



# St Augustine's Newsletter

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
Newsletter No.4

Dear Parents and Carers,

Unfortunately, the weather is getting much wetter and colder so do make sure that your child has a coat each day as some have been coming in without one. We are trying a 'soft start' to school each day for pupils in Y1 to Y6 (YR – no change) where the children can make their way into class from 8.40a.m onwards and get on with a quiet activity. When we have sent children in early due to the rain – everyone has found this much calmer (e.g. not everyone using the lockers at the same time). We will still be supervising the playground from 8.30a.m. and the school day will still start at 8. 50a.m..Don't panic therefore is you get to school at 8.40 and the playground seems quiet! There will be two of us at the school gate and we are always very happy to directly escort the youngest pupils in Y1 to class or anyone having a wobbly day. You will have noticed a few changes by the front gate as we are trying to minimise the risk of any child being hit by a car by walking on the footpaths as much as possible. The building work has affected our access to the building but it will only be for the remainder of this term.

Can we request that any information about pick-up arrangement changes or appointments is emailed into the school office or pop into the school office yourself as this is far more reliable than word of mouth. Many thanks.

**Please don't forget that on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October the school is closed for a Xavier INSET training day**

## **Upcoming Events**

30 <sup>th</sup> September	Little Way Week at school (based on the teachings of St. Therese of Lisieux) Black History Month begins
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Year R Parent Information Session in the School Hall at 6p.m.
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>INSET day – School Closed</b>
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Y6 Bikeability Week
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	PTA meeting at 8p.m. on zoom
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Liturgies with Fr. John and Fr.Paul
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> October Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Parents Evenings
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Individual School Photos
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Y4 Freshwater Theatre Visit Y5 Visit to the River and Rowing Museum
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	October Half-Term
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	PTA meeting at 8p.m.at Pine Ridge Golf Club
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA meeting at 8p.m. on zoom
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Term

Our Rainbows group will be starting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October. This time the group is for pupils in KS2 who are suffering a bereavement, including a relationship breakdown. It is run by trained staff and will take place after school until 4.15p.m. If you think that your child would benefit from attending this please email me directly – [head@staugustine.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:head@staugustine.surrey.sch.uk)



### **Admissions**

Year 6 parents, I am sure that you are all over this, but the deadline for admissions for secondary school is the 31<sup>st</sup> October. You need to apply to the local authority in which you live (if you live in Hampshire, you apply through Hampshire County council and you can list schools from another authority e.g. Surrey). If you want to apply to a Catholic secondary school e.g. All Hallows or SJB , you will **also** need to complete the Supplementary Information Form that will be on each school website.

**THIS MUST ALSO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED BY THE DEADLINE – REMEMBER THE SCHOOLS WILL BE CLOSED IN HALF-TERM!!**

SJB Open Evening – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October (6p.m. onwards)

All Hallows Open Evening – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October (4-7p.m.)

If your child is going to go to SJB the parents last year advised others to get on the D and P coach company waiting list as soon as you hear if your child has a place there.

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).



### **Year 3**

In our new, exciting topic on The Egyptians (Temples, Tombs and Treasures), we have been using the world map on the playground to locate Egypt. In addition to this we created a giant timeline to identify when the Ancient Egyptians lived.

## **Football and Netball fixtures v Connaught**

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September, children from St. Augustine's participated in football and netball matches against Connaught. The matches were competitive, and all children played fairly and showed good sportsmanship. Well done to all who participated:

### **Football**

George P, Benedict S, Leonardo B, Julian L, Olivia C, Miguel A, John Z, Daniel W, Ciaran C, Freddie W, Zachary Y, Joel L.

### **Netball**

Elena H, Cerys W, Eloise T, Natalia S-R, Ruva G, Eden C, Liliana R



## **Little Way Week**

Next week, we celebrate the Little Way Week. It begins on Monday 30 September and ends on Friday 4 October. The feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux falls on Tuesday 1 October.

Little Way Week is inspired by St Thérèse of Lisieux, patron of mission. As a child St Thérèse dreamed of being a missionary. With age she understood that very few of us are called to make big and radical gestures, but that through small, loving actions we too can deliver God's love to the world.

Why are we doing this? Children need to learn about the lives of the saints and understand that they too can lead saintly lives by following Jesus.

On Monday, we will be sharing with children the theme of the week and information on how following Jesus inspired St Therese. During the week, please encourage children to think about their 'little way' towards others, and how their kind actions can have a positive impact on others around them. This can be linked to our school rules as well:

Be ready

Be respectful

Be safe



## Attendance

I reminded everyone last term that there were a number of changes with regard to school attendance as the government is determined to raise overall school attendance to as high as it possibly can be. We all totally understand this and know that we can't help the children with their learning if they aren't at school. Children may become too ill at times to attend school which cannot be helped and this would be authorised absence. It is imperative that the children don't miss school for avoidable absences e.g. holidays. We cannot authorise **any** holiday absence from school. There is NO CODE we can use on the school registers for this. Holiday absences will be coded as unauthorised and parents need to be aware of the new regulations came into effect on 19 August 2024 which affect penalty notices issued for an unauthorised leave of absence (holidays, birthdays etc..). Please try where possible to make medical appointments outside of school hours but if not, the afternoon session is preferable but we understand that you often will have no control over appointment times. Medical appointments are authorised absence. The local authority monitors our school registers and all pupils with attendance less than 90% are automatically monitored. Those with attendance less than 90% are deemed to be persistently absent.

The national threshold for when it is appropriate to issue a penalty notice is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence – 5 days (we have 2 sessions per day / 2 registrations) in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. A school week means any week in which there is at least one school session. This can be met with any combination of unauthorised absence (e.g. 4 sessions of holiday taken in term time plus 6 sessions of arriving late after the register closes all within 10 weeks). These sessions can be consecutive (e.g. 10 sessions of holiday in one week) or not (e.g. 6 sessions of unauthorised absence taken in 1 week and 1 per week for the next 4 weeks. The period of 10 school weeks can also span different terms or schools years (e.g. 2 sessions of unauthorised absence in the Summer term and a further 8 within the Autumn Term).

We would like to make you aware of the following changes regarding charges:

1. If a parent/carer has not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against the parent/carer in the Magistrates Court.
2. If a parent/carer has incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court.
3. If a parent/carer has incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then the parent/carer will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996



### **Volunteers Needed**

Across the school staff would love to have volunteers help with a variety of tasks such as listening to children read, sorting book bags and we are really desperate for a couple of volunteers to assist with the school library. If you could help us for a couple of hours a week or know of a retired person locally who may be interested, please contact the school office. All adults will need a DBS check before working with children. Please email [finance@staugustine.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:finance@staugustine.surrey.sch.uk) to start the process. I'll then need to provide all volunteers with some safeguarding training. Working with children is great fun and wonderfully rewarding.

### **Learning Village**

We know that almost half the pupils at the school have English as an Additional Language and that to be bi or tri-lingual is an incredible skill. We have purchased a new resource called the Learning Village which aims to help children with their language proficiency as English can be a very complex language to learn. Mr. Girault will be contacting some parents about this as we think it could help with vocabulary, language structure and reading. Please ask myself or Mr. Girault if you have any questions and we'll be keen to hear how it is going!

### **OPAL** (don't get rid of any of these things!)

Small animals/dinosaurs	Fairies/dollies	Cars
Buckets / spades	Moving Boxes	Trains
Empty Toolboxes (this will be handy for keeping small world items in)	Containers	Big tunnels, Plastic barrels or plastic tubes
Tyres	Gardening equipment (child suitable)	Scooters
Tarpaulins (for making dens)	Toddler buggies	Helmets
Sand Toys	Colouring Books	Big Chalks
Lego	Pallets	Water Play
Pots, pans, kitchen ware, plastic plates (for a Messy / Mud Kitchen)	Plant pots plastic & ceramic	Watering cans
Guttering	Any outdoor storage	Play Mats (streets)

### **Community**

8<sup>th</sup> Frimley Brownies are looking for some new members. They group meet at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church on Tuesdays from 5.30- 7.00p.m. Please email [8thfrimleybrownies@gmail.com](mailto:8thfrimleybrownies@gmail.com) if you would like to arrange a trial session or to find out anymore information. Brownies is for girls aged 7-10 years old. Brownies is a fantastic organisation where children learn lots of new skills, have adventures and get to make lots of new friends. It's usually incredibly good value for money also. More information about what they do can be found below:

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/brownies/>

Have a lovely weekend

Alison Walsh

Headteacher