



St. Augustine's  
Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs. Emma Berry



Spring 1 Newsletter 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The children have had a fabulous half term and really buckled down to their learning. Data analysis from the autumn term indicates that a large majority of our children are attaining well and making excellent progress despite learning to live safely through a pandemic. All stakeholders, inclusive of yourselves, the children and staff really do need to be commended.

### Catholic Life and RE

Our virtual Liturgies have continued this half term. Each Monday morning Liturgy has focused on a different theme which is related to the Gospel reading from the previous Sunday. Our most recent Liturgy theme has related to love, where the children learnt about the way Jesus shared his love and how we, as friends of Jesus, can demonstrate love through our words and actions. Our Gospel Value for the week has been Compassion with a focus on, 'How will you show love and compassion in your words and actions?' During daily class prayers the children have reflected on this focus and have shared Saint Teresa of Avila's beautiful prayer about how we are now the Body of Christ here on Earth. We have also more recently introduced a new Catholic Virtue of Justice and the children have been considering how they can show respect for others and treat one another in a fair and equal way. So far this academic year, we have implemented the Catholic Virtues of Faith, Hope, Charity and Prudence. The Year 6 prefects continue to lead the Gospel Reflection on a Friday afternoon where we celebrate children being acknowledged for living the words of the Gospel and putting our Catholic Virtues into action.

Year 5 led a beautiful Class Mass focusing on love and discipleship on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February. The staff and parents who attended commented on how the children were amazing and showed great reverence. We are so lucky to have such spiritual children that value these worshipping opportunities. Their involvement and conduct was really exemplary - well done Year 5 and all staff for rallying around to make this act of worship so touching despite staffing shortages.

We are looking forward to the re-commencement of Mini-Vinnies after half term. A special service to welcome new members will take place whereby the new members will be awarded a certificate. As we approach Lent we will be supporting CAFOD. You will receive further news regarding our Lenten journey shortly.

## Curriculum

All of the children are learning a new curriculum topic this term, with *Geography* acting as the driver subject. From monitoring exercises it is clear to see that the children are enjoying their topics. The topics the children are learning about are:

Reception- Take a Trip  
Year 1- Brilliant Britain  
Year 2- Explorers  
Year 3- Italy  
Year 4- Earth  
Year 5- The Americas  
Year 6- Metropolis

To supplement *Geography* as the driver subject this term, the Year 1 children are enjoying the after-school *Geography* club led by Miss Mayes. The children have been making playdough maps, flags with their bodies and linking the Laudato Si by focusing on looking after the planet.



## Children's Mental Health Week

The children across the whole school participated in a whole array of different activities to support 'Children's Mental Health Week'. Reception children worked on the story of 'The Dot' with the children listening to the story and creating their own beautiful dots. The children learned about the power of positivity as they showed and demonstrated appreciation to each other's efforts. Year 1 children embraced the theme of the week 'Growing Together' as they completed activities that supported nurturing their wellbeing by helping themselves and trying new things. Year 2 appreciated a range of literature and discussed how the power of words can have a positive impact of mental wellbeing. Year 3 children explored, 'What makes them smile' and added 'Just Dance' activities, mini discos and mindful colouring.



Year 4 looked at their feelings and discussed why they might feel a certain way. They also engaged with Dr. Ranj's 'Top 4 Tips' of supporting your mental health e.g. keeping yourself hydrated and the awe and wonder of the outdoors. Year 5 made 'growth trees' which helped them look at successful strategies to deal with issues. The branches of the growth tree led to their successes. Year 6 children looked at how they could help others to grow. The children used comic strips so that they could plot and illustrate how they had become more proficient at something, so they could see how they have grown individually and together.

### **Safer Internet Day**

The children looked and explored the theme, 'All fun and games - exploring respect and relationships online.' Throughout the day the children celebrated young people's role in creating a safer internet, whether that is whilst gaming and creating content, or interacting with their friends and peers.

Year 6 considered how best to stay safe online by helping an alien who had come to earth as a tourist because they had heard so much about the incredible Internet and online games. The alien wanted to experience online gaming and Year 6 acted as a guide demonstrating excellent e-safety knowledge and advice.



## **Congratulations and Good luck**

Congratulations to Mrs. Haycock who gave birth to a baby boy 'Hudson Jay' on 24<sup>th</sup> January Mrs Haycock reports that all is going well and she is very much enjoying spending time her new bundle of joy.

Sincere thanks and appreciation goes to Mrs. Gray who leaves to embark on maternity leave today and Mrs Wootton on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March. We all wish both Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Wootton the very best for the birth of their new babies. Heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Wootton for continuing to work hard despite being heavily pregnant throughout a pandemic. We wish them both the very best of luck. We welcome Mrs. Avery and Miss. Samways who will cover their maternity leave.

## **COVID Restrictions**

The DfE COVID restrictions in terms of schools lifted nationally a couple of weeks ago. Dorset currently has raised infection rates across the county which is impacting significantly on staff absences. In terms of the contextual picture within St. Augustine's, infection rates have remained stable and low throughout this half term. To support the contextual picture relating to St. Augustine's after half term, entry and exit routes will return to pre-staggered entry and exit routes. We will welcome the children to enter school using the entry window of 8.40-8.55am using the following routes:

- Reception and Year 1 enter via the pale blue doors near Allsorts and the ICT suite.
- Years 2-6 enter via the dark blue Chapel doors.

We will return to our normal exit time of 3.15pm which will allow all children to have at least 55 minutes for lunch.

Exiting routes will return to the following:

- Reception and Year 1 at the pale blue doors near Allsorts and the ICT suite (same as entry)
- Years 2 and 3 via the dark blue Chapel doors (same as entry)
- Year 4 via the small blue gate next to my office
- Years 5 and 6 via the double blue gates on the school field (normal home arrangements will continue to be applied)

After school clubs will continue to run on the allocated days previously communicated to you. Please be reminded that if you use Allsorts to support you with after-school provision, you must inform them directly of any changes or amendments to collection.

Please also be reminded that parking in the turning circle at drop-off and collection times is prohibited and you should try where possible not to park in Hardy Avenue as there is very limited parking spaces available. Please be advised that if you are driving up or down Hardy Avenue you adhere to the speed limit and you are aware of young children.

## Dates for your Diary:

Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET DAY
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Children return to school after half term
	World Book Week
	Charlotte Kinghorn (family link worker) parental drop-in session (8.30-9.30am)
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Book Day
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Patchwork Parenting Programme, session 1
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 Class Mass (Lent), school hall at 2pm
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5/6 friendly football against Southill at home, 3.30pm
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 1 Class Assembly, school hall at 2.40pm
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	KS1 Parent/Guardian Consultation meetings, school hall (1pm-6pm)
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	KS2 Parent/Guardian Consultation meetings, school hall (1pm-6pm)
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Holy Week (further dates to be provided)
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Charlotte Kinghorn (family link worker) parental drop-in session (8.30-9.30am)
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	Reception Class Assembly, school hall at 2pm
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Whole School Mass, Year 4 to lead, school hall at 2pm.
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	School finishes for Easter at <b>2.15pm</b>
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Children return to school after Easter at 8.55am

I hope that you and your family enjoy half term. We look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Emma Berry  
(Headteacher)