



St Augustine's Academy Newsletter

1st March 2019



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,



St. David's Day celebrations were in full swing today as our scarecrow donned daffodils, a leek and a rugby ball, and our pupils enjoyed a delicious dinner of chicken and leek pie, veggie Glamorgan sausages and Bora Brith (fruit tea cake.) Thank you, kitchen staff, for a wonderful meal.

This week also saw teachers from Alameda Middle School visit St. Augustine's. They spent time talking to staff and pupils about our school's Feedback Policy and were very impressed with the confidence and articulation with which our pupils spoke. We look forward to a very exciting and fun-packed week next week with both World Book Day and Waste Week!

Amanda Howes - Headteacher

World Book Day (Thursday 7th March)

World Book Day is back and we are looking forward to seeing the whole school dress up for the occasion!



Pupils will take part in a range of activities, including paired reading with children from other classes. Each child will receive a book token and there will also be a second hand book sale after school on Thursday and Friday.

Year 2 History Day



Year 2 travelled back in time, to learn about the world of work in 1666, with a special experience day.

The children took part in a range of practical and creative activities including making potpourri; weaving; embroidery; quill pen writing; woodwork and more!

You can see by the children's faces just how engrossed they were in the activities. The children learnt new skills, spoke with new vocabulary and wore traditional costume to help them to immerse themselves in the experience.

We would like to say a special thank you to all the volunteers who supported the day. Your help was very much valued.

Attendance

Our attendance so far this academic year is...

95.92%

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 just below the National Average.

Our class attendance figures for this week are:

Year 1 – 99.67%	Year 2 – 98.60%
Year 3 – 93.79%	Year 4 – 100%
Year 5 – 89.60%	Year 6 – 100%

Years 1, 4 and 6 achieved 99%+ this week and receive a Mufti Day. Well Done!

Celebrations

Well Done to the following children.

😊 'SELF' Pupil of the Week 😊

Reception – Terri
Year 1 – Betty
Year 2 – Finn
Year 3 – Summer
Year 4 – Jane
Year 5 – Lidia
Year 6 – Conner

+x÷ Mathematician of the Week ÷x÷

Reception – Dennis
Year 1 – Poppy Louise
Year 2 – Chaynee
Year 3 – Billy
Year 4 – Luke
Year 5 – Lara
Year 6 – Beatrice

★Star of the Week★

Reception – Ella
Year 1 – Daisy Mae
Year 2 – Mateen
Year 3 – Kyle
Year 4 – Andi
Year 5 – Jordan
Year 6 – Frankie

🏠 Housepoints 🏠

Neptune - 224
Mars - 251
Earth - 259
Venus - 234

'SELF' Question of the Week

How does it feel to try something new?



Our Value for this half term is...



JUSTICE



'Learn to do right.
Seek justice.'

Isaiah 1:17

"Do not take revenge my friends, but leave room for God's wrath."

Romans 12:19

Sometimes it is easy to want to get our own back for something that we see as an injustice.

The bigger person is the one who does not take revenge but combats evil with good.

Word of the Week

Our word for the week is...

Potential

Potential means 'to have the capacity to develop into something in the future.'

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

Waste Week

'Waste Week' is a time for the whole school to think about energy efficiency and the reducing, reusing and recycling of products that we use. Our pupil Eco Leaders have planned a range of activities for the pupils to be involved in and we look forward to learning how to look after our world a little bit more.



Football Club

Our Year 4 and 5 Football Team will be playing a friendly match against Lancot Challenger Academy on Saturday. The team has been training hard and we wish them all the very best for the match.



Diary Dates

Mon. 4 th Mar.	Waste Week!
Thu. 7 th Mar.	World Book Day – Book Character Mufti CHILL Project Science Lessons Year 2, 3 and 4
Fri. 15 th Mar.	Comic Relief
Mon. 1 st Apr.	2:45pm – Years R, 1 and 2 Celebration Assembly
Tue. 2 nd Apr.	2:45pm – Years 3 – 6 Celebration Assembly
Fri. 5 th Apr.	Autism Awareness 'Silly Socks' Mufti Day Last Day of Term
Tue. 23 rd Apr.	Children Return to School
Mon. 13 th May- Thu. 16 th May	KS2 SATS WEEK
Fri. 24 th May	Last Day of Half Term

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.



Celebration Assembly takes place at 9:00am every Thursday morning. Parents and carers are welcome to attend.



It's important to note that new challenges are arising on the internet all the time. We have created this guide to raise awareness of the issue and offer advice on helping parents to talk to their children about making safer decisions online. See also our '7 conversation starters' guide for more tips on better communication with your child.



Momo is a sinister 'challenge' that has been around for some time. It has recently resurfaced and once again has come to the attention of schools and children across the country. Dubbed the 'suicide killer game', Momo has been heavily linked with apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, and most recently (and most worryingly)... YouTube Kids. The scary doll-like figure reportedly sends graphic violent images, and asks users to partake in dangerous challenges like waking up at random hours and has even been associated with self-harm. It has been reported that the 'Momo' figure was originally created as a sculpture and featured in an art gallery in Tokyo and unrelated to the 'Momo' challenge we are hearing about in the media.

What parents need to know about

MOMO

CHILDREN'S VIDEOS BEING 'HIJACKED'

There have been recent reports that some seemingly innocent videos on YouTube and YouTube Kids (such as 'surprise eggs', unboxing videos and Minecraft videos) have been edited by unknown sources to include violence provoking and/or other inappropriate content. Even though YouTube monitor and remove videos that include inappropriate content, clips can be uploaded and viewed thousands of times before they get reported and removed. As a parent, it's difficult to spot these videos as the harmful content doesn't appear until partway through the video.

DISTRESSING FOR CHILDREN

Popular YouTubers and other accounts have been uploading reaction videos, showing their experience of the MOMO challenge. Some of the videos include a disclosure message warning that the content may be "inappropriate or offensive to some audiences" and that "viewer discretion is advised" but these videos are still easily accessed by clicking 'I understand and wish to proceed'. The image of the 'Momo' character can be deeply distressing to children and young people and it's important to note that it may slip through parental settings and filters.

SUGGESTED VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

Video apps such as YouTube include an 'up next' feature which automatically starts playing another video based on the video just watched. Due to YouTube's algorithm, users are shown 'suggested videos' that they may be interested in. The thumbnails used on suggested videos are purposefully created in a way to encourage viewers to click them. During our research, we found that when watching one Momo related video, we were shown countless other Momo themed videos and other scary content which would be age-inappropriate for children under 18.



**National
Online
Safety**

Top Tips for Parents

TELL THEM IT'S NOT REAL

Just like any urban legend or horror story, the concept can be quite frightening and distressing for young people. Whilst this may seem obvious, it's important for you to reiterate to your child that Momo is not a real person and cannot directly harm them! Also, tell your child to not go openly searching for this content online as it may only cause more distress.

BE PRESENT

It's important for you, as a parent or carer, to be present while your children are online. This will give you a greater understanding of what they are doing on their devices, as well as providing you with the opportunity to discuss, support and stop certain activities that your child may be involved in. As the nature of each task become progressively worse it's also important to recognise any changes in your child's behaviour.

TALK REGULARLY WITH YOUR CHILD

As well as monitoring your child's activity, it's important for you to discuss it with them too. Not only will this give you an understanding of their online actions, but those honest and frequent conversations will encourage your child to feel confident to discuss issues and concerns they may have related to the online world.

DEVICE SETTINGS & PARENTAL CONTROLS

Ensure that you set up parental controls for your devices at home. This will help to restrict the types of content that your child can view, as well as help you to monitor their activity. In addition to this, it's vital that you are aware of your device and account settings to ensure your child's utmost safety. For example, on YouTube you can turn off 'suggested auto-play' on videos to stop your child from viewing content that they have not directly selected.

PEER PRESSURE

Trends and viral challenges can be tempting for children to take part in; no matter how dangerous or scary they seem. Make sure you talk to your child about how they shouldn't succumb to peer pressure and do anything they are not comfortable with, online or offline. If they are unsure, encourage them to talk to you or another trusted adult.

REAL OR HOAX?

As a parent it is natural to feel worried about certain things you see online that may be harmful to your child. However, not everything you see online is true. Check the validity of the source and be mindful of what you share as it may only cause more worry.

REPORT & BLOCK

You can't always rely on parental controls to block distressing or harmful material. People find ways around a platform's algorithm in order to share and promote this type of material. Due to this, we advise that you flag and report any material you deem to be inappropriate or harmful as soon as you come across it. You should also block the account/content to prevent your child from viewing it. Also encourage your child to record/screenshot any content they feel could be malicious to provide evidence in order to escalate the issue to the appropriate channels.

FURTHER SUPPORT

Speak to the safeguarding lead within your child's school should you have any concerns regarding your child's online activity or malicious content that could affect them.

If your child sees something distressing, it is important that they know where to go to seek help and who their trusted adults are. They could also contact Childline where a trained counsellor will listen to anything that's worrying them.

The Childline phone number is
0800 1111.