



St Augustine's Newsletter

Friday 22nd November 2024
Newsletter No.11

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday we said goodbye to the lovely Mrs. Strong from the school office. We wish her well and she will be much missed. We have very recently welcomed Mrs. Cuttle to our staff team. Mrs. Cuttle has joined the Early Years team and is working as a learning support assistant and lunchtime supervisor.

Advent is almost upon us! The word Advent is from the Latin “adventus,” meaning “coming”, the coming of Christ into the world. Advent is always the four Sundays before Christmas: however the number of days may vary depending on which day of the week is Christmas Day. The first Sunday of Advent is December 1, 2024. The first Sunday of Advent is also the beginning of the new liturgical year when we transition into a new liturgical cycle. On the first Sunday of Advent in 2024, we will transition from cycle B to cycle C. on Friday we have the Blessing of the Advent Wreaths at school. Please find attached a copy of the family Advent Calendar from Mission Together.

Next week we have the PTA Chocolate Challenge! Next Thursday is also the deadline for returning your raffle tickets. Many many thanks.

Upcoming Events

Monday 25 th -Friday 29 th November	PTA Chocolate Challenge
Thursday 28 th November	PTA deadline for returning raffle tickets
Friday 29 th November	Blessing of the Advent Wreaths
Monday 2nd December	SCHOOL CLOSURE
Wednesday 4 th December	YR Christmas Play at 9.30a.m. Y2 Christmas Play at 2p.m.
Thursday 5 th December	Y2 Christmas Play at 9.30a.m. YR Christmas Play at 2.15p.m. PTA Happy Bag Collection
Friday 6 th December	PTA Mufti Day – pupils wear their own clothes in exchange for a bottle donation
Saturday 7 th December	PTA Christmas Fair
Tuesday 10 th December	PTA meeting at 8p.m. on zoom
Wednesday 11 th December	Y1 Christmas Play at 9.30a.m. Y3 Christmas Play at 2p.m.
Thursday 12 th December	Y3 Christmas Play at 9.30a.m. Y1 Christmas Play at 2.15p.m.
Monday 16 th December	Year 2 trip to Wintershall to watch the Nativity Play
Thursday 19 th December	Year 5 Christingle Service (evening) at OLQH
Friday 20 th December	End of Term
Monday 6 th January	Start of term

St. Augustine's Podcast – 'Beyond the Classroom'

Follow the QR code/link for this week's episode of the St. Augustine Podcast – 'Beyond the Classroom!'



https://www.podomatic.com/podcasts/rwisepodcast/episodes/2024-11-20T05_22_54-08_00

Please click on the link to hear Kian and Stella's podcast and their interview with our lovely Mrs. Strong

Year 6 Parents

Each year a parent from Year 6 or a couple of parents kindly co-ordinate the Yearbook for the end of the year. This is a really special record of all the special memories pupils have from their time at the school. If you would be happy to do this please let me know. I can put you in touch with someone who has previously done this but the company will also guide you.

PTA News

Christmas Fair: Saturday, 7 December, from 12-3pm

Our school Christmas Fair is only 2 weeks away. Please book your tickets for the Santa's Grotto experience (£8) and donkey rides (£4.50), and preorder your food and game tokens at www.staugustinespta.uk. Entry to the Fair is free, but tickets for the Grotto and donkeys will be more expensive on the day.

Please add your name as a volunteer to help with setup, clear up or on the stalls during the Fair when making your booking online. We need lots of help.

Thank you for all the soft toy and teddy donations this week. Next week is the Chocolate Challenge, so please be generous. The class with the heaviest chocolate collected will win a prize!

Thank you to our sponsors:

HS Contracting Services, Sterling Street, Renault, Your Extra Space and Lakeview Care Home.

Admissions

Year R for September 2025 – We are holding parent tours almost weekly so if you know of local families with young children (Catholic or non-Catholic) please ask them to book a slot at a convenient time. We are very likely to have spaces for pupils beyond our catchment area (both Catholic and non-Catholic).

SEN Section

Some of you kindly met with a representative from Family Voice recently for a coffee afternoon. She shared some feedback with me and one request was to have a regular section on the newsletter which is focussed on additional needs / S.E.N. I will try to share information on a variety of areas but if you have any special requests then email me (head@staugustine.surrey.sch.uk) ! If any of you have found great sources of support and advice please do let me know and I will share them on the newsletter.

Parenting Support for parents of pupils with autism

<https://mustardseedautism.co.uk/support/>

There are resources on the website and parents need to subscribe very quickly when they open their waiting list for family support.

<https://carolgraysocialstories.com/social-stories/what-is-it/>

<https://www.appeer.org.uk/>

This group provide support for girls with autism. They run groups for girls and holiday activities. They also provide parenting support.

www.freemantles.surrey.sch.uk

Go to the outreach section and then the section at the bottom 'Training for parents and carers' Freemantles school in Woking provide lots of courses for parents which are held at the school and have a variety of prices e.g. Being the parent of an autistic child (3 sessions) in April and May 2025 for a cost of £10 or Being the Dad of an autistic child (3 sessions) in March for £10.

National Autistic Society <https://www.autism.org.uk>

The company below provide some training courses for parents which may be of interest.

<https://allthingsinclusionandautism.com/>

All things visual strategies Supporting autistic children / those with communication difficulties with visual strategies - why use visuals, which visuals to use and how to use them? Thursday 27th February 2025 10 - 11.30am Online - via Zoom £36 per person	Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) Understanding PDA and practical strategies to support 25th February 2025 9.30 - 11.30am Online - via Zoom £44 per person
All things communication and play: Supporting autistic children with communication and play skills – laughing and learning together Monday 10th March 2025 9.30am – 12 Online via Zoom £51 per person	Autism and Girls Exploring differences and diagnosis . Understanding how autism impacts on girls and strategies and ideas to support them Wednesday 26th March 2025 10 - 11.30am Online via Zoom £36 per person
All things behaviour - supporting positive behaviours for autistic children Thursday 6th February 2025 9.30am – 12 Online via Zoom £51 per person	All things sensory - a workshop exploring the sensory needs of autistic children and practical strategies to support their needs Monday 3rd March 2025 9.30am – 12 Online via Zoom £51 per person
All Things Toileting Exploring the challenges of toileting for autistic children and practical strategies to get you started Tuesday 28th January 2025 10 - 11.30am Online via Zoom £36 per person	Gestalt Language Processing How to support early language skills for young children including Gestalt learners Monday 10th February 2025 10 - 11.30am Online via Zoom £36 per person
All Things Mealtimes Looking at the challenges around food and eating for autistic children and practical strategies to support Monday 17th March 2025 10 - 11.30am Online via Zoom £36 per person	ADHD Understanding ADHD in young children and practical ideas to support them Wednesday 19th March 2025 10-11.30am Online via Zoom £36 per person
Supporting children with Bereavement and Loss Looking at the impact of bereavement and loss on young children and strategies to support them Friday 28th February 2025 10 - 11.30am Online via Zoom £36 per person	Promoting positive mental health in young children Examining causes of mental health difficulties, learning about anxiety and trauma Tuesday 1st April 2025 9.30 am – 12 Online via Zoom £51 per person

Have a lovely weekend

Alison Walsh