



St Augustine's Newsletter

**Friday 20th March 2026
Newsletter No.24**

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week Year 4 had their beautiful Easter Liturgy which focussed on the stations of the cross. Next week pupils across the school will have the opportunity to pray the stations of the cross. Next Friday is the PTA Break the Rules Day (see more information below). The PTA are also organising a fun family barn dance event for families on Friday 24th April. Don't worry if you don't know how to dance – you'll be an expert by the end of the evening!! Do come along and join in the fun!!

Our Year 4 pupils have been away on a one night residential trip. We very much look forward to welcoming them back later today. Many thanks also to the team of staff who kindly volunteered to go with them.

Upcoming Events

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| Tuesday 24 th March | Xavier Science Fair Y3 final swimming lesson |
| Friday 27 th March | PTA Break the Rules event / End of term – early finish at 1.30p.m. |
| Monday 13 th April | Start of the summer term |
| Thursday 16 th April | PTA meeting at 8p.m. (online) |
| Friday 24 th April | PTA Family Barn Dance Event – save the date / Happy Bag Collection |
| Monday 4 th May | BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED |
| Friday 8 th May | PTA KS1 Disco |
| Monday 11 th May | Y6 SATs week |
| Tuesday 19 th May | Y3 local visit |
| Friday 22 nd May | PTA KS2 Disco |

Internet Safety



On Thursday ChildNet came to speak to pupils in Key Stage 2 about how to stay safe online. Many thanks also to one of our parents Dr. Elizabeth Quaglia who spoke with pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 about cyber security. She has published much research in this area and has also written a children's book on cyber security.

ChildNet also spoke with parents about how to keep your children safe at home. They have kindly shared a link to an online information session which will work for the next week – please take time to watch it (it may be the most important thing you do to keep your child safe):

<https://vimeo.com/1154368297/f3d3f9b621>

Year 3/4 football & Netball fixtures vs The Grove and Mytchett



Last Wednesday, children from year 3 and 4 played in football and netball matches against Mytchett and The Grove. There wasn't a winner or a loser, but there were plenty of opportunities to learn and develop their game. Well done to all who played.

Football team- George, Alexander, Matteo, Ernest, Sinaia, Sofia, Luke, Michael, Zane

Netball team- Gabriella, Olivia O, Ava K, Roisin, Carys, Olivia R.

World Down Syndrome Day – Odd socks

Thank to the children for wearing their odd socks and making a donation it was wonderful to see so many of the staff and children taking part in this event.



Waste-Free Wednesday (Many thanks to Alessandro for his poster below!)

What to do

- Use reusable containers
- Try and eat up all your food
- Think about the planet and all its creatures



What to avoid

- Materials you can only use once
- Asking for more food than you will eat
- Not binning litter properly

This week, we were delighted to launch our very first Waste-Free Wednesday. Pupils were encouraged to bring lunches and snacks that were completely free from single-use plastics, and it was wonderful to see how wholeheartedly they embraced the challenge.

As I visited the lunch hall, it was a joy to see so many thoughtfully prepared, environmentally friendly lunches—beautifully packed in reusable containers and sustainable wrapping. Our staff also modelled this brilliantly, fully supporting the initiative and encouraging pupils to think carefully about the choices they make. By continuing with Waste-Free Wednesdays each week, we hope to deepen our commitment to the Catholic Social Teaching principle of stewardship: caring for God's creation and understanding how our daily actions reflect our faith and values.

Thank you for your cooperation and ongoing support. A special well done to Year 4, who were the year group with the most impressive waste-free lunches this time—congratulations! Mrs. Engelbrecht

COMMUNITY

Unfortunately I have had a message from OLQH Church requesting that all parents attending school Masses at the Church must not park on the nursery side of the Church car park (left hand side), nor on the access road to it, or block any entrances and exits.

If there isn't space to park on the Church side of the car park then please find a side road locally to park in. It appears that either nursery or church staff have experienced some verbal abuse previously which is clearly not acceptable. Many thanks.

PTA NEWS

Break the Rules Day: Next Friday, 27 March

For one day only, your child can break school rules, such as: Come to school in non-uniform clothes, Have coloured hair, Have painted nails, Bring a special treat, etc.

For a full list of rules to break and payment of fines, visit www.staugustinespta.co.uk Fines are 50p per rule that is broken or you can pay £5 to break all rules!

All fines will need to be paid by Thursday, 26 March. If you have any questions, please email st.augustines.school.pta@gmail.com

Family Barn Dance Fun Night: Friday, 24 April, 6-8pm, in the school hall



We are excited to introduce the wonderful tradition of a Ceilidh (pronounced kay-lee) to our school community on 24 April from 6-8pm. A Ceilidh is a lively, family-friendly evening of traditional music and simple group dances. No experience is needed as all dances are taught on the night by a caller, so everyone can join in. This is a family event and is for both adults and children.

Tickets include pizza. Book your Early Bird tickets for £8 per person at www.staugustinespta.uk

Early bird ticket sales close on 3 April.

To see what a ceilidh or barn dance looks like, watch this short video:

<https://youtu.be/7iAT80KNRwU?si=h1rJqRJEe8WsXFuf>.

Open Afternoon Farnborough Hill

Our final Open Afternoon of the school year is being held on Friday 24 April at 1.40 pm. Year 5 and Year 4 families particularly are most welcome to attend. Please ask them to [sign up on our website \(https://www.farnborough-hill.org/join-us/visit-us\)](http://www.farnborough-hill.org/join-us/visit-us).

Taster Days

Our very popular Year 5 Taster Days will take place on Thursday 18 and Monday 22 June this year. Year 5 families are welcome to register their daughter's interest by [completing this form \(//www.farnborough-hill.org/join-us/visit-us/f-hill-experience\)](http://www.farnborough-hill.org/join-us/visit-us/f-hill-experience).

As always, if you or your families have any questions about Farnborough Hill or the admissions process - or if parents would like to arrange an individual family tour - we would be very happy to help, and I would warmly encourage parents to contact me directly. Prospective families can find our admissions information and more on our [website here \(//www.farnborough-hill.org/join-us/admissions/entry-information\)](http://www.farnborough-hill.org/join-us/admissions/entry-information).

Catholic Young Artist Award 2026 – Entries Now Open!

We are delighted to share that the Catholic Union Charitable Trust has launched the Catholic Young Artist Award 2026, open to all primary school pupils.

This year's theme is "Forgiveness", and children are invited to create an artwork that expresses what forgiveness means to them. The competition will be judged by Margaret Mizen MBE, Founder of the Mizen Foundation and a well-known ambassador for peace, hope and forgiveness.

The award includes a cash prize for the winner, and runners-up will also be recognised. This art award runs alongside the Catholic Young Writer Award for secondary pupils.

How to Enter:

Parents or guardians can submit entries by completing the application form and emailing a scanned copy of the artwork to info@catholicunion.org.uk with the subject line: "Catholic Young Artist Award".

Deadline: 22 May 2026

We encourage all our young artists to take part and share their creativity and imagination on this important theme.

<https://catholicunion.org.uk/2026/01/young-catholic-artist-award-2026/>



The poster features the title 'CATHOLIC UNION YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION 2026' in bold black text. To the right is the Catholic Union logo, a blue circle with 'THE CATHOLIC UNION' around the top, '18' on the left, '70' on the right, and a white cross with a 'U' inside. Below the title is a central illustration of a paint palette with six colored wells (red, yellow, blue, purple, light blue, white) and a paintbrush with a wooden handle and a yellow tip. Below the illustration is the theme 'FORGIVENESS - WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE TO YOU?' in bold black text. Underneath is the contact information 'Send your entry to: info@catholicunion.org.uk'. At the bottom left, a box contains 'JUDGE: MARGARET MIZEN MBE MIZEN FOUNDATION'. At the bottom center, a box contains 'DEADLINE: 22 MAY 2026 PRIZES!'. At the bottom right, a box contains 'OPEN TO: RECEPTION - Y6'. The website 'www.catholicunion.org.uk' is at the bottom left, and the 'MIZEN FOUNDATION' logo is at the bottom right.

CATHOLIC UNION YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION 2026

THE CATHOLIC UNION 18 70

FORGIVENESS - WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

Send your entry to: info@catholicunion.org.uk

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www.catholicunion.org.uk **MIZEN FOUNDATION**

Have a lovely weekend

Alison Walsh