



St Augustine's Academy Newsletter

19th April 2024



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome back to school for the start of the summer term. We hope you all had an enjoyable Easter holiday and are looking forward to a fun-packed term ahead.



Swimming is now taking place for all classes and lessons will continue for the next 2 weeks. It is so exciting to have this wonderful facility on site and the children have been enjoying being in the pool.



On our playground, you will also have seen a bright yellow bus! This has been funded by the Jane Carts Trust and will be converted into a classroom for Music lessons and clubs. Mr Smart is going to be very busy creating this wonderful new addition to our school.

We would also like to welcome several new families to our school; it is lovely to have you with us.

We hope you all have an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes, Amanda Howes - Headteacher

The Start of the Day



Time is precious at school and we use every minute available to us to help children with their learning. Within a couple of minutes of school starting, you will find children quietly reading, learning Phonics, playing Times Tables Rockstars and Arithmagicians on the tablets, and taking part in a range of Mindfulness activities or daily challenges.

This time is so important as it helps the children to settle and focus themselves for the day ahead.

Please make sure that children arrive on time for school as Being late interrupts the flow of lessons and can sometimes make children feel uncomfortable. We want all children to have a positive start to the day and with your help we can help them to have that. Remember, the gate opens at 8:45am and closes at 8:55am. Children arriving after this time are registered as being late.



Thank you for your support.

'Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.' Matthew 5:16



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Celebration

CONGRATULATIONS to the following children.

Our Stars of the Week are...

Year 1 – Jax
Year 2 – Ayla-Rose
Year 3 – Jada
Year 4 – Dollie-May
Year 5 – Katelyn
Year 6 – TJ

Our 'SELF' Pupils of the Week for,
"What is self-motivation?" are...

Year 1 – Darius
Year 2 – Zane
Year 3 – Charlie
Year 4 – David
Year 5 – Terri
Year 6 – Marcy



Our Writers are...

Year 1 – Alfie
Year 2 – Evelynne
Year 3 – Andreas
Year 4 – Kaysie-May
Year 5 – Carl
Year 6 – Daniel



Our Attendance Bear Winner this week is...



The House Point totals this week are...



RE Active Church



We would like to say a huge, "Thank You!" to the wonderful volunteers from St Augustine's Church that led the RE Active Church sessions before the Easter holiday. The activities really brought the Easter story to life and were very much enjoyed by the children.

Gardening Club News



It's amazing how quickly the weeds grow! Gardening club have been busy this week, weeding the potato patch and tidying up the garden. Well done everyone for your perseverance!

Diary Dates

Mon. 22 nd April – Fri. 3 rd May	Swimming Pool at school
Mon. 22 nd Apr.	Vocabulary Velociraptor Art Week Class Photographs
Tue. 23 rd Apr.	St George's Day – Children belonging to Cubs, Brownies etc. may wear their uniform to school
Fri. 26 th Apr.	Year 5 to Hadrian Academy as part of the Linking Schools Network
WB. 29 th Apr.	Vocabulary Velociraptor Art Week 2
Thu. 2 nd Apr.	9:00am - Mental Health Support Team Coffee Morning – Managing your child's anxiety

Sometimes we have to change diary dates due to circumstances beyond our control. Please keep checking the school diary regularly for updates.



FRIENDSHIP



**‘Encourage one
another and build
each other up.’**

1 Thessalonians 5.11

St George

CELEBRATING
IN DUNSTABLE

Saturday 20 April 2024

Priory Gardens | 11 am to 4 pm

There's a lot to see and do this year

St. George's Day is back kick-starting the events programme for 2024!

Get the chance to meet St. George, watch the falconry display, enjoy performances from Punch and Judy, take part in the Maypole dancing workshops, and make your very own swords and crowns before you go off around town to hunt for the dragons!

Also at Priory Gardens...

- + Arts and Crafts
- + Circus Skills
- + Climbing Wall
- + Dragon Town Trail
- + Dunstable Town Band
- + Punch and Judy
- + St. George and the Dragon Storytelling
- + St. George Showtime
- + Stilt Walkers
- + Teaching Talons Animal Encounter

**FREE
EVENT**



For further information about our events please visit

www.dunstable.gov.uk/whats-on

[facebook/dunstablecouncil](https://www.facebook.com/dunstablecouncil) [X @dunstableevents](https://twitter.com/dunstableevents)



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL



Bedfordshire

Fire & Rescue Service

bedsfire.gov.uk
Southfields Road
Kempston, Bedford
MK42 7NR
bedsfirealert.co.uk
@bedsfire

Water Safety

Dear Parents and Guardians

As we are approaching the summer months following a particularly wet winter, I would like to provide some information and support in relation to water safety. Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service along with our partners including the Police and Local Authorities are regularly contacted by residents who are concerned for the safety of young people who are accessing water sites for leisure activities.

Popular areas for leisure activities include but not limited to;

Priory Marina – Bedford
Wixams Lakes – Wixams
Kempston Mill – Kempston
Blue Lagoon – Arlesey
River Ivel – Shefford
Stewartby Lake – Forest of Marston Vale
The Old Mill – Sandy
The Riddy – Sandy

Unfortunately, accidental drownings happen all too frequently and even the strongest swimmers can find themselves in difficulties. There are also concerns for young and vulnerable people who may not be aware of the danger and risks that water poses.

As well as changes in water current and weather conditions, outdoor water can contain hazards such as entrapments, weeds, rubbish, drains, broken bottles and pollution. It is also difficult to judge the depth of water; shallow water can change to deep water quickly and jumping into shallow water could result in serious injury. In addition, cold water shock can also occur when jumping into a river or lake on a hot day.

Advice on water safety can be found on our website www.bedsfire.gov.uk, in addition there is also a link to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution website which gives further advice on how to keep safe in water.

The fire service are unable to stop people swimming outside or in open water, but if you have concerns of anti-social behavior please report this to the Police non-emergency number on 101.

If someone is in trouble in the water and needs help in an emergency, please call 999.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Kind Regards

Lauren McEvoy
Community Safety Officer
Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service





Protecting Children Online

Bedfordshire Police
Internet Child Abuse
Investigation Team



THE AIM OF THIS LEAFLET

- To inform parents and carers of the current threats posed to children online
- To inform parents and carers how to seek advice and support in the event their child is targeted online
- To ensure online safety learning provided within schools is echoed within the home environment



“It's heart-breaking to reveal, again, that in 2022 we've seen increases in the number of reports which include images and videos of the sexual abuse of children aged 7 to 10. And that sexual imagery created of children when they are online, often in supposed 'safe spaces' of their bedrooms, now accounts for almost four in every five reports.”

SUSIE HARGREAVES OBE · IWF CEO



PROTECTING CHILDREN ONLINE

- The National Crime Agency estimate there are between 550,000 and 850,000 people within the UK population, who pose a sexual risk to children.
- Some of the common methods will be included within this short document, which include grooming, sextortion, self-generated indecent imagery/explicit selfies and gaming.
- Each month, coordinated action between the National Crime Agency (NCA) and UK police forces lead to over 800 arrests and nearly 1,200 children being safeguarded for online child sexual offences.
- Statistics show that four out of five victims are targeted whilst alone in their bedrooms - in their supposed 'safe space'.
- Modern technology allows offenders access to children across the globe with relative ease.
- Parent/carer understanding and supervision is key to educating children of the online threat.

ONLINE GROOMING

Grooming can happen in online spaces, as well as in person, by a stranger or someone known. It involves the offender building a relationship with a child, and sometimes with their wider family, gaining their trust and a position of power over the child, in preparation for abuse. The process of grooming can take place in a matter of minutes, over one conversation, or over long periods of time; in some cases, years.

- Sexual grooming refers to grooming where the offender aims to sexually abuse the child.
- The aim of sexual grooming is to abuse or exploit in two ways:
 1. Online sexual abuse. Children and young people being tricked or coerced into sexual activity over chat, video or photos.
 2. A physical meeting. Persuading children and young people to meet them face to face in order to abuse them.
- Grooming is also used by offenders with the aim of other forms of abuse, such as criminal exploitation or trafficking children. In all cases of grooming, it is never the child or young person's fault.

SEXTORTION /ONLINE BLACKMAIL

- Online blackmail, or sextortion, is when someone threatens to share private information, images or videos of a person unless something is done for them.
- Young people sometimes send nude pictures or videos to flirt, or have fun with people they like online. Often, they believe that they won't be shared any further and, most of the time, images and videos do stay private.
- Unfortunately, there are some people online who may try to trick or pressure young people into sending nude images or videos of themselves. This can happen through their favourite social media app, website or platform.
- Once an offender has a nude image or a video, they will threaten to share it publicly, unless the young person meets a demand, like sending them money (financial sextortion) or more nude images. Often, these people won't carry out the threat, but sometimes they do.
- It's important to remember that a child is never to blame if they have been blackmailed online; the reality is that it could happen to anyone.

SELF-GENERATED INDECENT IMAGERY (EXPLICIT SELFIES)

Increasingly, children are using phones and tablets to create photos and videos of themselves and share them online. Whilst this can be fun, sharing images can also be risky, particularly if it is a semi-nude or nude image or video.

It's important your child understands what's ok to share and what they should discuss with you first.

What are the risks?

- Once an image has been shared, you can never be sure who has seen it, saved it or shared it.
- Personal or embarrassing pictures in the wrong hands can lead to bullying.
- Knowing that others have seen embarrassing images can cause stress and anxiety, and affect a child's confidence and self-esteem.
- Unwanted pictures online could affect educational and job opportunities later in life.
- Sharing images, particularly sexualised images, can increase the likelihood of a child receiving inappropriate sexual contact from strangers online.

GAMING

Gaming is often a social activity for children and talking with friends is part of their enjoyment. However, in-game chat can pose risks such as:

- Chatting with people they don't know. This can include adults that are seeking to make contact with children with the intention of sexual grooming.
- Inappropriate or unmoderated chat. Whilst a lot of chat is moderated, chat is live and there is a risk of exposure to sexual language, swearing or bullying.
- Requests to make chat private. Once chat is moved off a monitored platform, no one is moderating it. This can be used to pressurise children into sharing personal information, photos, video or chat that they don't want to.
- Offering gifts or trades. This may be used by offenders to build trust and a relationship with a child, as part of grooming.

SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR:

- Is your child being secretive about how they're spending their time?
- Do they have an older boyfriend or girlfriend?
- Are they spending more time than usual online or on their devices or receiving messages from someone you don't know?
- Do they seem upset or withdrawn?

It is important to encourage your children to talk to you about how they use the internet and show you what they do online.

Make sure they know the risks of image sharing and that they can always come to you for advice.

USEFUL LINKS

Parents/carers are advised to visit the following links to enhance awareness of online risks to children. There are numerous other links on the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) website which provides bespoke guidance covering many different concerns: [Get advice \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/getadvice/)

SEXUAL GROOMING:

[What is sexual grooming?](#)

[Why don't children tell their parents about sexual abuse?](#)

SEXTORTION/BLACKMAIL:

[Online blackmail](#)

SELF-GENERATED INDECENT IMAGERY (SGII):

[Younger children sharing pictures or videos online](#)

[Nude selfies: a parents' guide](#)

[7 questions parents ask about nude selfies](#)

[Teens and the sexual content on social media](#)

GAMING:

[Gaming: what parents and carers need to know](#)

[Gaming - what's appropriate for your child?](#)

[In-game chat](#)

OTHER:

[Having a conversation with your child](#)

[What to do if your child has seen something inappropriate online](#)

[What to do if you come across child sexual abuse material](#)

[Using parental controls](#)

[A short guide to live streaming](#)

To report any concerns around online criminality, such as grooming or online sexual abuse, please report it to us via [our website](#) or by calling us on 101.



Bedfordshire Police
Internet Child Abuse Investigation Team



FIRST SESSION
FREE

Sessions start on
Saturday 20 April 2024

3-4 years
9-10am

5-6 years
10-11am

Bennett's Recreation Ground
3 Canesworde Rd, Dunstable, LU6 3JJ



Aspire Football Academy

Are committed to helping young football players achieve their goals and dreams while also teaching them important life skills. The academy offers a **safe, fun,** and **competitive environment** for players to develop their skills and character.

The coaching team consists of former professional and semi-professional football players who are passionate about creating a **positive learning environment**. With a wide range of qualifications: **FA Qualified Coaches, First Aid in Football Certified, Safeguarding Children Certified and Talent I.D in Football Certified.** Coaching to all aspects of The FA four Corner Module...

For more information or to book your place, please contact
Corin Nagle on **07455 114 509** or **cnagle@aspirefootballgroup.co.uk**