



St Augustine's Academy Newsletter

19th October 2018



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parent and Carers

Firstly, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated produce for our Harvest Festival. Those of you, who were able to attend our service, will have seen the beautiful Harvest display topped with our home-grown, candle-lit pumpkins, carved beautifully with crosses to remind us of God's wonderful provision.



Below, you can see our Year 4 pupils enjoying their pBone lessons. It is wonderful that our pupils have such exciting opportunities to learn to play an instrument.



Movie night was also a big success last week; thank you PTFA for all your hard work; it is much appreciated.

Have a wonderful half term everyone and we look forward to seeing you all back at school on Tuesday 30th October.

Amanda Howes - Headteacher

School Vision



Crayon – We inspire, creativity, innovation and self-belief.

At St. Augustine's we like to try new things and adopt a 'have a go' attitude. It is good to be different, and it is good to pioneer new ways of doing things.

Already, this term, we are trialling a new Feedback Policy, creating a new Inclusion room and engaging in a range of different projects to help our pupils reach their potential. We embrace change and believe in ourselves.

Junior Wardens

This week our Junior Wardens were visited by The Mayor of Dunstable as part of their work about 'Dignity'. Our junior wardens are dignity champions and aspire to be role models to those around them.



Well done to our Junior Wardens for their dedication.

Attendance

Our attendance so far this year is...



96.04%



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.

Our attendance is now in-line with the National Average. Well Done Everyone!

Our class attendance figures for this week are:

Year 1 – 97.14%	Year 2 – 92.41%
Year 3 – 96.21%	Year 4 – 100%
Year 5 – 96.90%	Year 6 – 97.92%

Year 4 were our attendance winners this week. Well Done!

School Dinners – Autumn/Winter Menu

Our new School Dinner Menu for the Autumn/Winter term is now available to view on our school website.

Click on the 'Parents' tab, then on the 'School Dinners' tab, to access.



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Healthy School

Celebrations

Well Done to the following children.

☺ 'SELF' Pupil of the Week ☺

Reception – Charlie
Year 1 – Alfie
Year 2 – Jay
Year 3 – Carlos
Year 4 – Peyton
Year 5 – Ross
Year 6 – Chanelle

📖 Reader of the Week 📖

Reception – Hayden
Year 1 – Bathujan
Year 2 – Jacob
Year 3 – Erin
Year 4 – Andi
Year 5 – Nathan
Year 6 – Cienna

★ Star of the Week ★

Reception – Shelby
Year 1 – Cody
Year 2 – Isabelle
Year 3 – Jasmine
Year 4 – Alfie
Year 5 – Lewis
Year 6 – Nicole

🏠 Housepoints 🏠

Neptune - 213
Mars - 230
Earth - 217
Venus - 252

Word of the Week

Our word for the week is...

Vigilant

Vigilant means to keep careful watch for possible danger or difficulties.

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

Diary Dates

Fri. 19 th Oct.	Last Day of Half Term
Tue. 30 th Oct.	Children Back to School
Tue. 13 th Nov.	Parent Forum
Fri. 16 th Nov.	Children in Need – Mufti Day
Wed. 21 st Nov.	6:00pm Yr6 SATS information evening
Mon. 26 th Nov.	Christmas Post Box opens
Mon. 3 rd Dec.	Pantomime – Peter Pan (At school)
Fri. 7 th Dec.	PTFA Christmas Fayre
Tue. 11 th Dec.	9:15am – Yr1, 2 and 3 Christmas Performance 2:00pm – Yr4, 5 and 6 Christmas Performance
Wed. 12 th Dec.	9:15am – Yr4, 5 and 6 Christmas Performance 2:00pm – Yr1, 2 and 3 Christmas Performance
Fri. 14 th Dec.	9:15am – Reception Christmas Performance
Mon. 17 th Dec.	9:00am – Reception, Yr1 and Yr2 Celebration Assembly 2:45pm – Years 3 – 6 Celebration Assembly
Tue. 18 th Dec.	Christmas Dinner
Wed. 19 th Dec.	Christmas Jumper Day and afternoon Christmas Parties

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

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



'SELF' Question for next Week

What is self-esteem?



Our Value for this half term is...

THANKFULNESS



'Always be thankful.'

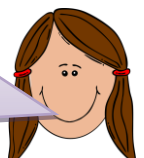
1 Thessalonians 5:16

"Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:18

It can be hard to be thankful when times are difficult, but God is always there, so maybe try turning to him for help.

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





Minecraft is played by millions of children around the world, who can use their imagination to build three-dimensional worlds with virtual building blocks in a digital, pixelated landscape. It is classed as a 'sandbox game' which means players have the freedom to build their own creations with 'blocks' they collect and also have the opportunity to explore other people's creations with their characters. Players can choose from thousands of different 'servers' to join, which are created by other players, making every experience of Minecraft unique.

Minecraft has approximately
74m
users each month

AGE RESTRICTION
10+

What parents need to know about **MINECRAFT**

GROOMING

The majority of users who play Minecraft are children, making it an 'appealing' gateway for groomers. It has been reported that some users have created worlds in Minecraft to lure young people into a conversation to ask for explicit photos. There have even been more serious cases in which children have been persuaded to meet these people in real life.

CYBERBULLYING & GRIEFING

In multiplayer mode, there is a live chat feature which allows players to talk to other players through text. The chat functionality includes basic filtering to block out external links and offensive language being shared, but this varies between each server. Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player during the game. This can be done by ruining somebody's creation or generally doing something to spoil gameplay for another. Essentially, 'Griefing' is a form of cyberbullying and can be extremely frustrating for players.

COMMUNICATING WITH STRANGERS

There are thousands of servers to choose from in Minecraft which are a single world or place created by the public, allowing users to play the game online or via a local area network with others. No two servers are the same and each server has its own individual plug-ins which are controlled by the creator. This means that some servers will allow communication with strangers.

VIRUSES & MALWARE FROM MODS

There are several websites that offer downloadable 'mods' which modify gameplay in a number of different ways. Most of the mods will be safe to use, but as they have been created by the public, they will often contain viruses that can infect your child's device and potentially try and find personal information from you or your child.



AGE RESTRICTION & 'FANTASY VIOLENCE'

According to the ESRB 'Entertaining Software Rating Board', Minecraft is suitable for users aged 10+. Due to its 'Fantasy Violence', the ESRB states that the rating has been given as 'players can engage in violent acts such as lighting animals on fire and harming animals with weapons. Mild explosions are occasionally heard as players use dynamite to fend off creatures and mine the environment.'

CHILDREN MAY BECOME ADDICTED

As with other games, Minecraft is a game where players can keep returning, with constant challenges and personal goals to achieve. Children may find it difficult to know when to stop playing, becoming absorbed in the game and losing track of time.



National Online Safety

Top Tips for Parents



DISABLE OR MODERATE CHAT

To avoid potentially inappropriate comments in a live chat, you can follow these steps to turn live chat off: 1. Select 'Options' 2. Toggle the Chat button to 'Hidden' or 'Commands Only'. Bear in mind that the chat feature is also where your child can enter commands during the game, so this may limit their game play.

MONITOR YOUTUBE TUTORIALS

Many Minecraft users turn to YouTube for video tips on improving their gameplay and discovering new techniques. Although many videos are age-appropriate, some include sexual references and bad language. We suggest watching Minecraft tutorial videos together with your child. If your child is under the age of 13, we suggest installing 'YouTube Kids' which provides a safer platform for children to find the content they want, safely.



SCAN 'MODS' FOR MALWARE

Minecraft 'mods' add content to games to give more options to interact and change the way the game looks and feels. But while 'mods' can bring fun for a child, it's important to consider that downloading and installing 'mods' could potentially infect their device with a virus or malware. In 2017, security company Symantec said that between 600,000 and 2.5 million Minecraft players had installed dodgy apps, which hijacked player's devices and used them to power an advertising botnet. Install a malware scanner on every device that your child plays Minecraft on, and make sure it's up-to-date.

PLAY IN 'CREATIVE' OR 'PEACEFUL' MODE

Even though the age limit is 10+, Minecraft can be quite overwhelming at times, especially for younger players or SEND children. We suggest limiting your child to play in 'creative mode' or 'peaceful mode' which takes away the survival element and removes the 'scarier' monster/zombie characters.

SET TIME LIMITS

With 'Gaming Disorder' becoming an official health condition, we suggest setting a reasonable time limit when playing Minecraft. Parents can use parental controls on devices to limit the time a child is playing games. It is worth having a conversation with your child to understand what 'mode' they are playing on the game. This may help you decide on how much time you would like them to spend playing on it. For example, a mini game will have an 'end', but this will depend on how long the game creator has made the game last. In 'survival mode', the game has no end as there is no goal to be achieved other than the child's own e.g. after they have built something.

CHOOSE SERVERS CAREFULLY

Advise your child to only enter servers with people they know and trust to protect them from engaging in conversation with strangers. Your child can also create their own multi-player server and share this with their friends to join in which is safer and more controlled than joining a stranger's server.

Sources:

<https://minecraft.net/en-us/article/minecraft-multiplayer-server-safety>
<http://parentinfo.org/article/staying-safe-on-minecraft>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-38284216>
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<https://www.howtogeek.com/289985/how-to-set-up-minecraft-so-your-kids-can-play-online-with-friends/http://minemum.com/chat-settings>

THIS IS AN INDEPENDENT ONLINE SAFETY GUIDE AND IS NOT AN OFFICIAL MINECRAFT PRODUCT. THIS GUIDE HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY NOR IS IT ASSOCIATED WITH MOJANG

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This is not a definitive guide. Please always check with the app's support information to see if your security and privacy concerns are addressed.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com



Have fun and stay safe this Halloween

Our tips-

- Always be accompanied by an adult when you are trick-or-treating.
- You should only go to houses of people that you know and who are happy for you to call.
- Stay safe, keep to places that you know and are well lit. Do not take short cuts through gardens, alleyways or parks.
- Watch out for traffic - drivers might not see you.
- If you are wearing a mask make sure that you can see where you are going and are aware of your surroundings.
- Carry a torch and a fully charged mobile phone (if you have one).

Annual Attendance Report 2017 - 2018

School Attendance Figure 2017 - 2018:

The school attendance figure for 2017-2018 was **94.75%** (a rise from 94.06% at the end of 2016-17). Although improved from the previous academic year, the figure is still way **below** the national average of 96% (2014 - 2015 figure).

It is of vital importance that the whole school community works together to promote good attendance. Good attendance leads to higher academic attainment and progress, and allows social relationships to flourish.

In order to promote good attendance at St Augustine's Academy, the following actions were taken:

- Raising Attendance levels was made a key priority in the 2017 - 2018 School Improvement Plan
- The Attendance Policy was updated and displayed on the school website
- Attendance articles were placed in newsletters, each week, to praise, and promote, good attendance
- Attendance certificates were awarded in celebration assemblies
- Green, Amber, Red letters and Fixed Penalty Notices (£60.00 per child, per parent/carer) were issued to parents
- Register checks took place with the School's Attendance Officer
- Attendance data was communicated to parents via pupils' end of year school reports

Persistent Absentees – A persistent absentee is a pupil whose attendance falls below 90%.

This is the same as missing half a day of school every week of the year or missing approximately 120 hours of learning time.

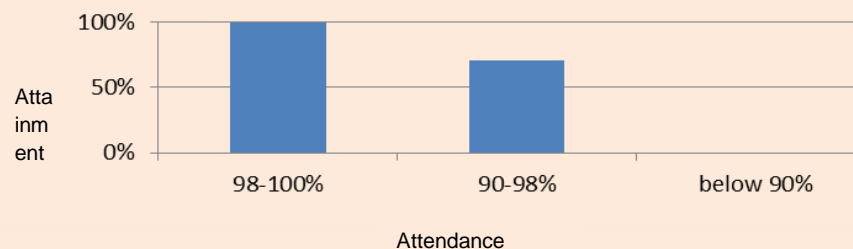
Last year:

- **19** pupils (14%) were persistent absentees by the end of July 2018
- **61** Green letters of concern were issued
- **27** Amber letters were issued
- **8** Red letters/Fixed Penalty Notices were issued



Attendance v Attainment (2017 - 2018)

Pupil attainment at KS2



**EVERY
SCHOOL DAY
COUNTS**

As can be seen, good attendance leads to good results. 100% of pupils with attendance above 98% achieved expected (or above) levels of attainment in reading, writing and maths. 0% of pupils with attendance below 90% achieved the expected level.

Rewards and Celebrations – At St. Augustine's Academy we celebrated the following achievements

- Attendance Bear visited the class with the best attendance each week
- 9 certificates were issued for 100% attendance
- 76 certificates were given for 96%+ attendance in the Autumn Term
- 66 certificates were given for 96%+ attendance in the Spring Term
- 98 certificates were given for 96%+ attendance in the Summer Term



Please help us to raise attendance again this year by:

- Not taking holidays during term time (A week away from school is 30 hours of learning lost. It is very difficult for a child to catch up with the learning that has taken place and this can leave them feeling behind their peers. Some children also feel isolated when returning to school as their friends often find others to play with)
- Making medical appointments outside of the school day
- Making sure that your child is on time for school
- Talking with your child about the importance of learning
- Celebrating your child's attendance achievements with them



We will continue to make attendance a Key Priority in our School Improvement Plan with a particular focus on how we can work to raise the attendance of our SEND pupils.