



St. Augustine's
Catholic Primary School

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Autumn 2 Newsletter 2020

Dear Parent/Guardians,

We have had a very busy half-term at St. Augustine's. Your children have had an excellent term and produced some truly wonderful work in all subjects. We have recently finished our 'Pupil Progress Meetings' and so many of your children are making excellent progress and are 'on track' for their end of year expectations. Thank you for supporting your child at home with their home learning (homework), it really does make a difference especially considering the year that we have had.

You have undoubtedly seen the visible changes to the outside of our building to include the recently finished astro-pitch and the 'almost' complete KS2 playground. We were hoping that the KS2 playground would be completely finished this side of Christmas, but we have had an awful lot of rain, on a field that retains water, and as a result, this has made it difficult to lay the rubber mulch surface. I am ever hopeful that it will be finished in January.

RE

We have been delighted with our children this term by the way that they have fully participated in our virtual Monday Morning Liturgies. Every week each class takes ownership of a part of the Liturgy and with the help of their teacher, leads it. It has been lovely to join together as a worshipping community and to see our children engaging with the Gospel in such a reverent way, in what has been difficult circumstances this term. They have continued to demonstrate our Gospel Values and have been receiving certificates for living out the values at our weekly Gospel Value Reflection assemblies, that happen every Friday afternoon. Our thanks go to our Head Prefects in Year 6 who lead these assemblies beautifully for us.

Children from our Year 6 class form our Mini Vinnies group this year and have met on a regular basis during the term, to pray and discuss ways to help others. We thank them for their commitment to the group and for their maturity in presenting speeches to us regarding their suitability to become presidents this academic year. Following a democratic vote, we are happy to announce that this year we have two presidents, Lucy and Demi, who already have provided the group with leadership and guidance. We thank them for their hard work. We look forward to continuing to work for the good of others in the coming terms.

It has been lovely for the KS2 children to virtually see and ask Mr Brown (Deacon Mark) 'Big questions' relating to RE this half-term. Mr Brown has particularly enjoyed the technical challenge of joining our classrooms virtually and being able to support the superb deep thinking, probing questions, which relate to RE.

Parent/Guardian Consultation Meetings

Thank you very much for attending the virtual parent/guardian consultation meetings this half term. The teachers really embraced the opportunity to share how well your child/ren had returned to school following the first lockdown, alongside the progress that they have made since. It will be more than likely that the Spring term parent/guardian consultations will take a similar virtual format in March. Further details nearer the time will follow.

Christmas Productions

The children and staff have had great fun rehearsing and recording the Christmas Performances this year! After school, on Thursday 17th December, we will be uploading the link onto your child's Google Classroom Stream Page, so that your child can login and share their Christmas Performance/s with you, in the comfort of your own home. It will be lovely for you to enjoy a snippet of the Christmas joy that the children bring at this very special time of year. The link for the Christmas Performances will expire at the end of the month. A huge thank you to all staff involved, particularly Mrs Ayles, Mr Cook, Mr Berry, Mr Tuson and Mr Gardner (our media production team) for going that extra mile to support this virtual world.

Samaritan's Shoebox Appeal

Another huge thank you to those of you who in any way supported our 'Samaritan's Shoebox Appeal' this year. I appreciate that this may have been a particular challenge in unprecedented circumstances, but between us and the Parish, we managed to successfully send away 83 shoeboxes full of lovely goodies to children in developing countries. May I also personally thank Mrs Wilkins for all her hard work liaising with the Samaritans and turning her spare room into Santa's Grotto to support this wonderful charity.

One final note from all the Staff at St. Augustine's, we hope that you all thoroughly enjoy your Christmas safely with your family and friends, and we look forward to seeing you all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed on Monday 4th January 2021.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Emma Berry
(Headteacher)