



St Augustine's Academy Newsletter

3rd December 2021



Headteacher's Message



Vocabulary Velociraptors – Letter 'i' Week

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,



Year 6 did themselves proud this week as they took part in their Mock SATs. Every year, we host this special preparation week for our children so that they know what the real SATs in May will be like. They begin each day with a special breakfast. This has included pancakes, a full English and the ever-popular egg bread as well as cereal, fruit juice and yoghurt. They then split into a couple of different rooms to take their tests (so there is space for them to spread out) and later enjoy a range of fun activities and treats in the afternoons.

Year 6 were very appreciative of the staff who gave of their time to cook them breakfast and wish them well during the week. They are a super group of children who have tried their best and have an excellent attitude to their learning. Well done Year 6! Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Best wishes, Amanda Howes - Headteacher



'I' has been the focus letter for the week. The children have learnt the names of different types of illnesses and injuries and have also been visited by a school first aider who showed the children the contents of our school First Aid box and talked to the children about how a range of simple injuries are treated.

The specific illnesses and injuries that the children learnt this week were: chicken pox, slapped cheek, measles, conjunctivitis, motion sickness, sunburn, bruise, graze, cut, splinter, burn and sting.

The children also looked for words beginning with 'i' in 'The Ultimate Alphabet' by Mike Wilks and found words such as: iron, ingot, injury, iris and imprisoned. So many words!



Vocabulary Tip of the Week

Children often need to visit the doctor, the dentist or the hospital. Use these opportunities to talk about the objects around them. Knowledge can also help take anxiety away.



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

CONGRATULATIONS to the following children.

Our Stars of the Week are...

Year 1 – Kiera
Year 2 – Samantha
Year 3 – Brian
Year 4 – Maliscia
Year 5 – Mason
Year 6 – Mason

Our 'SELF' Pupils of the Week for,
"How can I help others to have a good self-
esteem?" are...

Year 1 – Filip
Year 2 – Riley
Year 3 – Mya-Rose
Year 4 – Daniel
Year 5 – Ruby
Year 6 – Summer-May

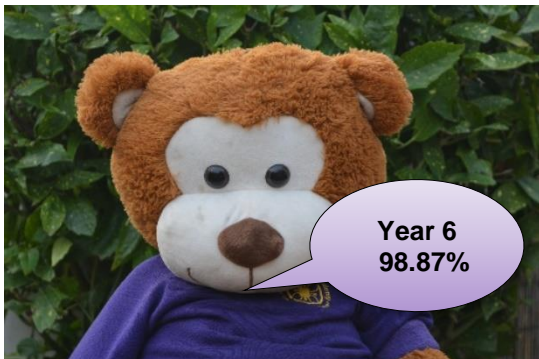


Our Vocabulary Velociraptors of the Week
are...

Year 1 – David
Year 2 – Stephen
Year 3 – Kenzie
Year 4 – Tyler
Year 5 – Kai
Year 6 – Daniel



Our Attendance Bear Winner this week is...



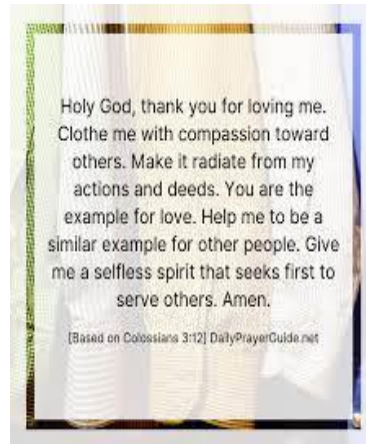
Year 6
98.87%

The House Point totals this week are...



Yet again, we are joining the SANTA CHALLENGE, a virtual Christmas trip to Lapland, where we count up our active travel trips during the two weeks of the competition. Each time a child or parent travels actively, they will be credited with one mile. These miles will be used to map the school's journey to Lapland. We will add up all of the miles completed to see whether we can reach our goal of arriving at Lapland. As we get nearer to Christmas we thought it would be a great opportunity to keep everyone walking, biking and scooting. While the weather is getting colder and the days shorter, we believe there are still opportunities to be bright and stay safe when wheeling or on foot. Being active can warm us up and cheer us up. We understand this is not always an option for those travelling long distances. We want to open the competition up as much as possible, which is why we include Park and Stride or Park and Scoot as an option. Pupils who travel actively for the entire 10 days will have their names entered into a draw to win a scooter.

Compassion Prayer



Diary Dates

WB 6th Dec.	Letter 'J' Week Santa Challenge
Fri. 10 th Dec.	Last day for posting Christmas cards
Mon. 11 th Dec.	Christmas Wonderland
Tue. 14 th Dec.	Christmas Dinner
Wed. 15 th Dec.	St Albans Cathedral Christmas Celebration(Virtual)
Thu. 16 th Dec.	Christmas Service
Fri. 17 th Dec.	Christmas parties and Christmas jumper day.

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

Christmas at St Augustine's Academy

Although Christmas will again be a little bit different this year, we will still be making it as exciting as possible for the children. Please read the information below so that you know what will be happening at school, for our pupils, during the festive season.

Christmas Cards



Christmas post boxes (1 for each class and 1 for staff) have been created in the wooden outbuilding. Please make sure you put your cards in the correct post box so that they will not need sorting. The post boxes will be open from **Monday 28th November – Friday 10th December**. The cards will then be quarantined for 3 days and then handed out. The post boxes will be closed from Friday 10th December and no cards are to be handed out to others at all.

Christmas Bauble Competition



As always, we will be holding our Christmas Bauble Competition. Children should make a bauble at home and bring it into school, by **Friday 10th December**, to help decorate the Christmas trees in their classrooms. The bauble could be made from any art or craft. There will be a prize for the winning bauble from each class.

Christmas Wonderland



We have a special visitor visiting our Christmas Wonderland on **Monday 13th December**. The children are in for a very exciting treat on this day. Each child will also have a Christmas gift to take home with them.

Christmas Dinner



Our delicious Christmas dinner will take place on **Tuesday 14th December**. If you usually pay for school dinners then please pay Gary in the usual way.

Christmas Services



On **Wednesday 15th December** pupils will join the virtual St Albans Cathedral Christmas Celebration. Our pupil Worship Leaders will lead us in our school Christmas service on **Thursday 16th December**.

Christmas Party and Jumper Day



On the last day of term, **Friday 17th December**, we are asking children to wear Christmas Mufti/Jumpers to school. Each class will have their own Christmas party organised by their class teacher in the afternoon. The school will be providing food and drink so please do not send any into school.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to help an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents Need to Know about SQUID GAME

AGE RESTRICTION
15+
Suitable only for 15 years and over.

With themes of horror and violence, it's important for parents and carers to understand the potential risks posed to young audiences by the nine-episode Netflix-exclusive TV show, *Squid Game*. The series, rated 15+, is about a world where contestants who are deeply in debt play children's games in order to win cash prizes. The losers, however, are violently killed. The show's popularity has meant it has spread in various guises across online platforms, with a heightened risk of children and young people potentially viewing unsuitable content. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers understand exactly what *Squid Game* is all about.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some might argue that *Squid Game* contains content that might not even be suitable for older teens. Characters are brutally tortured and killed through stabbings or getting shot as a result of rules developed and enforced by a masked game master. The show also features sexual content and threats of sexual violence, as well as a strong theme of gambling that runs throughout the whole show.

APPEAL TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Whilst the content is very much adult-themed, some features of the show seem to appeal to young children of face-value. The name "*Squid Game*" may be interpreted as a programme aimed at children rather than adults. The content itself, such as the bright and childish aesthetics, may also appeal to young children, particularly as there's a focus on playground games to go with it.

SIMILAR CONTENT SUGGESTIONS

When using social media and streaming sites, content is recommended based on what the user has consumed i.e. what they have watched or searched for. Therefore, there is a greater chance of your child being exposed to similar violent or horror-themed content on social media after watching a show like *Squid Game*.

VIRAL SPIN-OFFS

As well as Netflix, *Squid Game* has grown in notoriety and prevalence on other platforms, like TikTok and YouTube, with clips of the show going viral. On YouTube Kids, a number of successful channels have taken advantage of the *Squid Game* trend, creating content such as "How to Draw *Squid Game* Characters" videos. Its popularity has also led to the creation of app games that put the player in the role of a contestant who is killed if they lose a game.

SCENE RE-ENACTMENTS

Squid Game's pervasive presence on social media has encouraged many content creators to re-enact scenes from the show, which has led to reports of children wanting to also imitate those scenes displayed on social media at home and in school. Much of this content stems from the "Red Light, Green Light" game from the first episode, where contestants attempt to make it past a giant animatronic girl before she shoots them.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Netflix has easily accessible built-in parental controls that allow you to set up a profile for your child with a specific age rating, block them from watching certain shows and even lock their account so it can't be accessed by anyone else. Netflix also allows you to access your child's viewing history to make sure they're not watching anything inappropriate for their age.

CHECK AGE RATINGS

Age ratings on TV shows and films are a way to gauge what is suitable for audiences of different ages. If you are unsure about the content your child is watching, check the age rating to see if the TV show or film is deemed suitable for their age group. If not, try watching the show yourself or talking to other parents who have seen it before to get a better understanding of why it's been rated a certain way.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

Squid Game has become a social media craze and it's possible your child will see some content related to the show on various platforms. Therefore, it's important to be aware of which websites your child has visited on their smartphone, tablet or laptop, and to also keep an eye out for which accounts they are following on social media platforms, such as Instagram and TikTok.

HAVE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Making sure your child is comfortable telling you about what they see online can go a long way to ensuring you are kept in the loop about their online use. Showing an interest in what your child is doing online gives you the opportunity to discuss what is and is not appropriate for their age group, and how they might recognise their own feelings towards content they see.

MONITOR BEHAVIOUR

Due to the viral nature of the show, even if your child has not seen *Squid Game*, it's important to keep an eye on their behaviour. There have been reports from schools of children "playing *Squid Game*" in the playground and acting aggressively towards the losers as a way to replicate the consequences of losing in the TV show. Viewing content that makes your child feel uncomfortable could also cause them to feel distressed or distracted, so it's important you can easily spot the signs.

WATCH THE SHOW

If you're trying to figure out whether you should let your child watch *Squid Game*, it might be a good idea to watch the show yourself first. Doing so will allow you to get a better understanding of the show's content and themes, as well as help you decide if it is something you'd feel comfortable with your child being exposed to.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced and highly respected freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant. Previously the editor of tech blog *The INQUIRER*, Carly now works as the news editor for *Computer Shopper* and *IT Pro* and writes for a number of publications including *Forbes*, *TechRadar*, *tes*, *The Metro*, *uSwitch* and *Wired*.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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