



St Augustine's Academy Newsletter

29th May 2020



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,
We hope that you are all keeping well and have been enjoying the warm, sunny weather.

We are pleased to announce, that following the Government's announcement yesterday, our school will be reopening to our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils on Wednesday 3rd June.



On Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd June, staff training will take place. Key Worker children will still be able to attend school and the parents of children (who have told us that they wish their child to return to school) will receive a Parentmail informing them of their child's group adult, start and finish times for their school day and the classroom they will be in.

This newsletter contains lots of essential information that parents must read before their child returns to school. This is for both your and your child's safety and for the safety of others. We ask for your support as we implement strict and tight health and safety measures to keep everyone as safe as possible.



Next week's challenge is **Keeping Fit**. Please send in your artwork or photos of how you are exercising to stay healthy.

We look forward to seeing some of you again soon and remember, even if you are not in school, we are still thinking of you and missing you very much.

Amanda Howes - Headteacher

'OurSchool' Challenge

This lovely picture is a reminder of our wonderful Forest School.

We love the way that real leaves, twigs and grasses have been used alongside crayons to produce this Forest School collage.

Thank you so much for sending in this lovely photograph for us all to share.



Home Learning



During the last few weeks, children have been learning at home through workbooks and through a range of online resources linked via our newsletters and website.

<https://www.staugustinesacademy.co.uk/pupils/online-learning-games>

Home learning should continue for all children not attending school. We have purchased CGP Maths and English books for children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5, and have put together additional resources for pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 who are still at home. These resources will be delivered to pupils over the next week and we hope you enjoy learning from them. As always, please contact the school if you need any further help or advice about home learning.

Relationships, Sex and Health Education

The Department for Education has announced changes to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). These changes will come into effect from September 2020 and all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements. This means that we are currently reviewing our RSE and PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) curriculum and policy to ensure they are appropriate for our pupils based on their age, maturity, religious and cultural backgrounds and any special educational needs and/or disabilities they might have. RSE aims to put in place the key building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online. This will sit alongside learning about how to be healthy. The teaching of Relationships and Health Education will be compulsory from September 2020. We will not be delivering any elements of the new Sex Education curriculum beyond that taught in Science.

Both our policy and curriculum will change. The policy and curriculum summary (at the end of the policy document) can be viewed by clicking on the following link

<https://staugustine.schooljotter2.com/our-school/policies>

We have also created an online survey where you can give feedback on the proposed changes or ask any questions. The deadline for completing the survey is 15th June 2020 via the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8SPMYSH>

If you would like to provide feedback over the phone or by post, please contact Mrs Fourmy at school.

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



Oakwood Avenue, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. LU5 4AS

Telephone: 01582 661778 Email: office@staugustinesacademy.co.uk

Website: www.staugustinesacademy.co.uk





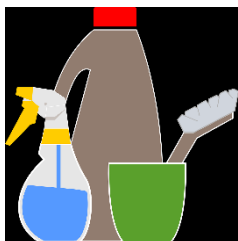
School Reopening

A Parent and Carers Guide



After a long period of school closure, the Government have announced that pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will soon be returning to school. As a concerned parent or carer, you will probably have many questions about school reopening and what this means for your child. The health and well-being of pupils and staff is top priority for all schools, but it is not possible for any school to promise that your child will not catch Covid-19. We will, however, do all we can to minimise that risk. We hope you find this guide useful in answering some of your questions for you.

Preparation



Work is happening in school to help prepare for reopening. This includes:

- Carrying out a full risk assessment
- Thoroughly cleaning the school site
- Preparing signage to help maintain social distancing around school sites

Personal Hygiene



Looking after personal hygiene is essential to stop the virus spreading. Children and staff will be expected to:

- Wash their hands with soap and water, for 20 seconds, at regular intervals throughout the day
- Catch sneezes with tissues or an elbow and put used tissues straight into the bin

Staffing



Staffing levels in our school will be significantly reduced. This means that:

- Children may not be taught by their usual class teacher
- Children may be taught by a teaching assistant
- It may not be possible for schools to accommodate all Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children, if there is limited availability of staff. EYFS and Year 1 will have priority
- Children may need to be taught at another school

Classrooms



Classrooms will look very different when schools reopen. Here is how:

- Children will sit individually at tables
- Tables will be spaced apart to stop germs spreading
- Class groups will be no bigger than 10 children and there may be less
- If there are a lack of teaching spaces, groups of pupils may not be able to attend

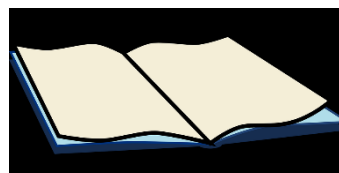
The School Day



The school day will be different to usual. Here is how:

- Children will not be admitted into school without at least 24 hours' notice that they will be attending; seating and resources etc. must be prepared for them in advance
- There will be staggered start and finish times to the day to avoid large gatherings of people (To be communicated)
- School days will be shorter to allow extra cleaning time
- Groups will not mix at all during the day, including lunch/break
- Breakfast Club will not run, except for any child that has already attended during school closure (Up to today)

Learning



Lessons may be different when schools reopen. Here is how:

- Children will be expected to work much more independently and close interaction with others will not be possible during lessons
- A greater emphasis will be placed on pupils' health and well-being
- A reduced Curriculum offer will be in place



School Reopening

Expectations for Pupils, Parents and Carers



As our community starts to return to school, it is important that we all follow Government guidelines, our Risk Register controls and our own 'St Augustine's Way' to ensure that everyone is as safe as possible. The list of expectations below must be followed by all pupils, parents, and carers to help our school stay a safe environment for all.

Pupils Expectations:

- *Live the St Augustine's Way by following our Golden Rules 'Show Respect, Be Kind and Try Our Best' and remembering our values.*
- *Keep yourself and others safe by:*
 - *Listening carefully to school staff and following their instructions*
 - *Waiting patiently – everything will take longer than usual*
 - *Entering the school building separately and patiently at start time*
 - *Social Distancing e.g. Play games that do not involve touching others*
Keep 2 metres apart when moving around school and when lining up
Follow special signs, routes and markers e.g. in school corridors
 - *Washing your hands when you enter the school building and at regular times during the day*
 - *Leaving all bags, books, toys etc. at home. Only bring sun hats, water bottles and a packed lunch (if you have one) to school*
 - *Not sharing or touching other people's things e.g. water bottles*
 - *Avoiding touching your mouth, nose, and eyes*
 - *Remembering to 'catch it, bin it, kill it'*
 - *Avoiding putting things in your mouth e.g. pencil*
 - *If you wear a face covering or mask to school, you must take it off before you enter the school building and give it to your parent or carer to dispose of or take home.*
- *Wear your school uniform*



Remember – If you are unsafe, consequences will be given, and your parents/carers informed. This includes actions such as: deliberately coughing or spitting, touching others, playing unsafe games, and not following social distancing rules.

Parents and Carers Expectations:

- *ONLY 1 Parent/Carer may enter the school site (past the silver gates), to bring their child to school*
- *Young children must always stay next to their parent/carers (e.g. buggy, holding hands, reigns)*
- *Ensure social distancing from other adults while waiting for the doors to open – as per government guidance*
- *Be on time. (Please do not arrive too early as this will cause congestion and unnecessary mixing with other families – if your child's allotted time is missed then please phone the school for further instructions.)*
- *Do not congregate outside the school site; this will enable other parents to come into school safely*
- *If your child wears a face covering or mask to school, you must bring a plastic bag to put it in and it must be thrown away or taken home immediately.*
- *Collect your child as soon as possible if you are called regarding illness/symptoms*
- *Support school staff in reinforcing health and safety messages and set a good example by following them too.*
- *Do not attempt to enter the school building or meet with staff at the start or end of the school day.*
- *Ensure that the school's uniform policy, including for jewellery and hair, is followed*



Remember – parents/carers/younger siblings will not be permitted to enter the school building at drop off and pick-up times. This includes for use of the toilet. If you need to speak to a member of school staff; this should be done via an email or phone call to the school office.



Preparing Your Child for Return to School

Advice for Parents and Carers



Schools will look and feel different for your child when they return to school. It is so important that they are as prepared as much as possible for the changes they will experience. Here is how you can help them to be prepared, ready and confident.

Re-set Body Clocks!



In the week before your child is due back at school make sure they go to bed early and wake up in time to 'get ready for school'. Your child may feel anxious. Remind them that all the feelings they may have are normal and okay.

Clean Hands!



Show your child how to wash their hands properly (click for link) explain that their teachers will want them to wash their hands 5 or 6 times a day when they are at school.

Catch it, Bin it, Kill it!



Make sure your child knows how to blow and wipe their nose and to put the tissue in a bin. Show them how to cough into their elbow if they need to and do not have a tissue to hand. Click for [link](#)

Social Distance!



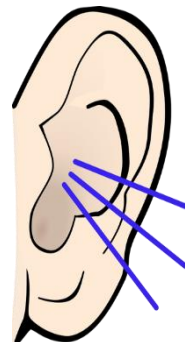
Measure out 2 metres and show your child what that looks like. They may not always be able to keep that distance but an awareness of what it looks like will help us and them to stay safe.

Be Independent!



Children will not be able to work with a partner or in groups like they often do and teachers will not be able to sit alongside children to help them with their work. Talk to your child about 'having a go' and not becoming upset if they are finding something difficult. Tell them that they can raise their hand or use a RAG card to ask for help, but remember, this help will be given from a distance.

Listen and Learn!



Your child needs to be able to concentrate. Limit the amount of screen time your child has, they will need to re-learn how to be in a class with other children and to listen to the teacher. Read with them every day, tell them stories and ask them to listen all the way through before you discuss what you have read. With older children, get them to read to you and to explain what the text means and what they think about it.

Play Safe!



Explain to your child that they will not be able to touch, hug or play close to other children. They may not be able to play on equipment or with some toys until we can clean them - so they will need to be patient and take turns.

Be Patient!



Everything will take longer than usual and your child may have to wait in line for lunch, or to be picked up to go home. They may have to follow a one-way system in school and life will be very different to before lockdown - they need to follow instructions carefully to keep themselves and others safe.

These prayers, pictures and links have been specially chosen to help you to worship at home. We hope you find them a source of strength and inspiration.

Dear God,
 Help me spend today
 with a **Smile** on my face,
 Love in my heart,
 Joy in His grace,
 and my **thinking cap** on all day.
 Amen

back2school prayer

"Dear Lord, use my eyes to **see** new friends.
 Open my ears to **hear** my teacher.
 Open my mind to **learn** new things.
 Let my heart **remember** YOU are near when I'm afraid.
 Help me to **love** others like you do.
 I want to **shine** your light so bright in my school."
 Amen
 ©Courtney DeFao

National Online Assembly



Each week there is an online assembly for children across the UK. A new assembly is delivered live on Thursday's at 10:00am and past assemblies can also be accessed by using the link below.

<https://www.thenational.academy/assembly>

DAY NINE



Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
 MATTHEW 5:4

'Count your blessings' is one of those unhelpful things that people say when they really mean 'You shouldn't feel the way you do'. It can be one of the least helpful things to say to someone who is feeling low. So what does Jesus mean? Is he another one of those unhelpful people, who know just how to say the wrong thing?

We often think that "blessed" means "happy", but how can those who are unhappy (because they are mourning) be happy? Blessedness is not exactly happiness. It is not helpful to tell people who have been recently bereaved that they should be happy, even if this is based upon a hope of heaven or life after death. But this isn't really what Jesus is saying. The context of that passage is one just like ours – in which war and terror place people in exile and captivity, and in which the present reality is anything but happy.

Pain and trauma can easily lead us to struggle with our mental health – quite rightly. Bad things do, and should affect us. But what Jesus is promising is different; more a promise that God is always with us even – perhaps especially – when it seems otherwise. God walks with us to help us find meaning and new hope. God also calls his people to comfort one another, so that this comfort isn't some distant concept, but a reality for today. We are called to provide comfort, and allow ourselves to be comforted by the love of those around us.

There is, however, a paradox to reflect upon. We often do not fully realise the depth of God's love when we are content and self-satisfied. Sometimes, only when we mourn over the loss of the people and things that we love the most do we fully appreciate what really matters. (Prof. Chris Cook)

A "Have a Go" habit: Sit down

- Picture being in that crowd and Jesus catching your eye, knowing your feelings and circumstances and saying straight to you "you are blessed".
- Have a go at breathing in the word "blessed". Repeat it slowly.
- Look at Psalm 40... a bad day, a deep hole? God lifts you, God sets your feet on a rock, God puts a song in your heart...(Ruth Rice)

Support and Advice

The table below gives a whole range of support services that you can access for help and advice. Please use them. This is a really testing time for us all and we all need a little bit of help and support sometimes. Remember, if you feel you can't cope, you can also ring the school to speak to someone.

Service	Number	Website	Information
Child Line	0800 1111	https://www.childline.org.uk/	Child Line is a free, private and confidential service where young people can talk about anything. Support is available online, on the phone, anytime
Children's Centre	0300 300 8104	Contact - Kim.woodland@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk	Support for parenting, debt, domestic abuse and foodbank vouchers etc.
Rev Ricky Dunstable Team Vicars	01582 528485	Contact – rickyturner@ntlworld.com PrayDunstable@gmail.com	Prayer and general help and support.
MIND	0300 300 0648	https://www.mind.org.uk/	Mind offers information and advice to people with mental health problems
Headspace		https://www.headspace.com/ App is available to download on the App store or Google Play	Mental health activities. Provides guided meditations, animations, articles and videos
Victim Support	0808 1689111	https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/	Free and confidential support for people affected by crime and traumatic events – regardless of whether you have reported the crime to the police or not
Salvation Army	01582 606031	https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/dunstable	The Samaritans offer a church and social services to support those in need
Kooth		https://kooth.com/	Kooth is an online and confidential service giving help and advice about emotional health to young people
Samaritans	116 123	https://www.samaritans.org/	Free and confidential support and advice
Anxiety UK	TextService: 07537 416 905 Infoline: 03444 775 774	https://www.anxietyuk.org.uk/	Anxiety UK relieve and support those living with anxiety and anxiety-based depression by providing information, support and understanding
Youngminds	Parents Helpline 0808 802 5544	https://youngminds.org.uk/	A UK charity fighting for children and young people's mental health
Signpost	0800 0282 887	https://www.signpostforbedfordshire.com/	Support for those affected by crime
NSPCC	0808 800 5000	https://www.nspcc.org.uk/	Help for adults concerned about a child
National Online Safety		https://nationaleducationgroup.cmail20.com/t/t-l-nkrhhuy-fyhllutij-y/	Highly visual and informative Online Safety posters for parents, carers and children
Central Bedfordshire Council		https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers	Coronavirus – Information for Parents and Carers
Central Bedfordshire Children's Services	0300 300 8585 Out of hours: 0300 300 8123		If you think a child you know is being harmed or at risk of being harmed, please contact the Access and Referral Hub, who you can talk to about your concerns. All child protection calls are treated in confidence and you don't need to give your details

Our School Website also contains a lot of information about Mental Health and Wellbeing and where to access resources and support. New resources have been added to our website this week. Please follow the link below:

<https://www.staugustinesacademy.co.uk/parents/childrens-mental-health>