



"Created by God to love and learn"

NEWSLETTER 6 2018-2019

23.11.18

School's
 Attendance
 Target: 96%
 Actual: 95.6%

Hello again to all parents and carers. This week, thanks to the selfless efforts of everyone in our school community, we raised an amazing £153 for Children in Need. The decision to dress up in pyjamas was an excellent choice and one that was enjoyed by all. Whilst on a giving or charitable theme, Mr Martin Poole, a parishioner who is renowned for his work for charity especially with helping out with the soup run, popped into the school this week to launch our Christmas gift donation for the homeless. A letter about this went out on Tuesday explaining what the pupils need to do. The closing date for all donations will be Monday morning on the 17th December which is when he will come back to collect all of our kindly donated gifts for those less fortunate than us.

On Tuesday this week, we also had a mini school review from the Local Authority which went well. They agreed with us with regards to the school's priorities, identified some of the strengths of the school and offered a few suggestions about how we can further improve the outcomes for all pupils. Not surprisingly, the behaviour of the pupils and positive engagement with their learning came out as a strength along with their ability to articulate what they were doing and why they were doing it.

Mr Isaacs

Here are the results from question 5 from the pupils' survey.

5. How often do you get to do something you're good at?			
Always	Most of the time	Not very often	Never
23%	34%	39%	4%

Only 57% of pupils surveyed gave a positive response which is disappointing. Although schools are correctly or incorrectly (your choice) judged by their SATs results, we know at St Augustine's these do not make a child. Indeed, for several years we have offered a broad and balanced curriculum. We understand that not all children consider themselves natural writers or mathematicians therefore, offering all the other subjects and making sure they are not 'pushed out' at the expense of maths and writing ensures that all pupils can experience success in some form. On my recent round of lesson observations and during various learning walks this year, pupils have consistently shown a high level of engagement with their learning. This is also reflected in assemblies as pupils regularly receive an award for showing a 'love of learning' which reflects their genuine enthusiasm for their work. The pleasing statistic about this is only 4% gave the response 'never' which although it is extremely low, it is still upsetting that some pupils think they 'never' get the opportunity to do something they enjoy. I'm sure if they thought hard about school, they would find something that they enjoy, whether it was an experiment in science, a PE lesson, making pottery from clay or going on a school visit to somewhere they have never been to before.



Last week saw St Augustine's host a tag rugby festival between all the Catholic Schools in South Gloucestershire. As a team our school played 4 games - winning 1 and only losing 1. Although there was no official placement, I'm sure we were a close second. May I take this opportunity to thank all those who represented the school; as usual your behaviour was exemplary and again you proved what good ambassadors for the school you are. May I also take this chance to thank Mr Newman who organised the event and Mr Merrimen for refereeing some of the games.

PE kit and notes

I have been asked by staff to remind you that if for whatever reason your child is unable to physically participate in PE, can we please have a note explaining that.



Sometimes pupils say they are unable to take part but we have no record of this from parents.

Remember, if a child does not have a PE kit, it does not mean they cannot take part. Pupils can always work as mentors and coaches by offering advice and watching for people using correct techniques.



It was with much sadness that last Thursday, we had to say goodbye to Mrs Ravening as she moved on to another school. She was amazing at what she did and often helped many year 6 pupils in the run up to SATs. She will be sorely missed! I had hoped to follow it up with news of a new appointment but we were unsuccessful in the recruitment process. Luckily, Mr Herrick has agreed to increase his hours so the pupils do not miss out. We will hope to appoint a new TA in January to join our team.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the parents who pay in advance for school meals and for the after school and breakfast club. This makes it much easier for the office staff as we know how many pupils to cater for and means our busy office staff are not chasing for money.

What is 'good' attendance?

As the diagram shows, anything above 96% is considered good. Anything below 96% means there needs to be an improvement.

On a positive note, Last week saw the class attendances rise which was good to see. We had a few classes with 99% and one class with 100%. The only question is... can they do it two weeks in a row? We will find out on Monday.





Mrs Scott, in her role as writing subject lead, has introduced a '50 Word' writing competition aimed at providing more opportunities for pupils to show off their creative flare when writing. It was launched in school where staff supported pupils with their first entry. A winner will then be chosen and displayed in the main hall for all to read whilst lining up for lunch. Pupils will then be able to enter this themselves by writing their own 50 Word stories and submitting them to Mrs Scott. If you wish to research or find out more, please visit the website for ideas.

<http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/reading/the-50-word-fiction-competition>

Dates for your diary

Monday	7 th	January	INSET Day 3 – School Closed
Monday	25 th	February	INSET Day 4 – School Closed
Monday	3 rd	June	INSET Day 5 – School Closed
Tuesday	21 st	May	Sports day
Thursday	23 rd	May	Sports day reserve
Friday	30 th	November	Chaplaincy commissioning Year 2 Cake Sale (3:30pm)
Friday	7 th	December	PTFA Film Club – letter to follow soon
Tuesday	11 th	December	Key Stage 2 to Old Vic for Christmas Carol performance Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) Nativity (2:30pm and 6:30pm)
Wednesday	12 th	December	Reception Class Nativity (2:30pm and 6:00pm)
Thursday	13 th	December	Year 4/5 Class Mass (9:30am)
Monday	17 th	December	Deadline for Christmas gifts for the homeless
Tuesday	18 th	December	Christmas School Lunch PTFA - School disco – letter to follow
Thursday	20 th	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 st	December	Last Day of Term.
Monday	24 th	December	Christmas Holidays
Monday	7 th	January	INSET Day 3 – School Closed
Thursday	10 th	January	School Mass - St Augustine's Church (9:30am)
Friday	11 th	January	Year 6/R Buddy Cake Sale (3:30pm)
Friday	18 th	January	Year 6 class assembly (3:00pm)
Friday	25 th	January	PTFA Film Club – letter to follow soon
Saturday	27 th	January	PTFA – Quiz Night – letter to follow soon
Friday	1 st	February	Year 5/6 class assembly (3:00pm)
Thursday	7 th	February	Year 2 Liturgy (3:00pm)
Friday	8 th	February	Year 3 Buddy Cake Sale (3:30pm)
Tuesday	12 th	February	PTFA – Valentine's Disco – letter to follow
Friday	15 th	February	Year 4/5 class assembly (3:00pm)
Monday	18 th	February	Half Term
Monday	25 th	February	INSET Day 4 – School Closed
Tuesday	26 th	February	Term 4 starts