



St Augustine's Academy Newsletter

26th February 2021



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We are just over a week away from welcoming most children back to school and we can't wait to see you all. Some children however, will have received a shielding letter which means that they should stay at home and continue with remote learning in order to keep them safe. We know they may be disappointed that they are unable to return to school but their safety is the most important thing. Please ensure that the school is informed if your child receives a shielding letter.

School will look much the same as it did when children returned in September. They will have the same classrooms and teachers, and will mostly continue with the same familiar routines that they were used to. The next 3 pages in the newsletter give you more details about the school day; helping to prepare your child/ren for their return and guidelines for parents/carers and pupils. Some of this information has changed slightly therefore it is very important that you read everything through carefully so that you are as prepared as possible for your children coming back to school.

A couple of parents have asked questions about whether children should wear school uniform to school. The answer to that question is 'Yes'. On PE days they may wear school PE kit but they should wear full uniform on other days. If you have any issues regarding uniform e.g. outgrown school jumpers, then please contact the school office before next Friday and we will offer individual advice.

One exciting development is that lateral flow testing is now available for school staff; children however, will only be required to have a test (not at school) if they display Covid-19 symptoms.

We hope you find the information in the newsletter useful.
Best wishes. **Amanda Howes – Headteacher**

School Survey – Lockdown Learning

During lockdown, staff, parents and children have been working hard to try to learn in a very different way.

We are keen to hear feedback from parents, carers and children about how you have been finding our school's approach to learning during the recent lockdown.

Below is a link to a simple survey, created on Survey Monkey, which we would like you to fill in.

Please take the time to complete the survey, by the end of next week, as it will help us to understand what is working well and what difficulties you may be finding.

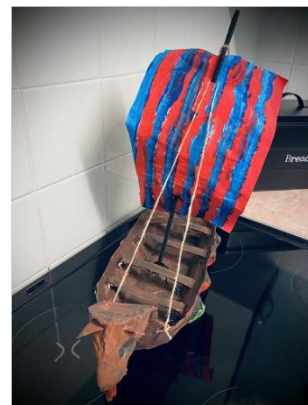
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DFNBWP2>

Many thanks for taking the time to feedback to us. It is much appreciated.

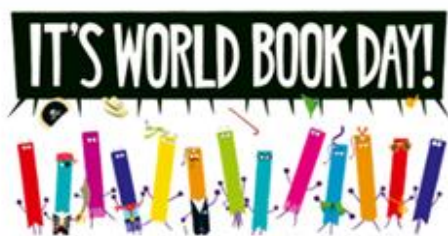
Remote Learning – Viking Long Boats



Well Done Riley and Jacob for making these superb Viking long boats as part of their remote learning. The attention to detail is excellent.

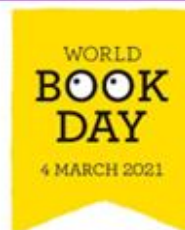


World Book Day



This year we will be celebrating World Book Day from home and school!

We will be sharing lots of activities for you all to complete and if you would like to **(this is not compulsory!)** dress up as a character then we would love to see photos of your costumes!



Remember...

STAY HOME
PROTECT
THE NHS
SAVE LIVES

'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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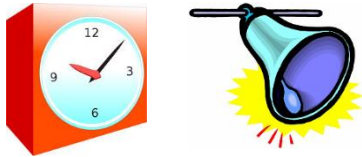
The School Day

From 8th March 2021



From 8th March 2021, most pupils will return to school. The health and well-being of our school community is our top priority and we have carried out a further full and detailed risk assessment to help us ensure that our site and our practices are as safe as possible. Below, you will find information about our school day, and our school routines, which are in place to help everyone keep safe and well.

Start, Finish Times and Breakfast Club



The school day will be staggered and we will be using different entrances for different pupils. Siblings may arrive together at the earlier time. Breakfast Club will continue to be available for Key Worker children only.

- Reception – 9:00am – 3:20pm – Side Gate
- Year 1 – 9:00am – 3:20pm – Hall Door
- Year 2 – 8:50am – 3:10pm – Hall Door
- Year 3 – 9:00am – 3:20pm – Main Gate
- Year 4 – 8:50am – 3:10pm – Side Gate
- Year 5/6 – 8:50am – 3:10pm – Main Gate

Classrooms and Class Bubbles



This is what it will be like in your classroom.

- Each class will be called a 'Bubble'. 'Bubbles' will not mix with other 'Bubbles'. We will sometimes use Zoom e.g. for Collective Worship, to keep us connected.
- Children will sit side by side, in rows of tables facing the front. The teacher will teach from the front and will try to stay 2 metres away from children
- Rooms will be very well ventilated and high reaching windows will be open all day. Children may wear extra layers if they are chilly.
- Children will not share pens/pencils and shared equipment will be cleaned thoroughly first.

Lunchtimes and Playtimes



Lunchtimes and playtimes will be staggered to minimise interactions, and some children will eat in their classrooms. During the lunch hour, children will have 30 minutes eating and 30 minutes play each day. Each 'Bubble' will have their own area to play in. Eating routines are given below.

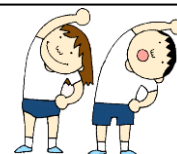
- Reception – 11.30am – 12.00pm – Dining Room eating
- Year 1 – 12:00pm – 12:30pm – Classroom Eating
- Year 2 – 12:00pm – 12:30pm – Classroom Eating
- Year 3 – 12:30pm – 1:00pm – Dining Room Eating
- Year 4 – 12:30pm – 1:00pm – Classroom Eating
- Year 5 – 12:30pm – 1:00pm – Classroom Eating
- Year 6 – 12:00pm – 12:30pm – Classroom Eating



Good hygiene routines will be built into the school day. Children and staff will:

- 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 lidded bin provided.

PE



PE will still take place but children must come to school in their PE kit on PE days. PE days are as follows:

- Reception – No PE Kit needed (until September) but trainers/suitable clothing on Thursday
- Year 1 – Tuesday and Wednesday
- Year 2 – Thursday and Friday
- Year 3 – Wednesday and Friday
- Year 4 – Wednesday and Friday
- Year 5 – Wednesday and Thursday
- Year 6 – Thursday and Friday

Outdoor Learning



Children will spend much more time learning outside in the healthy open air. Each class has been allocated 2 sessions per week in our wonderful Forest School area.

Preparing Your Child for Return to School

Advice for Parents and Carers

School will feel similar to how it did when children returned in September. Even so, it was 11 weeks ago when they were last at school so here are a few tips about how you can help them to be prepared, ready and confident for their return.

Re-set Body Clocks and Regain Stamina!



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. Your child may find a long day at school tiring to start with, so they need to build up their stamina and hand strength to cope with a full day of learning.

Clean Hands!



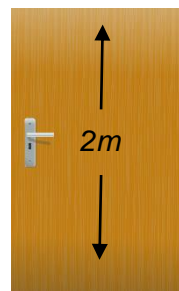
Show your child how to wash their hands properly and explain that they will have to wash their hands 5 or 6 times a day when they are at school.

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.

Social Distance!



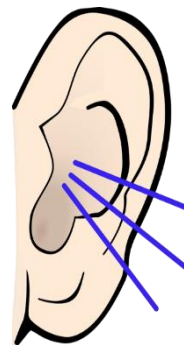
Measure out 2 metres and show your child what that looks like. They may not always be able to keep that distance but an awareness of what it looks like will help us and them to stay safe.

Be Independent!



Children will sit in rows of tables facing the front. Although they have continued with their learning at home, there may be aspects of their learning that they need to regain confidence with. Talk to your child about 'having a go' and not becoming upset if they are finding something difficult in class. Tell them that they can raise their hand or use a RAG card to ask for help.

Listen and Learn!



Your child needs to be able to concentrate in a classroom situation. 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. They may find it strange being with lots of children again. If your child needs someone to talk to at school we will ensure they have this opportunity. Your child's mental health is important to us.

Play Safe!



Explain to your child that they will not be able to play with children from different classes and should avoid physical contact with others. 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. Each class will have its own area to play in.

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 will have to follow a one-way system in school and will need to follow instructions carefully to keep themselves and others safe.



School Guidelines

Expectations for Pupils, Parents and Carers



When our school reopens to all pupils again in September, 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 from adults, and from children not in your bubble
Follow the school's one-way system
Stay in your designated areas for play and lunch times
 - *Washing your hands when you enter the school and at regular times during the day*
 - *Leaving all PE kit and toys at home and only bringing essential equipment to school*
 - *Avoid sharing or touching other people's personal 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 throw away or take home.*
- *Wear your school uniform; wear your PE kit to school on PE days*



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:

- *DO NOT bring your child/ren to school if they (or anyone in your household) have Coronavirus symptoms but follow the Government guidance here:*
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- *Collect your child immediately if you are called regarding illness*
- *Support the school in getting a test and engaging with Track and Trace if Covid-19 symptoms are detected in school*
- *ONLY 1 Parent/Carer may enter the school site (past the silver gates), to bring their child to school*
- *Ensure that your child has good attendance and is only away from school if they are ill*
- *Encourage walking, cycling or scooting to school*
- *Young children must always stay next to their parent/carers (e.g. buggy, holding hands, reins)*
- *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.) Remember, Breakfast Club will only run for the children of Key Workers. We will inform you of other clubs as they become available.*
- *Do not congregate outside the school gates; this will enable others to come into school safely*
- *Adults should wear a mask when dropping off and picking up children from school.*
- *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 but contact the office by telephone or email if you have a message for a staff member.*
- *Ensure that the school's uniform policy, including for jewellery and hair, is followed. If you have any issues concerning uniform then please contact the school before we return on the 8th March.*



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.

Value of the Half Term - Justice



**'Learn to do right.
Seek justice.'**

Isaiah 1.17

School Jotter App

The School Jotter app, by Webanywhere, is the app that our school uses. It can be downloaded to Android or Apple devices from their online stores.



Our school newsletters are uploaded to the app on Fridays and you can also view our calendar. Please sign up today if you haven't already.

Childcare Bubbles



**Department
for Education**



You may or not be aware that families can form a childcare bubble to allow parents to attend work.

Below you will find a link to the Government regarding this.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-childcare-bubble-with-another-household#what-a-childcare-bubble-is>

Prayers for parents to say

a prayer for my children

DEAR LORD, I AM THANKFUL FOR EVERY ONE OF YOUR GIFTS. MY CHILDREN ARE THE GREATEST GIFTS YOU HAVE EVER GIVEN ME. THANK YOU FOR GIVING THEM LIFE, WATCHING OVER THEM EACH AND EVERY DAY, KEEPING THEM SAFE AND STRONG, AND GIVING THEM THE COURAGE TO EXPLORE THIS GREAT, BIG, MAGNIFICENT WORLD.

SELF – Question of the Week



What does self-sufficient mean?

Prefix of the Week



Auto



Auto is from Greek and means 'self'.

You find '**auto**' as a prefix in many English words.

Automatic – Working by itself with little human input.	Autobiography – An account of a person's life written by that person.
Automobile – Transport that has wheels and an engine.	Autograph – A signature, especially of a celebrity that is written for an admirer.
Autonomy – The ability of a person to act on his or her own values and interests.	Autopilot – A device for automatically steering ships, aircraft and spacecraft.

A Parent's Prayer

Lord,
I need your help today.
I want to care for those you've sent into my life, to help them grow in body, mind and spirit, to help them develop the special gifts you've given them.

But I also want to free them to follow their own paths and bring their loving wisdom to the world.

Help me to embrace them without clutching, to support them without suffocating, to correct them without crushing. And help me to live joyfully and playfully myself so they can see your life in me and find their way to you.

Amen



VIRTUAL WELLBEING DROP-INS

Do you want to learn more about feeling happy and calm at home?

Activities and information will be aimed at all children. Younger children may need support from an adult.

Thursday 4 th March 2021	Feeling positive returning to school	Please book through Eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/promoting-positive-wellbeing-feeling-positive-returning-school-tickets-140294617979
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For more information please contact the Early Help team via Eventbrite

Promoting Positive Emotional Wellbeing Drop-in

Find ways to support
the children and young
people in your life

Free to attend
Via Microsoft Teams

Young People

14:00 -14:30

Parents

14:30-15:00

**Gain information,
support and guidance**
Resources will be
sent out after each
session

Central
Bedfordshire

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
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

You can also find the latest information updates on the corona virus at:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>