



*"Created by God to love and learn"*

## **NEWSLETTER 1 - 2018-2019**

**07.09.18**

*Hello and welcome to my first newsletter as head teacher of this school.*

*It was wonderful to see so many happy, smiley faces arriving on Wednesday looking extremely smart and excited for the year ahead. Not only was it pleasing to see so many familiar faces return but also some new ones joining us here at St Augustine's.*

*Like in previous years, the summer was not a complete rest for all involved at the school. May I take this opportunity to offer a vote of thanks to Mr Michael Touzalin and Mrs Julie Ferris (our cleaners) for cleaning the school with such dedication and care, and Mr Vito Armato for giving it a fresh coat of paint. Already, I have had several comments about how smart the school looks.*

*In addition to refreshing the inside of the school, work has also taken place outside of the school building which I'm sure you've already heard about and have seen. Over the holiday, we have had the Key Stage 2 playground resurfaced making it much safer for pupils to use and, with a special thanks to all of those involved with the PTFA, new Key Stage 1 playground equipment which the pupils have enjoyed using.*

*Together, this work has helped to rejuvenate the school.*

*Mr Isaacs*

## A message from a friend.....

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

As you return to school for another exciting year of learning and friendship, I just wanted to say a big 'Thank You' for all the messages and gifts I received at the end of last term. I was really touched by your sentiments and generosity. I believe the school will move from strength to strength, especially if you continue to look after each other in the way you always have – with good grace, mercy, and service to one another. I look forward to hearing about you all from time to time.

Love and God's Blessings – Mr Clements

### **READING BOOKS**

***SCHOOL READING BOOKS WILL BE ROLLED OUT OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS IF THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY. READING REMAINS THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILL PUPILS CAN LEARN AS IT OPENS UP THE REST OF THE CURRICULUM FOR THEM TO ACCESS. WITHOUT GOOD READING SKILLS, ACCESSING THE CURRICULUM AT THEIR AGE RELATED EXPECTATION IS MADE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT.***



***UNFORTUNATELY, SOME OF THE OLDER CHILDREN VIEW THE SCHEME WE OPERATE AS A RACE TO GET THROUGH. PARTICULARLY THOSE CHILDREN WHO WANT TO BECOME 'FREE READERS'. INSTEAD, THEY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO STAY ON THE SCHEME LONGER TO ENSURE THEY COVER DIFFERENT GENRES, EVEN IF THEIR ABILITY IS GOOD. WE ARE FINDING THAT FREE READERS ARE CHOOSING MUCH EASIER BOOKS WITH LESS CHALLENGING VOCABULARY AND FEW, TO NO, EXAMPLES OF HIGHER LEVEL PUNCTUATION. AS A RESULT, PUPILS ARE NOT DEVELOPING FURTHER OR SEEING EXAMPLES OF THE NEW EXPECTATIONS THEY ARE BEING TAUGHT TO USE IN THEIR WORK. SADLY, OUR DATA CONFIRMS THIS.***

***WE HAVE THEREFORE EXPANDED OUR READING SCHEME TO INCLUDE SQUIRREL EXTENSION WHICH CONSISTS OF MORE CHALLENGING BOOKS AIMED AT PUPILS IN YEAR 6 AND EVEN YEAR 7. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND OUR CONCERN AND SUPPORT YOUR CHILD BY ENCOURAGING THEM TO READ BOOKS FROM THIS NEW SCHEME.***

Just a reminder...

School meals now cost £2.20 per meal and that parents of pupils in Year 3 need to now pay for their meals as the government funded 'KS1 school meals' is for pupils in Key Stage 1 only.

## Dates for your diary

Monday	7 <sup>th</sup>	January	INSET Day 3 – School Closed
Monday	25 <sup>th</sup>	February	INSET Day 4 – School Closed
Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	June	INSET Day 5 – School Closed
Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	May	Sports day
Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	May	Sports day reserve
Thursday	6 <sup>th</sup>	September	Year 6 camp meeting (3:45pm)
Friday	7 <sup>th</sup>	September	Year 5 camp meeting (3:45pm)
Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup>	September	School Mass - St Augustine's church (9:30am) Year 4 Safer Fitter Greener workshop
Friday	14 <sup>th</sup>	September	Reception Parents' Lunch with children marking the end of part-time attendance (12:00pm)
Tuesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	September	Nursery coffee morning with perspective Reception parents
Wednesday	19 <sup>th</sup>	September	Year 6 camping at Redwood for 2 nights under canvas Year 3 scooter training
Thursday	20 <sup>th</sup>	September	Year 6 at camp Year 5 pedestrian training
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup>	September	Year 6 return from camp (normal 3:30pm pick up) Year 5 pedestrian training
Monday	24 <sup>th</sup>	September	Morning interventions start
Thursday	27 <sup>th</sup>	September	Year 5 camping at Redwood for 1 night under canvas
Friday	28 <sup>th</sup>	September	Year 5 return from camp (normal 3:30pm pick up)
Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	October	Years 3 and 4 visit to the Roman Baths
Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup>	October	Years 5 and 6 visit to the Roman Baths Year 6 Longtown meeting (3:45pm – for those who were unable to make it on 06/09/18)
Wednesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	October	School Open Day (tours at 9:30am, 11:20am and 2:00pm)
Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup>	October	School Open Day (tours at 9:30am, 11:20am and 2:00pm) Year 1 and 2 visit to Bristol Zoo E-safety evening for adults/ bedtime story for children 6:00-8:00pm
Friday	12 <sup>th</sup>	October	Harvest Assembly and Conker Championships Please feel free to start looking for conkers and consider what dried foods or toiletries you could donate for St James's Priory.
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	October	School Open Evening for perspective Reception parents (6:00pm to 7:00pm)
Friday	19 <sup>th</sup>	October	Buddy Tea for Year 6 and Reception Parents (2:45pm)
Tuesday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	October	Parents' Evening 1 (4:00pm to 7:00pm)
Thursday	25 <sup>th</sup>	October	Parents' Evening 2 (3:50pm to 6:30pm) Year 6 Class Mass (9:30am)
Monday	29 <sup>th</sup>	October	Half Term
Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	November	Individual Photographs
Thursday	15 <sup>th</sup>	November	Year 5/6 Class Mass (9:30am)
Wednesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	November	School Open Day (tours at 9:30am, 11:20am and 2:00pm)
Thursday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	November	School Open Day (tours at 9:30am, 11:20am and 2:00pm)
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	December	Key Stage 2 to Old Vic for Christmas Carol performance
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	December	Reception Class Nativity (2:30pm and 6:00pm)
Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup>	December	Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2) Nativity (2:30pm and 6:30pm) Year 4/5 Class Mass (9:30am)
Tuesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	December	Christmas School Lunch
Thursday	20 <sup>th</sup>	December	School Mass - St Augustine's church (9:30am) Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) Christmas performance in the church (6:30pm)
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup>	December	Last Day of Term.
Monday	24 <sup>th</sup>	December	Christmas Holidays
Monday	7 <sup>th</sup>	January	INSET Day 3 – School Closed

