitch of sound sources.

In History the children have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons, Picts and Scots and have got stuck into being historians and exploring sources as evidence. The children explored the mystery of Sutton Hoo and interpreted the findings in the empty grave as well as looking at how the fictional text Beowulf can teach us about life in Anglo-Saxon Britain.

In DT, the children have been making slingshot cars with the aim of designing and building a car, which is built for speed. Miss Mayes and Mrs Smith have been very impressed with the children's engagement and curiosity throughout the half term and are looking forward to another busy and exciting half term after the Easter break!



## Year 5 Class News

Year 5 have been very busy this spring term! We enjoyed kick-starting the half term with World Book Week and exploring our book 'Language of the Universe' by Colin Stuart, and spent some time working in teams to research and present a different element of maths within nature. The children also did a fantastic job dressing up as a scientific word for World Book Day!

This half term, Year 5 have particularly enjoyed putting their woodwork skills to the test during our DT lessons where the children have been learning to build and construct truss bridges. The class particularly enjoyed making a prototype out of spaghetti in their teams! There have been some excellent teamwork skills, measuring and sawing taking place during lessons and it is clear to see that we have some carpenter enthusiasts emerging from the class!

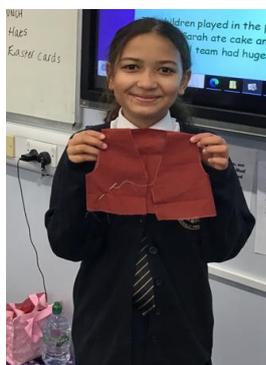
Year 5 have also been working hard to explore the topic 'Investigating Water' in Geography lessons and have done a super job researching and working on areas such as the water cycle, river processes and how land is used by rivers around the world.

Well done for all your super work this term, Year 5!

## Year 6

Year 6 have been working exceptionally hard this half term. We had a wonderful book week where we looked at Colin Stuart's 'The Stardust That Made Us' and enjoyed listening to his virtual talk about space exploration and his life as a children's writer. Following this, the children used elements from the periodic table to create characters based on the elements' properties and wrote some outstanding stories. Arsenic proved to be a real villain in many of the stories!

The children have also worked exceptionally hard in maths and have recently moved on to algebra. This is usually a bit of a challenge for many Year 6 classes but this year they are proving to be fabulous mathematicians and taking it in their stride!



During our DT lessons, the children have been making waistcoats! The classroom has been a hive of activity and their resilience, perseverance and ability to help each other has been brilliant. Well done Year 6!

Finally, this half term the children were sad to finish their class text 'The Wild Folk' but have now started 'Moonfleet'. The children have been excited to get started on a meaty text about pirates, smuggling and treasure that is based on our very own Dorset coast. Many of the children are now hoping to visit Moonfleet church in the hope that there may be treasure in the vault!

Well done for your hard work Year 6!

## World Book week

What a fantastic week! We had live Zoom events with authors of stories we have studied, fantastic paired reading activities, prayers in the chapel for Book Week, book sales, a paper plate book design competition, opportunities to carry out book related activities in class and even a live performance from our teachers related to a book about care for our planet.

We were lucky to be visited by local author, Liam Findlay. He talked through the process of what needs to happen to produce a book, which evidently takes many years! Along with taking questions, which ranged from who his biggest influences were to what the hardest part of writing was, he read a short extract from his brand-new book. We look forward to reading it when it is released!

We thank our staff for making the event such fun and here are some of the photos to show the range of activities we have participated in.

## Sport

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 9 Year 5 girls went to Budmouth for a netball day. During the morning, they learnt lots of skills that are used in netball.

These included:-

- Practising 3 different passes - shoulder pass, bounce pass and chest pass.
- Learning how to land and pivot.
- Practising dodging and marking an opponent.
- Learning how to defend their goal.
- Practising shooting at the goal and learning strategies to help with this.



The girls joined in enthusiastically with all the activities and were rewarded with stickers for teamwork and determination.

After lunch, all 10 schools that were there took part in a tournament. The St Augustine's girls played each match with good sportsmanship and tried hard to win each point. They played 4 matches in total. All of the girls should be congratulated for their enthusiasm, great sportsmanship and perseverance. They certainly represented the school beautifully.



## Behaviour Policy

Our new behaviour and relationships policy has been fully implemented throughout this half term. Thank you for the incredibly positive feedback about the policy and the way we support behaviour and relationships at St. Augustine's. After speaking with many children and staff, it is clear that it has been a very positive change to the school. The final policy is now available on the school website.

## Clubs

Next term, we will be offering the following clubs:

Monday	Y3/4 - Tennis Y4,5,6 - Sewing club	Playground Library	Julien Lawes Mrs Harding
Tuesday	Y4/5/6 - Girl's Football Y1/2 - Lego Club	School Field Y1 classroom	Mr Pask Mrs Moore
Wednesday	Y1/2 - Tennis	Playground	Julien Lawes

	Y5/6 - Football training (lunchtime) no booking required	School Field	Mr Pask
Thursday	Y2/3/4 - Dance Club Y4,5,6 - Mindfulness Art Club	Hall Y5 classroom	Miss Warwick Miss Howard
Friday	Y5/6 - Tennis	Playground	Julien Lawes

Mrs Evans will continue to work alongside the Mini Vinnies and the children attending their First Holy communion.

Clubs will start on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and the last day will be Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July. Bookings can be made via Parentmail From 3.30pm on Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Please be reminded, clubs are booked on a first come first serve basis, if your child does not get a space they will be placed on a waiting list.

When booking clubs, please be mindful that spaces are limited so please only book clubs your child would really like to participate in. It would be lovely for as many children as possible to access at least one club.

We are currently exploring a new booking system for the Autumn Term.

### **Staffing**

After a lot of thought, Mrs Wootton (Teaching Assistant) has decided not to return to school following her maternity leave, but instead to stay at home with her beautiful baby son, Jacob. We wish Mrs Wootton and her family all the very best for the future, she will be greatly missed.

After Easter, Mrs Vincent (Y3 Teaching Assistant) will officially be joining the St. Augustine's team working in Y3 on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We will also be welcoming Mrs Drinkhill to the school, who will be working in Y3 on a Thursday and Friday.

### **Congratulations!**

We are pleased to announce that Miss Warwick and her partner are expecting a baby and in true teacher style is due in the summer holidays! We can't wait to meet 'Baby Warwick'!

### **Final farewell...**

Last Thursday we celebrated a very special Mass. Our Year 3 children led the mass on the Lenten themes of care, kindness and compassion. We performed songs and dances and gave cards and flowers to our wonderful Mrs Ayles who is retiring at Easter after 29 years' service at St. Augustine's School. We thank Mrs Ayles for her friendship, passion for

performing which has ignited excitement in so many of our children over the years and her exemplary professionalism. We really value her hard work in strengthening school and parish links and the time she gives us in not only teaching our children the performing arts, but in creating scenery, props and costumes (all in her own time) to ensure our children are given the best opportunity to showcase their talents and let their little lights shine.

Our staff all agree it has been a pleasure to work alongside her. She will be greatly missed by us all but has very kindly offered to support us with future liturgical events at school. Jane, we wish you a happy retirement.

Have a fantastic Easter; we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

Katie Bladon  
Deputy Headteacher



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### Dates for your Diary Summer Term 2023

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Bank Holiday School Closed
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Children return to School
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday School closed King Charles III Coronation
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 SATs Week
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 1 Class Assembly 2.40pm
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 Class Assembly 2.40pm
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Break up for Half Term 3.15pm
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May-2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Half Term
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	INSET Day
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Children return to School
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 PGL Residential Trip
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Sports Day (AM KS2 and PM KS1)
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Class Photos
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Reserve Sports Day (AM KS2 and PM KS1)
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Y3 Corpus Christi Mass 2pm
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 End of year performance 1.30pm (parents/guardians welcome)
12 <sup>th</sup> July- 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Primary College
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4 Minstead Residential Trip
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Leaver's Assembly 2pm
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Leaver's Mass 2pm
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Break up for the Summer Holidays 3.15pm