



St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

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Autumn 2 Newsletter 2019

I hope that you enjoyed the half term week with your children despite the poor weather conditions.

We had an action-packed first half term with many successes to celebrate. Firstly, congratulations to the triumphant Year 6 children who participated in the Maths Challenge at Budmouth Academy. They could not wait to inform me of their winning tactics as they very impressively succeeded in winning the competition against 7 other local primary schools.



Also, extremely well done to the children who were selected to represent the school in the Primary Leadership Academy held at Redlands Sports Hub. These children will be working closely with Miss Lane and Mrs Bladon to utilise their leadership skills within the playground, during PE lessons and within whole school PE.



I would like to congratulate Mrs Gardiner on passing the National Award for SEN Co-ordination. Mrs Gardiner has worked very hard to complete the course for nearly a year and a half. This is an excellent example of how staff work very hard to better themselves to ensure they are working at their best for the children here at St. Augustine's.

British Values and Parliament Week

As you are aware, this week the children are learning about Parliament and the importance of British Values. To celebrate our British values, children are invited to come to school dressed in red, white and blue on Friday, 8th November 2019. We have combined the two concepts, as British Values is an important part of the National Curriculum which we must teach, but also to ensure that the children fully understand the concept of democracy. To support this, your child has had the chance to prepare a speech to be elected via their peers to become a Class School Councillor. The children will place their vote into a ballot box and their vote will be officially counted and checked by staff members (Mrs Bladon and Miss Taylor). The elected children will form a School Council and will be announced during Celebration Assembly on Friday 8th November. The School Council will meet every week to discuss important school matters. The School Councillors will also assist with showing visitors around the school, meet with Governors and assist with the organising of fund-raising events with the Mini Vinnies. At Celebration Assembly, your child will also have the opportunity to present to the rest of the school a famous British person, which they have learnt about during the week. ****To celebrate our British values, children are invited to come to school dressed in red, white and blue on Friday, 8th November 2019. ****

Parent/Teacher consultation meetings

We very much value the importance of meeting with parents as it gives staff the opportunity to fully explain in detail exactly what your child has been learning about, and it gives you a chance to look through your child's books. Alongside academic progress, your child's class teacher will discuss your child's attitude to learning, behaviour both inside and outside the classroom, homework effort and wellbeing. You will be also be able to raise questions or queries at this meeting. This term, there will be an opportunity for you to complete an online questionnaire about RE. Please take the time to complete, as your feedback is valued and important to us. You will also have the opportunity to talk to our RE Governor, Sr Jackie Brain, about anything to do with RE.

The Micheal Rosen Book Show

Michael Rosen is one of our finest poets and authors, the fifth Children's Laureate and a passionate advocate of children's reading. All of our Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be walking down to Weymouth Pavilion on Monday, 11th November to enjoy a morning of Michael performing poetry with his normal humour and wit. The older children will then share their experience with the younger children during our Celebration Assembly on Friday, 15th November. Both the staff and children are very excited!

RE

We would take this opportunity to thank you for your support with The Operation Christmas Child Appeal. We now have over 30 boxes and are working hard to collate boxes from the items that have kindly been donated.

Next week, as detailed in the fundraising letter sent out earlier in the term, we are supporting Children in Need and World Diabetes Day on Friday, 15th November. On this day, we ask that the children come to school dressed in blue (the colour for Diabetes awareness,) in spots, in yellow or in merchandise linked to Children in Need. To support these causes, we ask for a monetary donation. The money collected on the day will be split equally between Children in Need and the Diabetes UK Charity. Our Mini Vinnies group are currently creating colourful posters to publicise the day and will also be helping to collect and count the money on that day. We are grateful for their hard work.

This week in RE all the children in the school have started work on a 4-week unit about the Sacraments. Every week, class teachers will detail in their PIP letters the work that the children are focusing on, to

keep you informed. For more information on how we teach and assess RE together with details about Catholic Life and Worship opportunities, we ask you to visit our website and go to the curriculum page entitled RE. http://www.staugustines.dorset.sch.uk/website/religious_education/426170

Reading

Before half term, you would have been notified via your class PIP newsletter, of our new 'Reading Challenge'. The aim of the 'Reading Challenge' is to encourage children of all ages to read aloud at home to an adult, develop their fluency and their love of reading. Every time your child reads (for either 10-20 minutes depending on your child's age group), he/she will have recorded a 'read' in their Reading Log and will be on their way to collecting a series of badges. Your child will collect their first badge at 30 reads, their second badge at 60 reads, a third badge at 100 reads and a fourth badge at 150 reads. If a child succeeds 150 reads, they will receive a special prize from me!

In addition to this, for our younger children in Years R, 1 and 2 (EYFS and KS1) we have supplemented our teaching of phonics by using a new 'StoryTime' phonics programme. This allows us to strategically match the phonemes to the books children read at home. The resources used to supplement the programme contextual and embed learning and follow 'Letters and Sounds' to the end of phase 5, in a multi-sensory and memorable way. To support our teaching of this, we will be engaging with you and offering parental workshops shortly.

Curriculum Updates

We have been working hard on our Curriculum and have re-assigned Curriculum Leads and support for the subject areas. This year every subject area has a Teacher who leads it alongside a Teaching Assistant, who supports it. Both the Teacher and Teaching Assistant meet regularly to discuss the subject action plan and the direction of the subject. Each subject area has been given a page on the school website, which shows subject leaders – please follow the link below to read the relevant curriculum area. Other subjects will follow shortly.

<http://www.staugustines.dorset.sch.uk/website/curriculum/426203>.

Each subject leader has been working on a rationale for their subject, which explains the purpose of the subject and the pedagogy to support it. The subject rationales completed so far are RE and English.

Anti-Bullying Week

National Anti-Bullying Week 2019 takes place from the 11th-15th November and has the theme 'Change starts with us.' As anti-bullying is so important to us, our whole-school Liturgy this week will focus on anti-bullying and, alongside this, your child's Teacher will discuss bullying and educate your child on bullying during their PSHE lessons. Advice for parents can be found on the link below:

<https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/advice-parents>.

FOSA Christmas Fair and Christmas Jumper Day

FOSA (Friends of St. Augustine's) are holding their Annual School Christmas Fayre on Friday, 6th December at 3.30pm in school. The school will transform into a hive of busyness - there will be a chance to visit Santa in his Grotto and visit lots of exciting stalls. FOSA are seeking volunteers to help set up on the day and run a stall. If anyone is interested in helping, please email Mrs Melanie Me-in at: fosa@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk.

On Wednesday 18th December, our hot school meal provider, Local Food Links, will be providing a Christmas Dinner for those children who have pre-ordered. To avoid disappointment, please ensure that you order this online via Local Food Links website giving **7 clear days notice**. We are combining this special lunch with Christmas Jumper Day. We invite children to design and make their own Christmas Hat to bring in and wear on the day. A member of FOSA and a Staff member will judge the entries and little something from Santa, will be given to the most spectacular creations!

We thank FOSA for their continued support.

Important Information

We look forward to the remaining classes that are still yet to conduct their first Class Assembly for Parents and Guardians (Y1, Y3 and Y5) and also all the forthcoming Christmas productions and events:

Friday 6th December – FOSA Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 10th December- Years 1 and 2 Christmas Production (2pm)

Wednesday 11th December- Years 1 and 2 Christmas Production (9.30am)

Thursday 12th December- Year 3 Advent Class Mass (2pm)

Friday 13th December- Reception Nativity (9.30am)

Tuesday 17th December- Choir and Drama Production (6.30pm)

Wednesday 18th December- Hot-school Christmas Meal (wear a Christmas Jumper)

Thursday 19th December- Year 3 Carol Service (2pm)

Thursday 19th December- Choir Carol Service at St. Joseph's Church (6-7pm)

Friday 20th December- Break-up for Christmas holidays at **2.15pm**

I look forward to seeing you all during this very busy half term leading up to Christmas. Thank you for ensuring that your child is wearing their winter uniform, they are looking extremely smart. The next Newsletter will be issued the first week back after the Christmas Holidays.

Mrs Emma Berry
(Headteacher)