



St Augustine's Academy Newsletter

19th December 2025



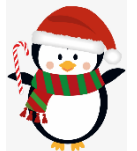
Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,



It has been a truly special week at St Augustine's Academy. We were delighted to welcome the BBC to our school to film a feature on our wonderful Site Manager, Mr. Smart. It was a memorable experience for staff and children alike, and we were so proud to see his hard work recognised on television and radio. You can watch the full news piece by following the link <https://www.staugustinesacademy.co.uk/our-school/bbc>

Thank you for your continued support throughout this term. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful start to the New Year!



Best wishes, Amanda Howes – Headteacher

Goodbye Mrs Perkins

Today we say a fond farewell to Mrs Perkins as she heads into retirement. Mrs Perkins has been a kind, caring and super positive member of our staff team and we will all miss her very much.

Please join with us in wishing Mrs Perkins a long, happy and healthy retirement.

3 cheers for Mrs Perkins!



'Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.' *Matthew 5:16*



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Christmas Wonderland



Thank you to Mr Smart for making our Christmas Wonderland look so amazing, and to Father Christmas, the Green Elf, Dunstable Elf and the Live Nativity for coming along to visit our children.

It was the perfect start to Christmas.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

CONGRATULATIONS to the following children.

† Christian Values †

Reception – Destiny, Year 1 – Aaron
Year 2 – Tania, Year 3 – Arika
Year 4 – Roman, Year 5 – Ellie
Year 6 – Lena



🇬🇧 British Values 🇬🇧

Reception – Emily, Year 1 – Greyson
Year 2 – Octavia, Year 3 – Johan
Year 4 – Chloe, Year 5 – Abigail
Year 6 – Eddie



***Effort ***

Reception – Aiden, Year 1 – Phoebe
Year 2 – Tejiri, Year 3 – Curtis
Year 4 – Trinity, Year 5 – Jhanae
Year 6 – Mason



✍ Handwriting ✍

Reception – Grace, Year 1 – Elif
Year 2 – Gwen, Year 3 – Sara
Year 4 – Marco, Year 5 – Archie
Year 6 – Rehmell



📖 100 Reads 📖

Aaron, Chimamanda, Lily, Phoebe
Philip, Lacie-Mai, Zayyan, Archie, Orion



2, 5 and 10 Multiplication Tables

Alesha, Arabella, Kelly, Edward, Gwen
JJ, Kamsi, Lacie-Mai, Lois, Octavia, Philip, Rodrigo, Tania, Tejiri

Challenge Certificate

Frankie



Star of the Week

Year 1 – George
Year 2 – Arabella
Year 3 – Aria
Year 4 – Abel
Year 5 – Ellie
Year 6 – Samiksh



Lyfta Pupil of the Week

Year 1 – Aaron
Year 2 – Alesha
Year 3 – Cameron
Year 4 – Evie
Year 5 – Abigail
Year 6 – Riley



Vocabulary Velociraptor of the Week

Year 1 – Jessica
Year 2 – Lois
Year 3 – Harmony
Year 4 – Maximilian
Year 5 – Kajetan
Year 6 – David



The House Point totals for this term are...



335



329



337



311



Year 3 are our attendance winners for this week. Well done!



Our wonderful Pupil Worship Leaders planned and led a very special Christmas service for the whole school. Together we thought about the busyness of Christmas and also what the true meaning of Christmas is really all about. We hung school values baubles on our Christmas tree, built a Lego wall of encouragement and watched the Lego Christmas story which you can find by following the link below.



<https://gochatterstudios.org/the-christmas-story>

Thank you so much children. It was truly wonderful.

Thank You!



We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated to our Go Fund Me page and helped to make our Christmas Wonderland truly spectacular this year. Without your kindness, it would not have been possible. We would like to say a special thank you to Mr Dawkins whose generosity enabled us to enjoy the wonderful live nativity.

Diary Dates

Tue. 6 th Jan	Children Return To School Vocabulary Velociraptors – Weather Week Lyfta – Eshmaeil in Iran – Yearly Incredible Journey
Wed. 7 th Jan	Christingle Service with Revd. Ricky

Sometimes we have to change diary dates due to circumstances beyond our control. Please keep checking the school diary regularly for updates.

Christmas Dinner Day



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

Christmas Bauble Competition Winners



We had some fantastic entries for our Christmas bauble competition this year, and we would like to thank all of the children who entered. We had a tricky time choosing a winner from each class but we managed it somehow and the winning baubles can be seen in the above photographs. Congratulations to Medeea, Aaron, Lacie-Mai, Gracie Mae, Charlie and Diana for their wonderful winning creations.

Raffle Winners



Well done to all our raffle winners this year and a huge congratulations to the winners of our special raffle prize pictured above. The names of every child in the school were put into a special spinning wheel; it was so exciting to watch the needle stop and see who our winner was.

Christmas Card Competition



Well done to our pupil, pictured above, who came runner-up in MP Alex Mayer's Christmas Card Competition. Her colourful Christmas tree design was highly regarded by the judges and has been included on Christmas cards being sent far and wide. Huge congratulations!

Santa Challenge 2025

Our children participated again in the annual Santa Challenge and this year we successfully travelled 2424 miles! All children who completed the 10 days of active travel were entered into a prize draw to win the prize of a scooter. 75 children managed to complete the challenge – what an achievement!

You can see our happy winner in the photograph and we hope you enjoy travelling to and from school on your new scooter after the holidays!



Central
Bedfordshire

If you are concerned about a child or young person please call 0300 300 8585
Out of hours: 0300 300 8123

NSPCC

The NSPCC are available for adults if they have any concerns about a child. This could be your own child's mental health, for example.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> Telephone: **0808 800 5000**



If you are struggling to cope and have concerns over your own mental wellbeing, Mind offer information and advice.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/> Telephone: **0300 123 3393**

SAMARITANS

The Samaritans offer a listening ear.

<https://www.samaritans.org/> Telephone: **116 123**



The Salvation Army offer a church and services to support those in need.

Telephone: 01582 606031



If you are unsure whether an app or game is suitable for your child, National Online Safety provide highly visual and informative Online Safety posters for parents, carers and children.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>



Refuge are available to offer support to any woman experiencing Domestic Abuse.

<https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/> Telephone: **0808 2000 247**

Respect
Men's advice line

A confidential service for men experiencing domestic Abuse.

<https://mensadvice.org.uk/> Telephone: **0808 8010327**



LGBT+ Domestic Abuse helpline

<https://galop.org.uk/> Telephone: **0800 999 5428**



Child Line is a free and confidential service where young people can talk about anything. Support is available online, on the phone, anytime.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/> Telephone: **0800 1111**

Rev. Ricky For prayer and general help and support.

Dunstable rickyturner@ntlworld.com or PrayDunstable@gmail.com Telephone: **01582 528485**

Team Vicars

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

Festive Tips for a SCREEN-FREE CHRISTMAS

This Christmas, why not unplug and rediscover the simple joys of spending time together? Here are some festive, screen-free ideas to help families laugh, create, and connect in the old-fashioned way.

1 GET CREATIVE AND CRAFTY

Bring out the glue, glitter, and imagination to make your home sparkle with handmade cheer.

- **Make decorations:** Try paper snowflakes, salt-dough ornaments, or pinecone garlands for the tree.
- **Christmas card workshop:** Design and decorate cards for friends, family, or neighbours.
- **DIY gifts:** Craft photo frames, bath salts, or 'kindness coupons' offering hugs, chores, or treats.

2 BAKE, BUILD, AND TASTE TOGETHER

The kitchen is the heart of Christmas, and it smells divine when everyone's baking.

- **Festive baking:** Bake and decorate cookies, mince pies, or cupcakes together.
- **Gingerbread challenge:** Build a gingerbread house and let the kids take charge of decorating!
- **Sweet treat swap:** Wrap up homemade goodies to gift to friends or neighbours.

3 SLOW DOWN AND BE PRESENT

The greatest gift you can give is your attention.

- **Digital Detox Day:** Choose one day to switch off all screens and enjoy each other fully.
- **Gratitude Gathering:** Share what you are thankful for from the past year.
- **Memory Moments:** Take photos with a disposable camera or sketch favourite holiday scenes.

4 ENJOY COSY, INDOOR FUN

Cold outside? No problem, turn your home into a festive retreat.

- **Family game night:** Play board or card games, from Uno to festive trivia.
- **Hot chocolate bar:** Set up a 'cocoa station' with marshmallows, cream, and candy canes.
- **Puzzle power:** Work together on a big jigsaw puzzle – slow, calm, and wonderfully mindful.

5 HOLD A FAMILY TALENT SHOW

Let everyone shine with a little Christmas sparkle and imagination.

- **Perform together:** Sing, dance, tell jokes, or stage a short Christmas play.
- **Make costumes:** Use household items to design festive outfits or props.
- **Award the stars:** Give fun prizes like 'Best Performance' or 'Most Festive Outfit.'

6 READ, WRITE, AND IMAGINE

Nurture creativity and quiet time with stories that come to life.

- **Story hour:** Read holiday tales aloud by the tree or under a blanket fort.
- **Write a story or comic:** Create Christmas adventures starring your family or pets.
- **Book swap:** Exchange favourite books and read each other's choices.

7 EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Wrap up warm, breathe the crisp winter air, and find magic in nature.

- **Winter nature walks:** Spot birds, berries, and frosty patterns while collecting natural treasures.
- **Christmas light hunt:** Take an evening stroll to admire twinkling lights in your community.
- **Scavenger hunt:** Hide small surprises around the garden or park.

8 GIVE BACK AND SPREAD KINDNESS

Christmas feels even warmer when shared with others.

- **Kindness countdown:** Do one good deed a day, from helping at home to writing thank-you notes.
- **Donate together:** Collect food, toys, or clothes for a local charity.
- **Neighbourly cheer:** Deliver homemade treats or cards to someone spending Christmas alone.

Meet Our Expert

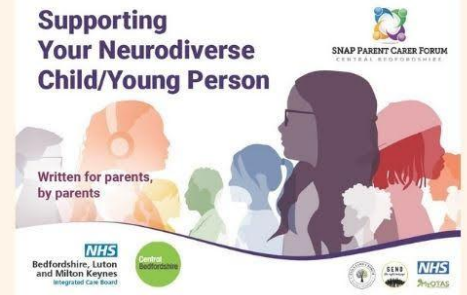
Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website



FREE

Don't miss out! Join us at our coffee event and pick up your free hard copy of the booklet



Welcome from SNAP Parent Carer Forum!

We are inviting you to join our second PINS Coffee Event

Date: 19th January 2026

From: 9am To: 10.30am

Place: St Augustine's Academy

Come along to a coffee and a chat about our 'Supporting Your Neurodiverse Child/Young Person' Booklet



SAVE THE DATE

When you first realise that your child/young person experiences the world in a different way it can feel overwhelming. But once you begin to understand their way of thinking it can be rewarding and you can learn so much from them. This booklet is full of useful information and strategies to help support you on this journey.

The Goal

To help every child feel included, understood, and supported—especially those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

PINS is designed to:

- ✓ Help schools improve how they support children with SEND
- ✓ Offer early help to children who may be struggling - with or without a diagnosis
- ✓ Provide training for school staff to build skills and confidence
- ✓ Enhance communication and partnerships between schools and families

MORE INFORMATION



For more information please email PINS@snappcf.org.uk and see our PINS webpage

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT - £21.60/£80 - ENDS 14TH DEC

J&R CHRISTMAS CAMP

FESTIVE FOOTBALL FUN!

MON 22ND - TUE 23RD DECEMBER

MON 29TH - TUE 30TH DECEMBER

VENUE 360 | 9AM-3PM | AGES 5-13

SIBLING DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

EARLY/LATE PICKUP OPTIONS AVAILABLE

BOOK



NOW!



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