



St. Augustine's
Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs. Emma Berry



Autumn 1 Newsletter 2021

Dear Parent/Guardians,

The children have had a fun-filled, action-packed half term settling back into a sense of normality after the summer holidays and have enjoyed the relaxing of COVID restrictions. The children have been conducting themselves beautifully around school and during whole school gatherings such as Liturgies, Masses, Gospel Reflections and Class Assemblies. It has been lovely to invite parents/guardians back into school for Masses and Class Assemblies, thank you for attending.

Staff cannot wait to share your child's successes so far this academic year and are very much looking forward to discussing these with you at the up and coming parent/guardian consultation meetings running straight after half term. Please view ParentMail to book these directly or contact the school office.

Catholic Life and RE

Our Catholic Virtue focus this month has been Faith and we have seen this in action across the school in many ways through our weekly Gospel Value reflections and also through our giving of Harvest. Thank you very much for your generosity. All harvest produce has made its way via two little angels (aka Mrs Evans and Mrs Wilkins) to the Weymouth and Portland food banks.

Another excellent example of Faith in action is with our annual launch of the Samaritan's Shoe Box appeal. Mrs Wilkins is (once again) co-ordinating both the school and the parish with the Shoebox appeal this year. For our new parents, this is where we send boxes of gifts to less fortunate children around the world as an expression of God's Love. Please join us in spreading the Good News by either donating items for a box or packing a shoe box. All donations will be gratefully received into classes and suggested items are: a cuddly toy, soap, toothbrush comb, hairbrush, crayons, colouring book, hat, scarf, gloves, doll, cars and chalk etc. A leaflet will be coming home to explain how to make a box up and a label to place on any completed boxes. Any donations of shoe boxes or rolls of Christmas wrapping paper are always welcome throughout the year. The lorry to collect the boxes will be coming in the middle of November. Mrs Wilkins is convinced that we can beat last year's total! Thank you in advance for your support.

In RE this half term the children have been learning about the Domestic Church (Family) and are coming to the end of the Baptism and Confirmation (Belonging) unit. After half term the children will start a unit on Advent which begins on 28th November. During Advent the children will think about the coming of Jesus, when he was born, but also think of his promise that he would come again at the end of time. The children will appreciate that this is a time of waiting and preparing. It is only in the last week of Advent that we focus upon the events to be celebrated at Christmas.

It has been a pleasure to welcome Father Anthony into school every week. He has taken this time to get to know the children by dipping in and out of lessons and chatting to the children during lunchtimes. Father Anthony's presence in school is very much appreciated and we are grateful for his support.

Reading

After half term, Reception, Year 1 and some Year 2 children will be introduced to our new Phonics Scheme, Read Write Inc as part of our early reading approach. Read Write Inc (RWI) is a complete systematic and structured literacy programme developed by Ruth Miskin. It meets the demands of the new national curriculum, giving your children the best chance of success.

One main change will be the way reading books are distributed. We have purchased a large number of books that will support your child's learning, and these are linked with the phonemes taught in class. We will be moving to our new home RWI books from week beginning 29th November 2021 and Mrs Bladon will be sending a letter to explain the new process of reading after half term.

How can you help your child?

We will be offering parent workshops based around RWI to support your understanding of our new scheme and how you can support your child at home.

- Reception parents - Tuesday 16th November 2021 at 2pm in the school hall
- Year 1 and 2 parents - Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 2pm (Year 2 parents will be contacted if RWI is appropriate for your child) in the school hall

It would be lovely to see as many of you there as possible. We will also live stream the sessions on Google Classroom via your child's class page, so you are welcome to join us virtually too!

Accelerated Reader

We have been busy setting up a school library in the hall to support with our new reading schemes- STAR reader and Accelerated Reader (AR). These are computer programs which will be used for children in Years 2-6. AR helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practise.

In school the STAR Reader is used to determine your child's reading level. It is a computer-based reading assessment program that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses, making the difficulty easier or harder where appropriate. The test uses multiple choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes. Teachers will support your child in participating in a STAR Reading assessment every half term. Book levels represent the difficulty of the text. The levels range from 0.2 up to 13.5. Books are chosen based on recommendations from the STAR Reading assessment. Each child is given a range of books (for example 2.5 to 2.9) to challenge them without causing frustration or loss of motivation. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within the given range.

Your child will be expected to pick a book at his/her own level from the library and read it at his/her own pace. When your child has finished their book, they will take a short quiz on the computer at school. On completion of the quiz the teacher will have a clear understanding of your child's next steps and will use this to inform their planning.

Please encourage your child to also read at home, discuss books, ask questions about what they have read and visit your local library. Together, we can help every child to be a successful reader.

Thank you to Mrs Phelan, Ms Rogers and Mr Tuson for all their hard work with setting this up for the children.

Class Visits

Two classes have supplemented their curriculum topics thus far by taking children out to different experiences.

Year 2 visited the Teddy Bear Museum. Mrs Bladon was really pleased with the children's attitude to learning and has said the following:

Our topic this term is 'A Toy Story'. We have been learning about the changes and development of toys through time with a focus on stories such as 'Winnie the Pooh' and 'Paddington Bear'. To support our learning, we visited the Teddy Bear Museum in Dorchester. The children were beautifully behaved and had so much fun. We explored a range of teddies and toys throughout the ages, listened to the story of Winnie the Pooh read by A.A. Milne and even watched Sooty, Sweep and Sue's band play!

During the afternoon, we had a lovely teddy bear picnic outside and enjoyed making our own teddy bear puppets. We had such an exciting and fun day!

Thank you to Mrs Grubb, Mrs Jennings, Mrs Phelan and Mrs Wilkins for all their hard work supporting the children with their learning. It wouldn't have been possible without them.



Year 5 visited Weymouth Museum. Mrs Gray has reported:

Year 5 had a fabulous time at the Weymouth Museum last week. The children met a medieval barber surgeon and physician (thanks to the fabulous museum volunteer Keith) who taught them all about different medical practises during the medieval period.

In addition to medieval medicine, we also learnt about the Black Death entering the UK through Weymouth in 1348 and why the disease spread so quickly.

Finally, we learnt about King George III who visited Weymouth a lot in the late 1700s. King George was unwell and used to visit Weymouth to bathe in the sea to help with his ailments. The Kings Statue in town still gives us a reminder of how much King George loved Weymouth as his statue still looks out over Weymouth seafront today!

Mrs Gray was inundated with parental offers of support- thank you to all who offered and Mrs Hyde and Mrs Abad for attending on the day.



Friends of St. Augustine's (FOSA)

We are actively looking to recruit new members to support the fantastic work that FOSA has done throughout the years. Mrs Mein had tried hard to organise a meeting this half term, but sadly only one parent attended. Historically, FOSA has always supported the school with a number of different fundraising ideas which has enabled them to pay for such costly items like coach hire for residential and class trips to help reduce the cost for all parents alongside financially supporting with play equipment, and anything else which ultimately results in having a positive impact for parents and children. If you are able to offer your time and creative ideas, please email fosa@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk. Please come along to the next FOSA meeting which has been arranged for Thursday 28th November at 2.30pm.

Additional Dates for your Diary

Please read below additional dates to be added to your diary from the last dates list issued via ParentMail on 24th September 2021.

Wednesday 8 th December	YR Nativity, 9.30am in the school hall
Wednesday 8 th December	Year 4 Class Assembly, 2.30pm in the school hall
Monday 13 th December	Years 1 and 2 Christmas Production, 9.30am in the school hall
Monday 13 th December	*Year 3 singing Christmas Carols in the school car park at 3pm*
Tuesday 14 th December	*Year 4 singing Christmas Carols in the school car park at 3pm*
Tuesday 14 th December	Y4/5/6 Choir and Drama Christmas Production, 6.30pm in the school hall
Wednesday 15 th December	KS2 Carol Service, 2.15pm in the school hall
Thursday 16 th December	*Year 5 singing Christmas Carols in the school car park at 3pm*
Friday 17 th December	*Year 6 singing Christmas Carols in the school car park at 2pm*
Weather permitting	

I am optimistic (although that is dwindling slightly due to increasing COVID-19 infection rates) that we will be able to continue to invite parents/guardians into school for communal gatherings and remain 'bubble less' for the entirety of this term. Please be aware that if Government and/or MAT guidance changes we may need to revert back to live streaming of certain events to ensure the safety for all.

We look forward to seeing your child back at school on Tuesday 2nd of November wearing their winter uniform. Please click here to visit the school uniform page on our website: http://www.staugustines.dorset.sch.uk/website/school_uniform/9950

Finally, from all the staff at St. Augustine's, we hope that you all have a happy and safe half term.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Emma Berry
(Headteacher)