



St Augustine's Academy Newsletter

1st November 2019



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,



Staff had a busy start to the week with INSET on Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Protective Behaviours and on the Tuesday it was good to see the children back again after the half term holiday.

We were delighted to welcome Mrs Kaur to our Reception class this week to talk about the festival of Diwali. The children enjoyed learning about the Hindu festival of light and enjoyed making diva lamps.

The half term ahead is busy with Christmas just around the corner. Please make sure that you look at the school's calendar on the website to keep up-to-date with all that is happening and check regularly in your children's book bags for any letters that may have been sent home to you.

Over the next couple of weeks we will be thinking about both Remembrance/Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and Children in Need. Please support both of these important charities as much as you are able to do so.

Amanda Howes - Headteacher

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

St. Augustine's Academy is once again supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.



Poppies will be available from Friday 18th October for those who wish to donate; merchandise such as wrist bands, reflective poppies etc. will also be on sale for 50p to £1.50. Please give generously. Thank you.

Children in Need



Friday 15th November

Please come in your spotty clothes and make a voluntary donation to Children in Need.

After school we will be holding a **Cake Sale** to raise additional money for Children in Need.

Please bring any cake donations to the main office.

Thank you for your support.

Attendance

Our attendance for this academic year is...

97.22%

Raising attendance continues to be a top priority at our school. We aim to continue to beat the National Average and achieve a minimum of 96% attendance.

The whole school community is working hard to maintain good attendance levels; we value every second our children spend learning and understand the impact it has on their achievement.

Our class attendance figures for this week are:

Year 1 – 96.43%	Year 2 – 98.28%
Year 3 – 98.33%	Year 4 – 96.43%
Year 5 – 100%	Year 6 – 98.96%

Year 5 were our attendance bear winners and the whole school receive a Mufti Day for 96+%. ☺

'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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Aldi Sticker Collection



Well Done Everyone! Thanks to your efforts, we managed to complete the Aldi sticker sheet. We'll let you know if we win anything!

Celebrations

Well Done to the following children.

★Star of the Week★

Reception - Lillie
Year 1 – Brian
Year 2 – Angelo
Year 3 – Alice
Year 4 – Lilly
Year 5 – Kianna
Year 6 – Lewis

☺ 'SELF' Pupil of the Week ☺

Reception – Tymon
Year 1 – Bliss
Year 2 – Jamie
Year 3 – Ethan
Year 4 – Carlos
Year 5 – Zak
Year 6 – Katie

🦋 Reader of the Week 🦋

Reception - Raisa
Year 1 – Izzy
Year 2 – Alfie
Year 3 – Jason
Year 4 – Daniel
Year 5 – Lillie Mai
Year 6 – Kacie

🏠 Housepoints 🏠

Neptune - 206
Mars - 187
Earth - 214
Venus - 185

Value of the Half Term



Our collective worship this half term is focusing on the value of 'Compassion'. This week we learnt about how compassion is feeling the hurt and sadness that others feel. We should all reach out with kindness to others.

SELF Question of the Week

When I look in the mirror, what do I see?



Word of the Week



Brisk



Brisk means 'active and energetic.'

In the colder weather we might take a brisk walk to help ourselves to warm up. Try to use the word **brisk** in your speaking and writing this week.

Diary Dates

Thu. 7 th Nov.	Individual Pupil Photos 3:30pm Year 4 Germany Visit – Parent Information Session
Fri. 8 th Nov	Year 4 and 5 – Aladdin Cinema Visit
Mon. 11 th Nov.	Remembrance Day – Children belonging to uniformed organisations e.g. Cubs, Brownies, may wear their uniforms to school. Anti-bullying Week begins
Fri. 15 th Nov.	Children in Need – Mufti Day and after school cake sale.
Mon. 18 th Nov.	Road Safety Week
Wed. 20 th Nov.	6:00pm Year 6 SATs Information Evening

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. We will notify you if this happens.



Annual Attendance Report 2018 - 2019

School Attendance Figure 2018 - 2019:

The school attendance figure for 2018 – 2019 was 96.08% (a rise from 94.75% at the end of 2017-18). Attendance has improved over the past two academic years and is now **in line** with 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 a key priority in the 2018 – 2019 School Improvement Plan.
- The Attendance Policy has been reviewed and updated. It is 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 and Red letters were sent to parents and Fixed Penalty Notice Referrals were sent to Central Bedfordshire Council where Fixed Penalty Notices were then issued. The current amount payable is £60.00 per parent/carer for each child.
- Register checks took place with the School's Attendance Officer
- A full attendance summary 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:

- 9 pupils (5.4%) were persistent absentees at the end of July 2019
- **51** Green letters of concern were issued
- **36** Amber letters were issued
- **9** Red letters/Fixed Penalty Notices were issued
- **5** Attendance Officer/Parent Meetings were held



Central Bedfordshire Attendance Poster

In Central Bedfordshire, schools are working together to raise levels of attendance.

It has been proven time and time again that there is a correlation between good attendance and high attainment.

The image that you can see represents the fact that children who attend 100% of their school lessons are twice as likely to achieve in Reading, Writing and Maths than those who attend only 90% of the time.

Every day Counts!

Attendance matters!

Children who attend 100% of their school lessons are twice as likely to achieve in Reading, Writing and Maths than those who attend only 90%.

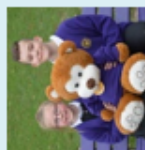


Would you buy 90% of a house?

Education is your Foundation

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

- Attendance Bear visited the class with the best attendance each week
- 11 certificates were issued for 100% attendance
- 81 certificates were given for 96%+ attendance in the Autumn Term
- 51 certificates were given for 96%+ attendance in the Spring Term
- 36 certificates were given for 96%+ attendance in the Summer Term
- 71 certificates were given for 96%+ attendance for the Academic Year 2018 - 2019.



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

MISSING (SCHOOL) = MISSING OUT!

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.

Stay safe on Bonfire Night

Never touch fireworks



Stand well back from the bonfire



Never go near a firework after it has been lit



Only one sparkler at a time



Wear gloves when holding a sparkler



Keep pets indoors

