



"Created by God to love and learn"

NEWSLETTER 19

17.07.26

School's Attendance
92.16%

Target
96.4%

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to my last school newsletter as Acting Headteacher. It has been an eventful year and one that I will always remember. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their help and support over the year and I look forward to being back in the classroom next year.

It will be of no surprise that my fondest memory of the school year was Sports Day. It truly was a fantastic community event as children and adults alike, all got involved and cheered everyone on in the true meaning of sportsmanship. Something I look forward to every year.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the future of St Augustine's. With Mr Dunn and Mrs Cooke joining the leadership team, the school enters an exciting new chapter. New leadership brings fresh perspectives and opportunities to review, refine and build upon the many strengths of our school. I am confident that St Augustine's is on a positive upward journey, and I look forward to seeing it in the years ahead.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe, happy and restful summer break. Thank you once again for your kindness and support. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Thursday 3rd September at 8:40am**, ready for another exciting year of learning.

Many thanks

Mr Isaacs

After School Clubs

Signature Sports are delighted to announce that their after school clubs will continue for term 1. Clubs will be live on 1st July and available to book from Monday 27th July. Please see below the information on club sport selection and dates for the term.



Club	Day	Year Groups	Dates
Gymnastics	Tuesday	1 to 6	08/09/26 - 20/10/26
Dodgeball	Wednesday	1 to 6	09/09/26 - 21/10/26

School Update

Last week, we welcomed another visit from the Local Authority (LA) education team. These visits are supportive in nature and are often described as a "mini Ofsted" because they provide an in-depth evaluation of the school's strengths and areas for development.



The review recognised the significant progress the school has made since the previous visit in March, highlighting the dedication and hard work of our staff. It also identified a number of priorities that will help us continue to improve and provide the very best education for our pupils.

Things going well:

- Behaviour has improved significantly, with a calm, purposeful learning environment and 'exemplary' pupil conduct.
- Writing, reading and mathematics show clear strengths, particularly teacher modelling, pupil engagement and the use of manipulatives in maths.
- Year 4 Multiplication Check results improved significantly.
- Personal development and enrichment opportunities have expanded.
- SEND systems and support plans are well established, with additional staff recruited.

Things still to work on:

- Raise whole-school attendance and reduce persistent absence (see below).
- Improve consistency in teaching and learning across all classes.
- Ensure greater and more consistent use of vocabulary across the curriculum.
- Strengthen the impact of new teaching assistants through CPD.

Reading Books

We are taking stock of these over the summer so children will not be able to borrow them during the holidays. Please avail yourself of the summer reading challenge at Downend Library (see below). The children have already had an assembly giving them an overview of the reading book challenge.



Leavers

With sadness, we wish Mrs Swonnell and Miss Kirby all the very best as they leave for new adventures. We also wish Ms Sheik and Mrs Green all the best and we thank them for all their work over the year.

To all our Year 6s we hope that God will guide them in the years ahead and know that He will always be with them, even if they forget Him from time to time... This is the breakdown of where the children are going – 9 different secondary schools.



Downend School	x13
St Gregory's	x1
Winterbourne Academy	x2
St Bede's	x3
St Mary Redcliffe	x2
Lyde Green	x2
Mangotsfield	x2
Bristol Grammar School	x1
Other	x1
Moving abroad	x1

We wish them all the best for the future and hope they look back fondly at their time at St Augustine's.



Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to remind you that school will close early on the last day of term (Tuesday 21st July) and all pupils must be collected at 1:30pm.

Please make the necessary arrangements to ensure your child is picked up promptly at this time. Thank you for your continued support, and we wish you all a restful and enjoyable break – when it comes.

Attendance

One final note on attendance...

Although children show a much greater awareness of why they must be in school and what is expected from them, the data shows that this is still a priority for the school next year.

Congratulations to the 6 children who have attended school every single day this academic year (up to today). A terrific achievement!

attendance
MATTERS

Other attendance news – a review of the year

Regular school attendance is essential for every child's learning, wellbeing and success. Every day in school provides valuable opportunities to develop new knowledge, build confidence, strengthen friendships and take part in important experiences that cannot always be replicated at home. Even occasional absences can lead to gaps in learning that become harder to close over time.

Table 1: Overall attendance

Measure	School	Similar Schools	National
Overall Attendance	92.2%	95.0%	95.0%
Persistent Absence	17.8%	11.8%	12.1%

The school's overall attendance is approximately **92.2%**, which is below both the **average attendance for similar schools (95.0%)** and the **national average (95.0%)**. This represents a gap of around **2.7 percentage points**. The data shows that attendance remains an area for improvement for us and we will continue to prioritise strategies that promote regular attendance, reduce persistent absence and work closely with families to remove barriers to attendance.

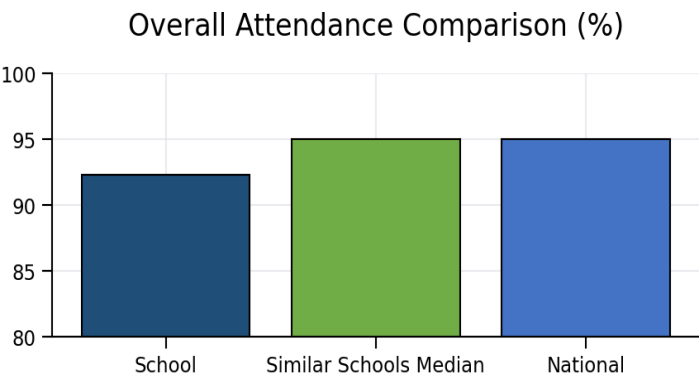


Table 2: Attendance Over Time

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
2023-2024	95.86%	94.89%	94.49%	94.36%	93.95%	93.70%
2024-2025	95.21%	92.76%	92.72%	92.85%	92.97%	92.87%
2025-2026	93.02%	91.98%	91.77%	91.99%	92.30%	92.16%

The table shows a year-on-year decline in overall attendance. Attendance has fallen from 95.86% in Term 1 of 2023–2024 to 92.00% by Term 6 of 2025–2026. The most significant drop occurred between 2023–2024 and 2024–2025, with attendance remaining consistently around 92% throughout 2025–2026. While there was a slight improvement in Term 5 this year (92.30%), attendance remains below previous years, indicating that improving attendance continues to be a key priority for the school over the coming years.

PTFA News



On Sunday, a few members from the PTFA held a huge cake sale at the church as part of the fundraising through the Parish Project, of which St Augustine Primary School are one of their chosen charities for this year.

We were told it was a hugely successful event and a wonderful opportunity to share what our school is all about with our parish and the wider community.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our PTFA for all of their hard work and support throughout the year. Through their dedication, time and fundraising efforts, they provide invaluable opportunities that enrich the experiences of every child in our school.

A heartfelt thank you to every member of the PTFA for everything they do. Your commitment and generosity are truly appreciated.



2026-2027 INSET days

Tuesday	1st	September	INSET 1
Wednesday	2nd	September	INSET 2
Monday	4th	January	INSET 3
TBC			INSET 4
Friday	25th	June	INSET 5

2026-2027 Term dates

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	25th	March	Term 4 ends
Monday	12th	April	Term 5 starts
Friday	28th	May	Term 5 ends
Monday	7th	June	Term 6 starts
Wednesday	21st	July	Term 6 ends