



St Augustine's Academy Newsletter

28th September 2018



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parent and Carers

It has been a week of celebration and enjoyment at St. Augustine's. We were delighted to receive awards from Dunstable in Bloom for our school garden and for Junior Warden's Remembrance wheelbarrow. Our school garden received a 'Highly Commended' certificate which is a huge achievement and our gardeners and scarecrow can be seen proudly holding their certificate below.



Also this week we celebrated European Day of Languages. Children dressed up in the colours of a European country's flag or in European costume and, during the day, learnt all about a different country. In the afternoon they presented their poster displays in a special assembly. It was a fantastic day of learning and was much enjoyed by the whole school community.



We also held our Phonics Workshops which were disappointingly attended by only 6 parents. Workshops are there to help you help your children. Please try to attend in future. A huge 'thank you' to those of you who did come along; we know you found them useful.

We do, however, look forward to seeing **all** of you at our Parents' Evenings next week. Thank you in advance for your support for your child and the school.

Amanda Howes - Headteacher

School Vision



Balloon - We have high expectations and strive for the highest academic standards.

Through having high expectations of our pupils, they are able to achieve their full potential. It is important that children build resilience in their learning so that they have an 'I can do it' attitude'. Children need to be challenged to be the best they can be and have high aspirations for themselves and what they can achieve.

All too readily, as a society, we are all quick to assist children when they are struggling. How many times do we put on children's coats for them, tidy their room or tell them the answer when they are stuck? We need to be encouraging, and even insisting, that they 'have a go' first, using ways of finding answers for themselves.

The academic standards at our school, by the end of Year 6, are now some of the best in the county and we intend to keep it that way. We can only do this, however, with determination from the whole school community to believe that our children can be anything they want to be. Past cycles can be broken and restored. We all need to have high expectations for attendance, behaviour and achievement. Let's aim high together – our children's futures depend on it!

Attendance

Our attendance so far this year is...

95.87%

Raising attendance at our school is a top priority for this year. Our school target is 96%, which is the National Average; this is what we aim to achieve.

Please work with us to raise attendance and give children the very best life chances.

Our class attendance figures for this week are:

Year 1 – 92.96%	Year 2 – 94.29%
Year 3 – 96.79%	Year 4 – 100%
Year 5 – 96.30%	Year 6 – 97.92%

Year 4 attained 100% attendance this week and receive a Mufti Day. Well Done!

Parents' Evening






On Tuesday and Wednesday next week, we will be holding our Parents' Evening. This is an opportunity for you to look at your child's classroom; see their workbooks and talk to their class teacher about how they are settling into their new class.

Please arrive early so that you have time to have a look at your child's work in their classroom. It is important that your child also comes along to parents' evening too so that they can see home and school working together.

Feedback Policy

A new way of marking books and giving feedback to pupils is being trialled at our school. It is gaining interest from other local Headteachers, some of whom have already visited our school to see it in action.

When you look at your child's book you will no longer see written comments from teachers; you will see lots of yellow highlighting by the teachers, lots of purple pen comments by the children and symbols next to the Learning Objective for each piece of work as follows:

-  - A helping hand was needed with this work
-  - Some understanding was shown
-  - The Learning Objective was fully met

The idea of our new draft Feedback Policy is that children use a purple pen to edit their work, following verbal feedback being given to them. Teachers use yellow highlighter pens to identify spelling/punctuation errors or sections of work that need to be corrected or made better. At the start of every lesson, the whole class is given verbal feedback by the teacher. Visualisers (mini projectors) are used to display pupils' work on the interactive whiteboards and highlight areas of strength and areas for development.

The trial of the policy is going very well so far and staff will be on hand to explain it to you in more detail at Parents' Evening if you would like to know more. We will also keep you updated as the term progresses.

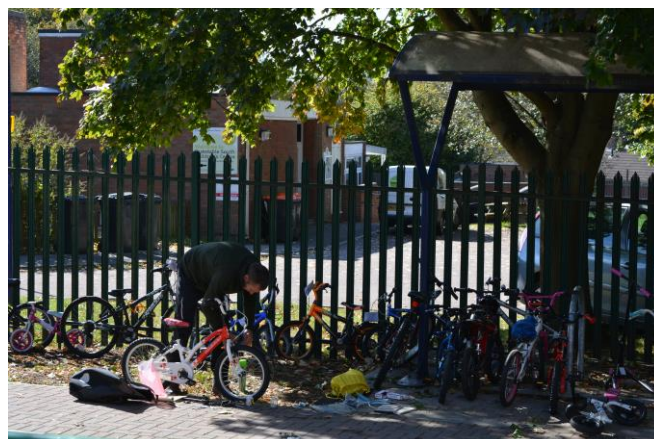
Scooters



We would like to thank Micro Scooters for their kind donations which have enabled us to provide scooters for the children to use within school.

The scooters are another way in which we are encouraging health and fitness at our school and provide our pupils with additional equipment to enjoy at lunchtimes.

Dr. Bike



Dr. Bike was overwhelmed by the response to his bike 'Health and Safety Check' on Monday. There were in excess of 40 bikes brought into school for him to check; the most that he has ever checked at a school before.

Dr. Bike also stayed after school to give additional bicycling advice to parents and pupils. We truly value the support that Sustrans provide for our school and for the helping to keep our children safe. We would also like to thank all the parents who brought bikes into school for checking. It was lovely to have so much support and our children are a lot safer as a result.

School Uniform Reminder

Some pupils are still wearing grey trousers, pinafore dresses and skirts to school. Please be reminded that our uniform colour is black and ensure that your child is dressed correctly. Thank you.



Celebrations

Well Done to the following children.

☺ 'SELF' Pupil of the Week ☺

Reception - Ella
Year 1 - Lexi
Year 2 - Ruby
Year 3 - Sally
Year 4 - Lillie-Mai
Year 5 - Harvey
Year 6 - Courtney

📖 Reader of the Week 📖

Reception - Kenzie
Year 1 - Daniel
Year 2 - Amelia
Year 3 - Jamie
Year 4 - Kayla
Year 5 - Lara
Year 6 - Conner

★ Star of the Week ★

Reception - Saiorse
Year 1 - Lilly
Year 2 - Zuzanna
Year 3 - Daniel
Year 4 - Kamil
Year 5 - Shea
Year 6 - Channelle

🏠 Housepoints 🏠

Neptune - 245
Mars - 275
Earth - 242
Venus - 240

Word of the Week

Our word for the week is...

Illuminate

Illuminate means to supply with light or give clarity.

Can you use the word 'illuminate' in your speaking and writing this week?

Football Club

We are pleased to announce that Football Club will be starting again next week. The times and days are as follows:



Tuesdays - Years 4, 5 and 6
Wednesdays - Year 2 and 3

Pick up time is 4:30pm and the cost of the club is £1.50 per session which can be paid on the day.

Children should have a water bottle, shin pads and appropriate footwear to ensure full participation.

Diary Dates

Tue. 2 nd Oct.	3:30pm - Parents' Evening
Wed. 3 rd Oct.	4:30pm - Parents' Evening
Tue. 9 th Oct.	9:00am - Reading Workshop
Fri. 12 th Oct.	PTFA Movie Night
Fri. 19 th Oct.	Last Day of Half Term
Tue. 30 th Oct.	Children Back to School

Please check the school website for the whole year's diary and for more information about St. Augustine's Academy.

You can also download the amazing 'School Jotter' App to Android and Apple devices to receive information to your phone or tablet.



Please note that dates sometimes have to change and we will notify you if this happens.

'SELF' Question for next Week

What are my ambitions?



Our Value for this half term is...

THANKFULNESS



'Always be thankful.'

1 Thessalonians 5:16

"I always thank my God for you..."
1 Corinthians 1:4



What people in your life are you thankful for?

Celebration Assemblies take place at 9:00am every Thursday morning in the school hall. Parents and carers are welcome to attend.



"Smell the coffee!"

Community Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are free to attend

Donations are welcome

Locations and dates:

St Augustine's Church

Oakwood Avenue, LU5 4AR

Fridays 10am -12noon on

07/09, 21/09, 05/10, 19/10, 02/11, 16/11

Dunstable South Children's Centre

Oakwood Avenue, LU5 4AS

Tuesdays 10am – 12noon on

11/09, 25/09, 09/10, 23/10, 06/11, 20/11

Downside Community Centre, Suffolk Rd, LU5 4ES

Wednesdays 10.30am – 12.30pm (term time only)

on 12/09, 19/09, 26/09, 03/10, 10/10,
17/10, 24/10, 07/11, 14/11, 21/11, 28/11



Downside Magazine Drawing Competition

CALLING ALL BUDDING ARTISTS!



Calling all children under 12 years old

Do you like to draw or take pictures? The answer is yes then why not to send us your drawings or photographs. You can draw or take picture of anything which has a connection to Winter season. The best pictures will be included in the December, January & February edition of the Downside magazine and one of them might even make the cover!

great
lifestyles

pictures will be displayed on our website
downsidemaginedunstable.co.uk and facebook page.

We need your pictures in by 26th October 2018!

They can either be emailed to: downsidemagazine@live.co.uk or dropped into the Dunstable South Children's Centre, Oakwood Avenue. Make sure they are clearly labeled with your name and age.

Best of luck to you all!

