



St Augustine's Newsletter

Friday 23rd January 2026
Newsletter No.17

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very excited that work has started in our Early Years outdoor area. Unfortunately the green mound was in need of a repair which was going to be very costly so we decided to develop a new area for the children to use. We will share some photos with you when it is finished.

The week of 9th February is Mental Health Week. We will be talking about this to the children. On Friday 13th February everyone can wear what they like for 'Come as yourself day' with a suggested donation of £2 for the Bee-Lieve Foundation [Home - Bee-lieve Foundation : Bee-lieve Foundation](#). This charity was created by a former Xavier Headteacher and is focussed on supporting young people's mental health.

Upcoming Events

Friday 30 th January	PTA Movies and Munchies evening
Tuesday 10 th February	Y2 Freshwater Theatre Visit
Thursday 12 th February	Y3 Ministry of Chocolate
Monday 16 th -Friday 20 th February	HALF-TERM
Tuesday mornings Spring 2	Year 3 Swimming lessons
Wednesday 4 th March	Science Fair (please note revised date)
Friday 6 th March	Fire Service visit to YR * PTA Quiz Night – SAVE THE DATE!!**
Monday 9 th March	KS2 Music Festival at G Live
Thursday 12 th March	Internet safety workshops for pupils in KS2 and parent information session
Friday 13 th March	INSET DAY – School Closed
Thursday 19 th March	Y4 Overnight residential trip
Friday 27 th March	PTA Break the Rules event End of term – early finish at 1.30p.m.

CAF Donate

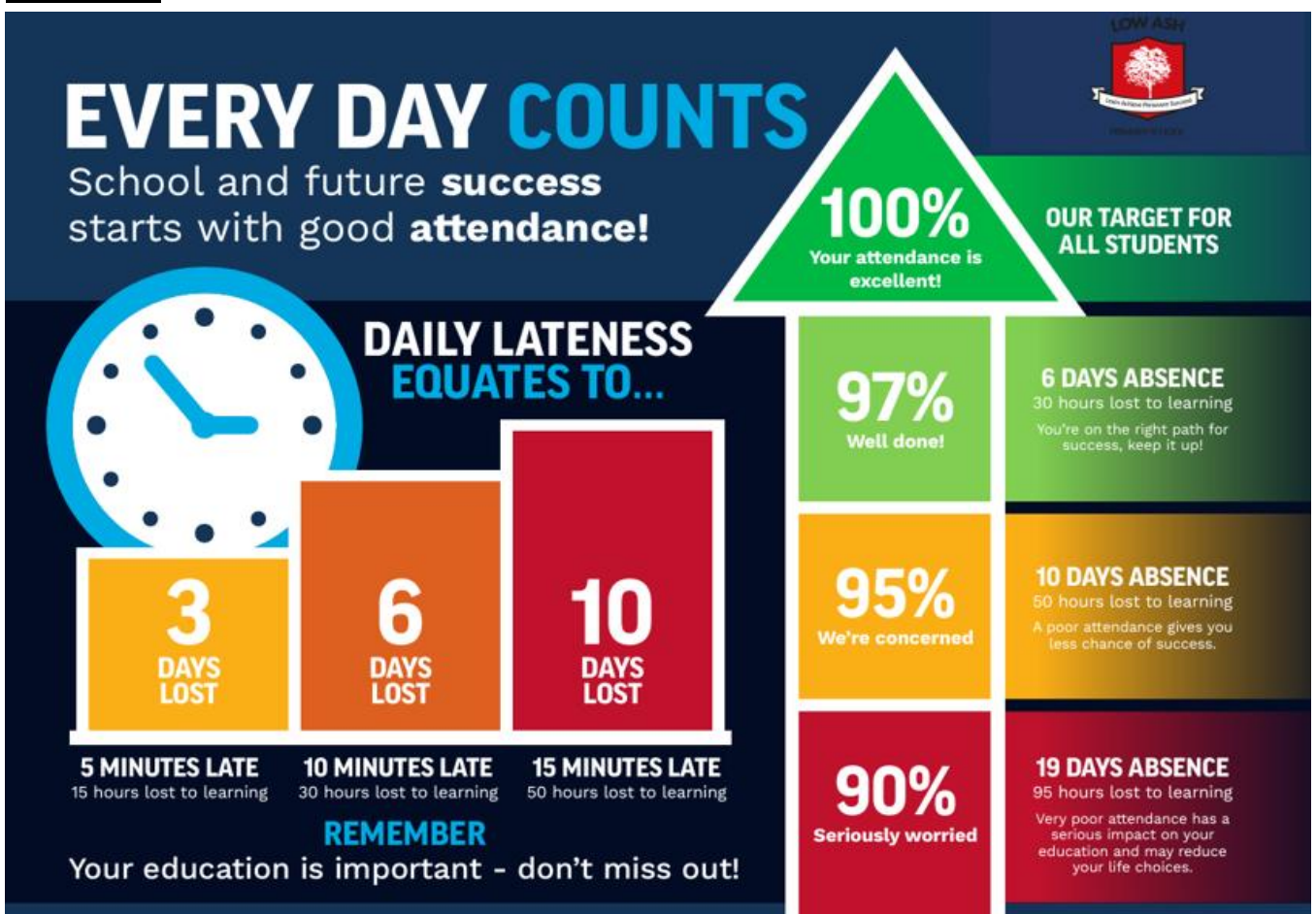
Historically the school had a Governor's Fund which was used to help with improvements to the school environment. We now call this the School Development Fund. School budgets are incredibly tight and there is much work that we would like to do. The School Development Fund is made up of voluntary donations from parents of children at St Augustine's and is used to enable the school to develop both buildings and resources to provide the best education for our children. We would ask you to consider signing up for monthly donations if you have the financial capacity to do so but if this is not possible, we would also be grateful to receive one-off donations. All gifts are confidentially handled.

Many thanks.



[Xavier Catholic Education Trust - Donate now](#)

Attendance



Attendance has been improving at the school which is great – please keep it up! Pupils with attendance of 90% and below are deemed to be 'persistently absent' and are monitored by the local authority as well as the school.

Please do not go on holiday during term-time as this may result in a penalty fine.

The information below is from the Surrey County Council website:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/at-school/attendance-and-absence/legal-processes-used-to-enforce-school-attendance-guidance-for-parents>

'The Education Act 1996 states that parents must ensure their children of compulsory school age receive appropriate full-time education according to their age, ability and aptitude. Ordinarily, this involves ensuring children attend school regularly and punctually during term time.

Only your child's school can authorise an absence from school. If your child is absent without good reason it will be recorded as unauthorised.

Surrey County Council has a statutory duty to enforce regular school attendance and the Inclusion Service is designated to carry out this duty on their behalf. The Inclusion Service and schools can use various legal powers if your child is missing school without a good reason.

The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 has made changes to penalty notices issued for unauthorised absences taken after 19 August 2024. The amount payable has increased and there is now a limit on the amount of penalty notices a parent/carer can receive per child within a rolling 3 year period.

Penalty Notices can be issued to each parent liable for the attendance offence or offences. Under Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 a 'parent' includes any person who is not a parent of the child but who has parental responsibility, or who has care of the child.

Penalty Notices are an alternative to the prosecution of parents for failing to ensure that their child of compulsory school age regularly attends the school where they are registered or at a place where alternative provision is provided.

Penalty Notices can be used where the pupil's absence has not been authorised by the school and there are at least 10 unauthorised absences in a 10 school week period (these absences do not have to be consecutive). Penalty Notices may also be issued where parents allow their child to be present in a public place during school hours without reasonable justification during the first five days of a fixed period or permanent exclusion. The parents must have been notified by the school at the time of the exclusion of this and the days to which it applies.

The amount payable under a Penalty Notice (PN) is as follows per parent, per child

Absence Category	0-21 days	22-28 days	More than 28 days
First Absence since 19 August 2024	£80	£160	Prosecution
Second Absence (within 3 years of first Penalty Issue date)	£160	£160	Prosecution
Third Absence (within 3 years of first Penalty Issue date)	N/A	N/A	Prosecution

If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution under s444 Education Act 1996.

Prosecution for failing to ensure regular school attendance

A parent is guilty of an offence if their child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly - Section 444(1) Education Act 1996. In such a situation if the parent knows that their child is not attending they may be prosecuted for a more serious offence – Section 444 (1) (a) Education Act 1996. If prosecuted, you could receive a community order, a fine of up to £2,500 per parent/carer or a custodial sentence.'

Admissions - SJB

We emailed our draft admissions policy before Christmas to you all. SJB are currently consulting on their draft admission policy also. This is at the request of the Diocese and they have supplied schools with model policies to use. SJB is a heavily over-subscribed school so it's important for parents in Year 5 and below who may want their child to go there, to be aware of the criteria.

<https://cms-site-files.s3.amazonaws.com/sjbschool/uploads/document/Proposed-SJB-Policy-on-Admission-2027-2028.pdf?t=1765971293?ts=1768849463>

Criteria 2 - Catholic children with a Certificate of Catholic Practice who attend a feeder Catholic primary school namely, St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School, Woking; St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, Frimley; St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Primary School, Woking and The Marist Catholic Primary School, West Byfleet (see note 3)

Those who are Catholic without a Certificate of Catholic Practice at a Feeder School are Criteria 4.

These are the notes on a Certificate of Catholic Practice:

'Certificate of Catholic Practice' means a certificate issued by the family's parish priest (or the priest in charge of the church where the family attends Mass) in the form laid down by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. It will be issued if the priest is satisfied that at least one Catholic parent or carer (along with the child, if he or she is over seven years old) have (except when it was impossible to do so) attended Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation for at least five years (or, in the case of a child, since the age of seven, if shorter). It will also be issued when the practice has been continuous since being received into the Church if that occurred less than five years ago. It is expected that most Certificates will be issued on the basis of attendance. A Certificate may also be issued by the priest when attendance is interrupted by exceptional circumstances which excuse from the obligation to attend on that occasion or occasions. Further details of these circumstances can be found in the guidance issued to priests on the diocesan website Schools & Admissions | Education Service

At St. Augustine's we haven't had to ask for certificates of Catholic Practice for a number of years as we haven't been filling on Catholic pupils. Parents may know that previously they have had to ask the priest to sign a form for their application to SJB so this isn't a significant change but I just wanted to warn parents in advance. Many thanks.

Lunches

I have spoken with a couple of managers from our catering company this week to share some of the problems that parents have been experiencing. We can all see that the quality of the food is far higher and portions are far more reasonable than previously. The cook is delighted with the improved quality of fresh ingredients that she has to work with each day. There have been a number of technical problems and menu changes however, which have caused difficulties. The catering company are currently trialling a new admin system in another school and are working on a new menu. I have also requested some cold menu choices for pupils if there are days that pupils don't want a hot choice. I will update you in a few weeks when I have more information.

Year R – Rainbow Theatre

The children in Blue and Green class had some special visitors last Friday 16th January. The Rainbow Theatre company came in and worked with the children to recreate four of the world's best stories. To start with they sang a song entitled Four favourite tales. They then reenacted Little Red Riding Hood. Some of the children were flowers in the forest. After this they went on to tell the tale of Goldilocks, the three billy goats gruff and the three little pigs. The children showed the Big, Bad wolf that they weren't scared of him. The children were really engaged. The whole experience brought to life the Traditional Tales topic that is being covered this term.



Ella's fundraiser for Little Princess Trust

Ella has been growing her hair since April last year to donate to the Little Princess Trust and it was finally long enough to cut last weekend. Alongside donating her hair, Ella has set up a Go Fund Me page to raise as much money as possible for this amazing charity. If you would like to make a donation to this fantastic cause and read about what inspired Ella to help, please follow the link below.

[Ben Acton is fundraising for Little Princess Trust](#)

Thank you for your support with this.



OPAL

We just wanted to share with you, some photos of children at play during lunchtimes. All these photos were taken on the same lunchtime, and all hopefully give a sense of how fun and exciting playtimes can be for the children at St. Augustine's.

Kind regards, Mr Welland (PE co-ordinator and OPAL play lead)



Y3 & 4 Cross-Country Round 2

On Wednesday 21st January, children from Y3&4 participated in a cross-country event at Ravenscote. Although the weather wasn't great, everyone ran excellently and managed to complete their race. Well done to all who took part and thank you to the parents who came and supported us in the rain. We really appreciated it!



St. Augustine Cross-Country club members:

Ava K, Ella A, Felicity B, Dia M, Isla-Rose P, Molly M, Alexander M, Austin M, Matteo M, Oscar K, Adam C, Anthony G, Michael S, Joshua D, Nathaniel N

SCHOOL FOOTBALL AWARD

St. Augustine's- Equal access school St. Augustine's has been recognised as a school that provides equal access for girls to play football. We have been actively engaged in helping Surrey provide equal access to girl's football provision. Because of this, we have received the Equal Access Trophy! Over the past few years, we have run a dedicated girl's football club. This has given girls from St. Augustine's the opportunity to play football. We have also attended football tournaments and fixtures dedicated solely to girl's football. A huge thank you to Mr Castell for running the girl's football club every Thursday lunchtime. Your time and efforts have not gone unnoticed!





Sports Hall Athletics- 2026:

On Tuesday 20th February, children from year 5 and 6 participated in the Active Surrey event: Sportshall Athletics. The event took place at Guildford Spectrum and consisted of both track and field events. The competition was fierce, and all the children competed with great enthusiasm and passion. Through the fantastic efforts of all involved, we managed to finish in fourth place. Well done to everyone who participated. A big thank you to Mrs Chase, Mrs Hamilton-Eadie and Mrs Kuta for their help with the event! Also, thank you to the parents who came to support!

Team:

Alberto B	Leo S	Madeleine F	Lucy W
Austin D	Arlo S	Sophie G	Stella S
Ben H	Luke W	Ruva G	Evelyn M
Marcel J	Tymon K	Isabella G	Erica N
Max K	Harry S	Ophelia K	Millie B
Julian L	Cameron T	Charlotte S	Olivia K-D
Ano M	William T	Natalia S-R	Paloma L
	Ethan A	Natasha S	

PTA News

The PTA has been busy planning a range of events for the coming weeks, with some familiar favourites and some great opportunities for the school community to come together. Please see below for the latest updates and dates to add to your diary.

PTA Uniform Sale Friday 23 January

Need the next size up, a spare jumper, or a great value uniform top? Our pre-loved uniform sale is back on **Friday 23 January from 3.00-3.40pm** in the Arts Block. It is a simple way to save money, keep good quality uniforms in circulation, and support the PTA at the same time.

Movies and Munchies Friday 30 January

Our popular Movies and Munchies evening returns on **Friday 30 January**. Tickets are now available via the PTA website at www.staugustinespta.uk. Children can attend by purchasing a £5 snack pack, which includes the movie ticket, while parents get a well earned couple of hours.

This month we are planning two separate screenings:

Key Stage 1: The Emperor's New Groove

Key Stage 2: Around the World in 80 Days

Quiz Night Friday 6 March (Save the Date)

Please note that the PTA Quiz Night will now take place on Friday 6 March, rather than the previously advertised date of 20 March. We hope you can join us for what promises to be a fun and sociable evening. More details about tickets and arrangements will follow soon.

Thank you for supporting the PTA and helping us fund initiatives and resources for the children.

Have a lovely weekend

Alison Walsh