



St Augustine's Newsletter

**Friday 10th October 2025
Newsletter No.5**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Apologies for a very long newsletter – there has been a lot of things happening at school! Please also see below details of some key dates of events for the remainder of this term.

Upcoming Events	
Tuesday 14 th October	'Disconnect to Connect' for Years 4 and 5 P.T.A. meeting at 8p.m. at Pine Ridge Golf Club
Tuesday 21 st October	Year 4 Theatre visit Parents evenings (online)
Wednesday 22 nd October	Health checks for YR and Y6 (and immunisations)
Thursday 23 rd October	'Disconnect to Connect' pupil presentations to parents -Year 4 at 2.30p.m. and Year 5 at 3p.m.at School Parents evenings (online)
Friday 24 th October	Theatre visit for Year 2 and Year 5 PTA Happy Bag Collection
Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st October	Half-term
Wednesday 5 th November	Individual school photos
Friday 7 th November	P.T.A. Uniform Sale
Wednesday 12 th November	Year 3 trip to Hazlemere Museum
Thursday 27 th November	Year 5 trip to the River and Rowing Museum, Henley
Monday 1 st December	SCHOOL CLOSURE
Wednesday 3 rd December	9.30a.m – Year 2 Nativity Play 2.15p.m. – Year R Nativity Play
Thursday 4 th December	9.30a.m. – Year R Nativity Play 2.15p.m. – Year 2 Nativity Play
Tuesday 9 th December	9.30a.m. – Year 3 Nativity Play
Wednesday 10 th December	9.30a.m. – Year 1 Nativity Play 2p.m. - Year 3 Nativity Play
Thursday 11 th December	9.30a.m. Year 1 Nativity Play
Saturday 13 th December	P.T.A. Christmas Event ***save the date***
Wednesday 17 th December	7p.m. – Year 5 Christingle Service at OLQH
Friday 19 th December	End of term – finish at 1.30p.m.
Friday 13 th March	SCHOOL INSET DAY – school closed
Friday 22 nd May	St. Augustine's Day Mass at school (all invited) at 1.30p.m.
Saturday 13 th June	PTA Summer Fair
Friday 19 th June	SCHOOL INSET DAY – school closed
Friday 26 th June	Sports Day
Saturday 4 th July	PTA Camping event at school

Harvest Liturgies

Many thanks to all of you who managed to join us yesterday at either the KS1 or KS2 Harvest Liturgies. Many thanks also for all your generous donations to the Hope Hub. We know that these will be given to the very neediest people in our local community.



PTA News - Save the Date: "Christmas Ice Magic" event on 13 December 2025



We are thrilled to announce that, this year, we will be bringing an ice-skating rink to our school for our Christmas Fair! On Saturday, 13 December, from 11am to 7pm, our school will be turned into a winter wonderland with ice skating, a magical Santa's grotto, market stalls, live entertainment and lots more.

Please save the date in your diaries and don't miss out. Bookings for the ice skating and Santa's grotto to follow shortly.



Learning in Year 3

This week, Year 3 have been exploring the fascinating layers of the Earth.

After learning about each layer's unique properties and thickness, the children brought their understanding to life by creating colourful playdough models. It was a fun and hands-on way to reinforce their learning!



World Mental Health Day .



Today, we also celebrated World Mental Health Day in a thoughtful and uplifting way.

The children were delighted to discover surprise affirmations in their lockers this morning. We took time to reflect on how positive words can help us build self-esteem and develop a healthy, confident mindset.

Special Educational Needs

It is Developmental Language Delay day on Friday 17th October and that there will be special assemblies for both KS1 and KS2 to raise awareness of this as part of our inclusive culture.

Please find attached a flyer with details of some parent support programmes available for parents of children with autism or suspected autism.

Young Carers

I would like to set up a Young Carers group at school. A young carer is anyone under the age of 18 who provides, or intends to provide care (emotional, physical, practical tasks, personal etc.) to another person of any age. There are statistically likely to be a couple of children in every classroom who may be a young carer and in total there are approximately 15,500 children across Surrey.

I was aware from a young age that my own upbringing was quite different to that of all of my friends. My elder sister was born while my dad was teaching secondary school science out in Zambia. She was born with very complex additional physical and learning needs and my parents were told that they would need to move to England to be somewhere in the vicinity of Great Ormond Street Hospital in England as she would need multiple operations, hence they settled here in Surrey. Although she was four years older than me I can remember from about six years old onwards helping babysitters for example to look after her as they wouldn't always know what to do. There will be pupils in our school with siblings with additional needs, perhaps a parent or grandparent with a physical disability or mental health condition for example. No one should have any guilt about this – all our families are different. I know I benefitted a lot from my experience in lots of ways. The purpose of the group would be to support these pupils but to also have fun.

If you would like your child to join in please can you send me an email directly by next Friday and share any information that you think may be helpful. My email is head@staugustine.surrey.sch.uk

Once I am aware of which children are Young Carers there is lots more help and support that I can share with parents.

Safeguarding Warning

The children's book series 'Spy Dogs/Pups' and 'Spy Cat books', written by Andrew Cope contains a link to a website, which contains highly pornographic content. The book asked children to explore the website to find out more about the characters. It appears the website (identified on the back page) has now been compromised and takes users to a pornographic website with no age verification. Please check at home if you have these books.



Meet the new Sports Crew Members!

On Monday 6th October, 12 children from year 5 and 6 took part in training to become new Sports Crew members for this year. All children received their bronze badges and will hope to join our current Sports crew on gold badges by the end of the year! They will join our current members in becoming leaders for sport at St. Augustine's.

As result of attending this training, pupils will:

- *Recognise the skills and qualities of a good leader*
- *Understand the need to work as a team when completing group activities*
- *Understand and follow the 'Mr NEDD' (Name, Explain, Demonstrate & Deliver) principle*
- *Learn and deliver PhysiFUN games to build knowledge of worthwhile activity*
Reflect on learning through practical application and peer feedback

Sports Crew:

Gold badge members- Jake G, Madeleine F, Benjamin H, Ciaran C, Arlo S, Lucy W

Bronze badge members- Charlotte S, Seb V, Ethan A, Liam M, Mikolaj K, Logan H, Zara T, Eve C, Paloma L, Oluhle M, Janya C



WANTED!

Calling all parents of St Augustine's. Could you please have a look in your sheds and garages to see if you have any unwanted scooters or pushchairs for our OPAL scheme (Outdoor Play and Learning) during lunchtime break. The pushchairs can be for dolls or umbrella pushchairs for the children to push each other around. Thank you in advance, they will be very much appreciated from all our "OPAL Team."

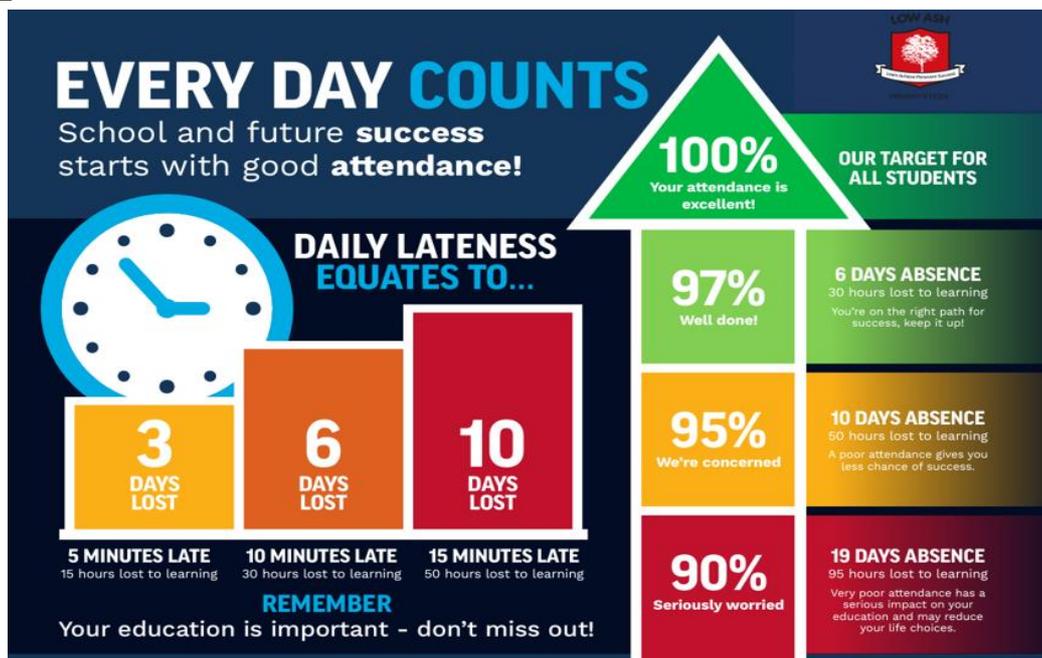
Disconnect to Connect

Dan Newman, who is part of the Mental Health team at the Xavier Trust, has been working with the children in Year 5 and Year 4 to help them to understand the dangers of Smartphones. The children have been working with Dan Newman, the lead for the Lifestyle First programme across Xavier CET, over the past month and have prepared a short production to show you what they have learned. The children have really engaged with the subject and are very keen to perform!

Dan will then spend 10 mins or so with you and can answer any questions you might have. The presentations will now take place in the school hall on 23rd October and not the 14th October as previously mentioned in the newsletter.

Year 4 will be delivering their presentation at 2.30pm and Year 5 will be delivering their presentation in the hall at 3.00pm. We really hope all the parents of the Year 4 and 5 children will be able to attend and hear the key messages about smart phones for younger children.

Attendance



School attendance is really important. There's plenty of research to show the link with school attainment. You can see from the chart above that good attendance is 97% and above. We will be giving out certificates each half-term to pupils with attendance at 98% +.

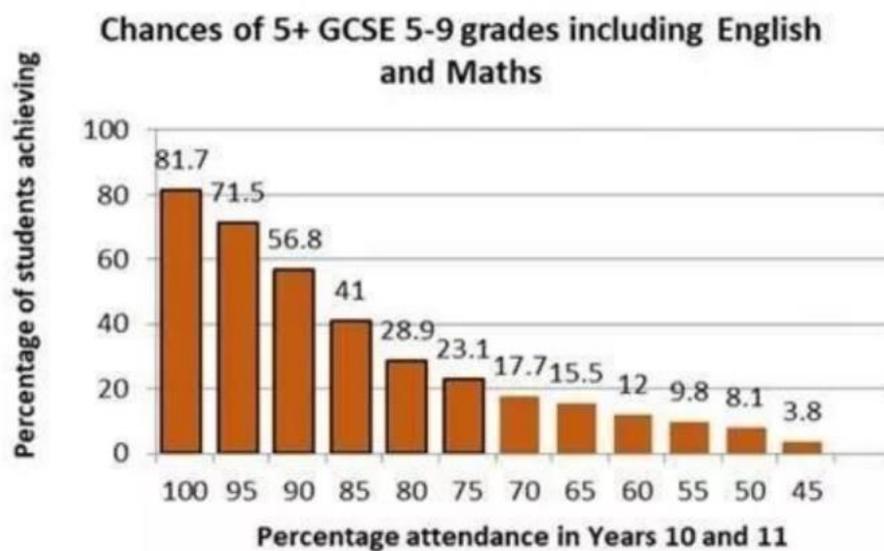
Attendance of 95% is starting to cause concern as this equates to 10 days of absence (2 weeks) and the Local Authority monitor attendance figures less than 90%. Pupils with attendance of 90% and below are deemed to be 'persistently absent'.

Occasionally your child may be too unwell to come to school but if any child has multiple illness absences throughout a school year parents may be required to provide medical evidence from the G.P. Please be aware that we do have Calpol at school which we can administer with your permission (for minor problems) and that we now have a lockable fridge storage for anti-biotics **once** pupils are on the mend and can administer with your permission. If your child is too unwell to come to school please do contact us each day to let us know (leave a voice message or send an email to the office) otherwise we have to do a home welfare check to ensure each child is safe.

There may sometimes be an exceptional reason why your child may not be able to attend school and travel abroad with you suddenly for example. Always email me or come and see me for a discussion.

We also know that there may be times where something has happened on the road beyond your control which has delayed your journey.

We frequently see the same few faces regularly coming in late which means that you will need to review timings in the mornings. Pupils coming in late get very embarrassed and it is not a calm start to the day for any child. We will be monitoring lateness regularly. A lateness after the close of registration has to be coded as an unauthorised absence.



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.

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.

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 school week period (5 days). 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.'

Have a lovely weekend
Alison Walsh