

St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Governors' Newsletter October 2020

"Created by God to love and learn"

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back!

The new school year has arrived, and despite all the uncertainty around us, St Augustine of Canterbury Primary School is once again abuzz with happy noises as our school reopens.

Thank you, our parents, for trusting the school and all the precautions that have been put in place to make it as safe and as happy an environment as it can be right now.

Thank you too, to Mr Hilliam and the amazing staff of St Augustine's for everything you have done behind the scenes to enable our school to welcome back all our children.



Introducing the school's Board of Governors

I'm Jenefer Morgan, and this is my first letter to you as Chair of Governors for St Augustine's. I have taken over from Peter Taylor, who has retired from our Governing Body after 10 years of service.

I am supported by 9 dedicated governors: Deputy Chair, Debbie Higgins, our Foundation governors (appointed by the Diocese of Clifton): Paula Mainprise, Clare Malone and John Fenlon, our Parent Governors: Kate Stuart and James Lander who represent all our parents' interests on the Board, our Local Authority Governor, Sharon Johnson, our Head Teacher, Mark Hilliam and our Staff Governor, Matthew Newman.

Clare, Kate and James all have children at the school and would welcome any questions or comments that you may have during drop-off or collection at the school, or email james.lander@staugustinesprimary.org.uk

We are also looking for more Governors. Please get in touch with us via the school if you are interested.

What we are focusing on right now

Our priority as Governors in this Autumn Term is to support the school in its safe reopening, and to look at the school year ahead and what we aim to achieve. You will soon be able to read our objectives for 2020/ 2021 on the Governor section of the new school website.

Our first objective is to ensure the health and safety of each child during the pandemic and that no child's education is impacted negatively as a result.

To this end, we are supporting the school with ongoing risk assessment, and in the roll out of the recovery curriculum which the local authority has recommended for the first term of 2020/ 2021. The approach is based on the principles of Professor Barry Carpenter's '**Recovery Curriculum**'.

You can find more information on this here:

<https://www.integra.co.uk/southglosconnect/stakeholders/parents-carers/> .

The school has also put plans in place for teaching material to be delivered virtually should a 'bubble' need to close and self-isolate.

Our School OPEN DAYS – a virtual tour!

Our Governors' Admissions and Community Relations Committee has also met via Zoom to assist with preparation of our **School Open Days**, which are now underway, and to oversee the printing and distribution of flyers in the area of the school.

A big thank you to Matthew Newman for putting together our first St Augustine's virtual tour. You'll find it on our school website here:

<https://www.staugustinedownend.org.uk/news/?pid=10&nid=3&storyid=11>).

Please help us to market our beautiful school!

As parents and carers, you are **best placed** to assist us to do this.

We have a number of places available at the school across all classes that we would like to fill, for the 2021/22 school year.

We also have places open for the current school year.

Please share details of our Open Days and our virtual tour, and most importantly, your positive experience of our school, with your networks.

ST.AUGUSTINE of CANTERBURY
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, DOWNEND

St Augustine's is a caring, calm and thriving school
that welcomes children from all backgrounds.

SCHOOL OPEN DAYS

Wednesday 7th October – 9:30am, 11:20am or 2:00pm
Thursday 8th October – 9:30am, 11:20am or 2:00pm
Wednesday 14th October – 6pm
Friday 13th November – 10am
Saturday 14th November – 10am

Please call to register: 01454 866690

"The school is a calm and happy place
where pupils want to learn."
OFSTED 2018

Ofsted
GRADED
GOOD

Boscombe Crescent,
Downend BS16 6QR
staugustinedownend.org.uk

Keeping your health and safety in mind

Lastly, a request to you, our parents and carers to continue to help us to maintain social distancing at drop off in the morning and collection in the afternoon. This is a very important part of our COVID safety measures for our school.

Please also assist us by keeping to the timings, i.e. not dropping children off early unless they have a sibling, and by not arriving late for pick up.

If you would feel more comfortable wearing a face mask when dropping or collecting your child, we encourage you to do so. Face masks are mandatory in the school lobby – for your safety and ours.

On behalf of our St Augustine's Governing Body, may we all stay safe. We are here to serve and support the school, your children and you, their parents, in any way we can.

God Bless,

Jenefer Morgan