



“Created by God to love and learn”

## NEWSLETTER 14

01.05.26

School's Attendance

92.13%

Target

96.4%

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school. I hope you had a lovely Easter. Term 5 is always a busy one, and this year is no different. We have started the term very excitingly with a brilliant Year 2 assembly last week. We also had Year 4 visit Kilve for two nights to enjoy all that the outdoor environment has to offer. This week, Year 1 and Year 2 visited Caerphilly Castle, linking to last term's humanities theme.

The rest of the term is packed with important dates, including Year 6 SATs, the Year 1 class assembly, and Sports Day in the final week – one of the highlights of our school calendar.

Mr Isaacs

### School update

After our Ofsted report was published, we invited parents into school to meet with school leaders and governors to talk through the findings. Many families understandably felt shocked by the report and came with a range of important questions, which we hope were answered clearly and helpfully on the day. During this meeting, feedback from parents was that some of the judgements were surprising and they were not aware.



One question that stood out was: *how can parents know how the school is improving and progressing over time?* This is a really important question and has prompted further reflection. In response, we want to take an open and transparent approach with our community.

Before the Ofsted inspection, we had several visits from the Local Authority (LA) education team. These visits are supportive in nature and are often described as a “mini-Ofsted” in that they provide a detailed picture of the school's strengths and areas for development. Importantly, they are not about judgement, but about helping schools improve. Following each visit, the LA provides feedback, highlights what is working well, and identifies clear next steps, as well as offering advice and support, including links to additional expertise within the authority.

On Tuesday 24th March (Term 4), we received another visit from the LA to review our progress against the Ofsted recommendations. Overall, the feedback was more positive, and they could clearly see the impact of the changes and improvements that have been made across the school. However, this will be a continuous journey over the next 18 months, and the report also outlined

key priorities for us to continue working on ahead of their next visit towards the end of the academic year.

#### **What is going well:**

- Leaders have prioritised improving the quality of teaching and learning, and this is having a positive impact on pupils' experiences and outcomes.
- The Early Years provision is engaging and well-structured, supporting children's language development, creativity and independence through purposeful continuous provision.
- Reading has been strengthened through a consistent whole-class approach in Key Stage 1, with improved consistency across the school.
- In mathematics, there is clear evidence of effective questioning, the use of visual representations, and regular practice of key number facts, all of which support pupils' understanding and engagement.
- Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are generally well included in lessons, with adaptive teaching strategies in place to support their learning.

#### **Areas we are continuing to develop:**

Our ongoing focus is on:

- Building a more stable workforce, recruiting to ensure all vacancies are filled across the school
- Ensuring greater consistency in strong classroom practice across the school,
- Further improving how work is matched to pupils' individual needs, particularly for pupils with SEND, and strengthening how we check their understanding.

As a senior leadership team, we have worked with the local authority and external advisors to ensure that we continue to have a rigorous and aspirational plan that addresses each of the areas highlighted by both Ofsted and the local authority. We will ensure that we update you each term about the developments, external visits and progress we are making, as well as honestly sharing the next areas we are focussing on.

We remain deeply committed to working closely with staff, governors, families and external partners to continue improving outcomes for all children. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Mr Isaacs

#### **Attendance**

attendance  
**MATTERS**

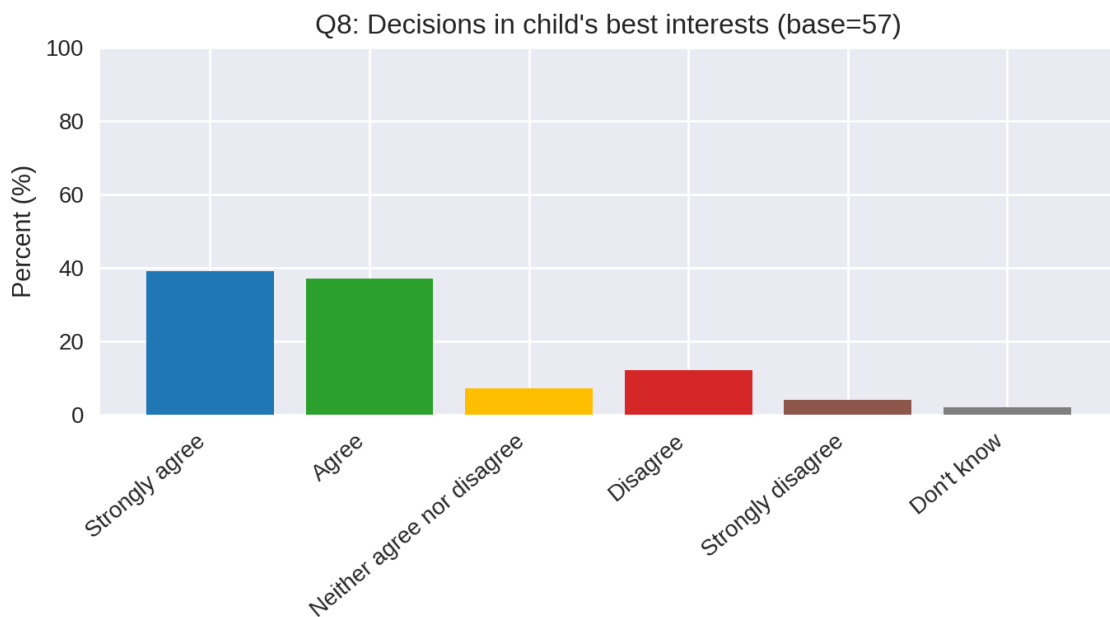


Just a reminder that any holidays taken during term time will be recorded as an **unauthorised absence**.

The Department for Education guidance encourages schools to take a firm approach to absence during term time, and Ofsted considers

overall attendance, including both authorised and unauthorised absence, as part of its evaluation of schools. At St Augustine's Primary School, term dates and INSET days are shared well in advance of each academic year. These are published on our website and also included in school newsletters to support families in planning ahead.

Here is a summary of responses to Question 8 from the Ofsted Parent View survey. Based on 57 responses, 76% of parents and carers agreed that the school makes decisions in the best interests of the children. A further 8% were neutral, while 16% indicated that they did not agree.



Once again, the results are overwhelmingly positive; however, this is often a more nuanced and sometimes contentious question. Our school community is diverse, with children coming from a wide range of backgrounds, faiths, beliefs, attitudes to learning, interests, and levels of support at home. As a result, decisions made by the school may impact children in different ways.

What remains constant is our commitment to supporting every child as effectively as possible. That said, we recognise that this can be challenging at times, particularly within the constraints of staffing and budget. We welcome feedback and we also discuss all major decisions, policies and approaches with our supportive governing body whose role is to challenge and support the school. We still have vacancies on the governing body and welcome an expression of interest if you would like to know more about the role of becoming a governor at St Augustine's.

### Meal Ordering

Thank you to those who are already using the online system to order meals - your support is greatly appreciated.

We kindly remind all families to ensure that your child's meal choices are selected in advance through the app. When meals are not pre-ordered, it requires office staff to spend a significant amount of time each morning contacting families, which the system is designed to avoid.

We also recommend discussing the menu options with your child ahead of time so they know what to expect. It can be upsetting for children to receive a meal they do not like, especially as alternatives cannot be provided if a different option has not been pre-ordered. Please note that the default meal in such cases is a jacket potato with beans. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



## Term 5 - 50 Word Writing Competition



Inspired by David Attenborough, can you write a soundtrack to introduce an animal. Remember to include information about its habitat, what it likes eating, where you can find it and why it is so special.

Closing date: end of term 5



### Reading at home

Firstly, a huge thank you to all parents who support their children at home by reading with them. As one of my predecessors once said, *"Reading is the most important skill a child can learn,"* and here at school, we wholeheartedly agree.

When a child can read fluently, it unlocks the rest of the curriculum and makes all areas of learning far more accessible.

Just a reminder that we would like every child to read at least four times at home each week. Children who achieve this are included in their class reading percentage and are recognised in assembly.

## Meet the Govenors...

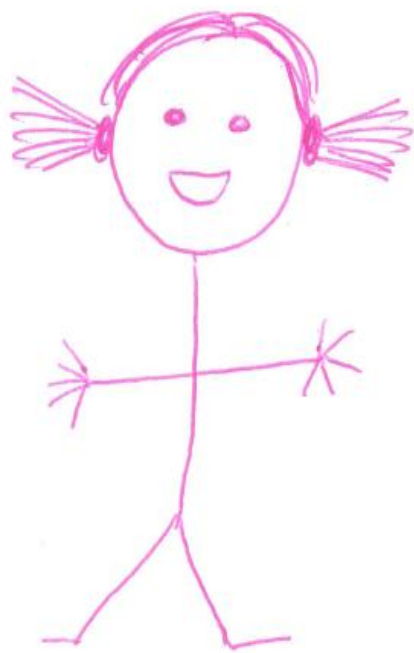
This 'Meet the Governors' feature is a new section in our fortnightly newsletters, designed to introduce the school governors to the wider community. Feedback from the parent meeting held earlier this year, shortly after our Ofsted report was published, highlighted the need to raise the profile of our governors. We want parents to know who they are, how they can be contacted and to feel confident approaching them.

### Our School Governor



What is the role of a school governor?

School governors provide strategic leadership and accountability, helping to ensure that schools deliver a high-quality education. They are volunteers and are not paid for their work. Governors represent the community, help set the school's vision, oversee budgets and hold the Headteacher to account for pupil performance. However, they are not involved in the day-to-day running of the school. Despite the significant responsibility the role carries, many people choose to become governors. Let's meet two of them.



Janine McCann - Chair of Govenors, Local Authority Governor

I have lived in Downend since 2007, and am currently a Stay-at-Home parent for my daughter, who is in Year 5, and my son who is now in Year 1. Before this, my jobs included working as a commodities manager in the MoD and as a primary school teacher, teaching a Year 5 class at a school in South Bristol.

My daughter loves St Augustine's, and I hope to continue to support her educational development, and that of my son, to make their time at school the best experience possible. I am also on the Committee for St Augustine's Pre-School, where my son was taught previously, acting as a link between the two settings.

Quick factfile:

Favourite food: cheese (except stinky blue cheese)

Favourite colour: pink

Favourite film: Princess Bride

Isabella Harding – Foundation Governor

I have 5 children who all attended St Augustine's Primary School. I taught for 22 years at St Brendan's Sixth Form College and I was a Governor there for 14 years. I have also been a parishioner at St Augustine's for 44 years.

I am passionate about education, care for the environment and climate justice for the poor. I spearheaded the Live Simply Award in St Augustine's and am a Laudato Si Animator locally and nationally, as well as being on the Justice and Peace Commission.

Quick factfile:

Favourite food: pizza

Favourite colour: purple

Favourite film: Oliver



## Dates for your diary

Monday	4th	May	Bank Holiday – school is closed
Thursday	7th	May	Year 6 SATs meeting – 3:35pm in Year 6 classroom
Monday	11th	May	SATS week for Oak Class (Year 6)
Wednesday	13th	May	Willow Class mass
Thursday	14th	May	Ascension Day: prayer and blessing in school from Fr Barnabas
Friday	15th	May	Year 1 class assembly
Tuesday	19th	May	Sports Day
Wednesday	20th	May	Reception class liturgy, 2:45pm (parents can attend)
Thursday	21st	May	Reserve Sports Day
Friday	22nd	May	Term 5 ends
May Half-term			
Monday	1st	June	Term 6 starts
Monday	8th	June	Oak Class (Year 6) Residential to Grittleton
Wednesday	10th	June	Maths Themed Day 3
Friday	12th	June	Reception class assembly
Friday	19th	June	Reception class assembly – note the change of date so that Year 6 Buddies can watch
Friday	3rd	July	PTFA end of year disco (tbc)
Friday	17th	July	Oak Class (Year 6) leavers' mass at 9:30am
Tuesday	21st	July	Term 6 ends day finishes at 1:30pm

## Next academic year (2026/2027)

Tuesday	1st	September	INSET 1
Wednesday	2nd	September	INSET 2
Monday	4th	January	INSET 3
Thursday	3rd	September	Term 1 starts
Friday	23rd	October	Term 1 ends
Monday	2nd	November	Term 2 starts
Friday	18th	December	Term 2 ends
Monday	4th	January	Term 3 starts
Friday	12th	February	Term 3 ends
Monday	22nd	February	Term 4 starts
Friday	12th	February	Term 4 ends