



# St Augustine's Academy Newsletter

## 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026



### Headteacher's Message - Write A Letter to An Elder Day

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,



Welcome to the start of the second half of the spring term and a special welcome to our new families that have joined us.

Yesterday, it was 'Write a letter to an elder day', and children in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3, wrote letters and drew pictures for all of the residents at Caddington Grove Care Home. Two of our school councillors delivered the letters on behalf of the school and it was wonderful to see the smiles that their special delivery brought to the residents.

We hope you enjoy this week's newsletter and we wish you all an enjoyable weekend.

**Best Wishes, Amanda Howes – Headteacher**



### Lyfta

This week we met Kristos in Greece once again. This time we saw him in school with his teacher where he is the only pupil. Kristos was seen being given some new work books with new topics to learn. At times, Kristos struggled with his learning but his teacher was there to help him.

It is the start of a new half term here at St Augustine's and we are all learning new things. In Reception class, the children have been learning about Chinese New Year. They have made Chinese lanterns, created lucky red envelopes and have even taken part in a dragon dance.



**'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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## Celebration

### CONGRATULATIONS to the following children.

Our Stars of the Week are...

Year 1 – Mersana  
Year 2 – Octavia  
Year 3 – Aurora  
Year 4 – Frankie  
Year 5 – Antoni  
Year 6 – Diana

Our 'Lyfta' Pupils of the Week are...

Year 1 – Greyson  
Year 2 – Lois  
Year 3 – Harmony  
Year 4 – Zane  
Year 5 – Orion  
Year 6 – Tayla



Our Vocabulary Velociraptors are...

Year 1 – Millie  
Year 2 – Kamsi  
Year 3 – Addis  
Year 4 – Harriet  
Year 5 – Jhanee  
Year 6 – Rehmell



Our Attendance Bear Winner is...



The House Point totals this week are...



214

199

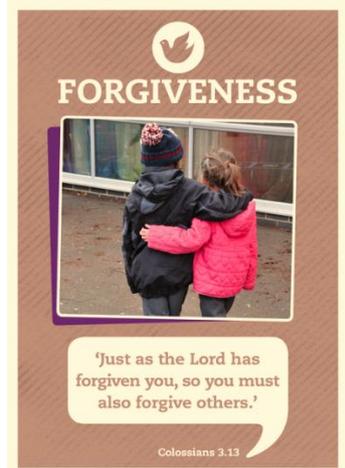
206

198

## Value of the Half Term - Forgiveness

It was unusual not to be at school for Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday this year as they took place during the half term.

This week however, we began thinking about Easter in Collective Worship by introducing our value of 'Forgiveness'. We thought about what forgiveness means and how forgiving others can restore friendships.



## Vocabulary Velociraptors

1  sphere	2  cube	3  cone	4  cuboid
5  cylinder	6  tetrahedron	7  square-based pyramid	8  triangular prism
9  pentagonal pyramid	10  hexagonal prism	11  octahedron	12  dodecahedron

This week was 'Maths Week' and the children learnt the names of 12 different 3D shapes. They repeated them daily to help to remember them. Do you know the names of all of the shapes?

## Diary Dates

Mon. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar.	Vocabulary Velociraptors – English Week Lyfta – Mohit in India – Saving Rare Hoolock gibbons
Thu. 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	World Book Day – Wear your pyjamas and bring in a favourite bedtime story
Fri. 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	9:30am – SNAP Parent Carer Forum
Mon. 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Vocabulary Velociraptors – Science Week Lyfta – Cathy in USA - Astronomer
Fri. 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	1:30pm – Year 1 RE Active Church 2:20pm – Year 4 RE Active Church

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



SNAP PARENT CARER FORUM  
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE



Partnerships for Inclusion of  
Neurodiversity in Schools

# Time for you...



## Welcome from SNAP Parent Care Forum!

We are inviting you to join our third and final PINS Coffee Event

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

From: 9:00am To: 10:30am

Place: St Augustine’s Academy

You are invited to our final PINS coffee and chat event where you will be supported with:

- How to look after your well being
- How you can access SEND support for your child locally and nationally
- Find out about upcoming events such as our SNAP PCF SEND Roadshows and a reminder of the benefits of the Max Card including how to get reduced entry to Whipsnade Zoo by joining SNAP PCF



MORE INFORMATION



For more information please email [PINS@snappcf.org.uk](mailto:PINS@snappcf.org.uk) and see our PINS webpage

At The National College, we provide everything educators and trusted adults need to strengthen, manage and evidence their professional, and personal development, in one place, on one platform. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.thenationalcollege.co.uk](http://www.thenationalcollege.co.uk) for further information and resources.

## Tips for Supporting Children in DEALING WITH GRIEF

It's important that trusted adults feel able to help children and young people cope with grief – particularly at the moment, when we are a nation mourning the loss of a public figure who was treasured by so many. Children are seeing bereavement and sadness being featured heavily in the national news and in their favourite online spaces, and hearing it being talked about extensively among families and in the community. How can we help them in processing this healthily?

### 1 UNDERSTAND WHAT GRIEF IS

Grief is emotional distress which is a normal response to the death of someone close, well known or admired. It may feel overwhelming – especially for young people – and is often accompanied by feelings of shock, disbelief, anger or fear. These emotions may also mean that sleep, eating and our relationships with others could be affected.

### 2 MEET THE CHILD 'WHERE THEY ARE'

This could be a child's first experience of grief and loss – or conversely, they may have already encountered it several times. Make sure that any conversations you have with them, and the support that you give, are led by their experiences and their understanding of death – and in the context of their religious or community beliefs.

### 3 EXPLAIN CLEARLY WHAT DEATH IS

It may often feel uncomfortable, but it's healthier to actually use the words "dead", "death" or "died". Abstract explanations of death can frequently create even more confusion – particularly for younger children, who are still trying to grasp this complex (and possibly unfamiliar) concept.

### 4 BE PREPARED FOR QUESTIONS

On subjects such as this – especially when it involves a person who's well known to them – children and young people often have lots of questions, all at once. Sometimes, new queries about the issue will occur to them weeks after the event. Be ready to answer their questions as honestly as you can, using language that's appropriate for their age.

### 5 FIND WAYS TO REMEMBER THEM

It can help to talk to about the person who's died, even if that individual wasn't personally involved in the child's own life – such as a significant public figure, for instance. You and your child can discuss what that person meant to you, celebrate the things they achieved or go to a place where they can be remembered.

### 6 ENCOURAGE COPING STRATEGIES

You can help a child or young person to identify what their usual positive ways of coping are when they have overwhelming feelings. For example, do they find that talking with someone, drawing, going for a walk or listening to music help when they're feeling upset? These same activities could form an important part of the grieving process.

### 7 REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT

If a child or young person is struggling with grief to the extent that it's impacting on their everyday life, there are lots of expert organisations that you could reach out to for further help. Samaritans provides a listening ear for anyone in emotional distress; The Mix offers specialist support to people under 25; and Winston's Wish deals specifically with helping young people who are grieving.

**SAMARITANS:**  
116 123

**WWW.THEMIX.ORG.UK/GET-SUPPORT**  
0808 808 4994

**WINSTON'S WISH:**  
08088 020 021

### Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



**The National College®**



**BLMK** **FBYM**  
The Friends of Bedfordshire Youth Music

# ORCHESTRAL JAMBOREE

## 2026



**Do you play a string, brass, woodwind or percussion instrument at pre-grade or grade 1 standard? Then this fun day of music making is for you!**

**TO BOOK SCAN**



**Cost - £10**

**Sunday 22nd  
March 2026  
10am - 4pm**

**Concert for parents  
4pm**

**Vandyke Upper  
School  
Vandyke Rd,  
Leighton Buzzard  
LU7 3DY**

<https://www.bedfordshiremusictrust.org.uk/jamboree-application/>

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Music Hub

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