St Augustine's Academy Newsletter
6th February 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Winter is a difficult season for wildlife as they search for food and try to keep warm. Birds especially struggle to find insects and berries to eat and Year 1 have been helping them by making nutritious bird feeders. The birds are sure to have found them delicious.
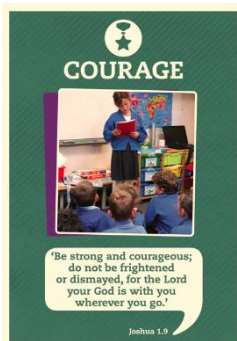

Next week, we hope to be launching our revamped school website and app. On the next page of this newsletter, you will find the app QR codes so that you can get ahead and download the app before its launch. We hope that the new website and app will be easier to navigate and give a fresh feel to life at St Augustine's Academy.

As this newsletter is being finished, there is a hive of activity downstairs as the PTFA prepare for the Valentine's Disco tonight. We are sure that everyone will have a wonderful time and look forward to sharing some photos with you next week.

We wish you all a safe and enjoyable weekend and look forward to seeing you on Monday for the last week of the half term.

Best Wishes

Amanda Howes – Headteacher

COURAGE

'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'

Joshua 1.9

Lyfta

This week in Lyfta we met Ilya from the USA. Ilya is an AI Computer Scientist and it was fascinating to hear all about his career and his thoughts about AI.

Children enjoy and use a range of technology at home and at school. In these photographs you can see Year 6 pupils who chose to use the laptops as part of their Gem Day, and our Reception children who have been learning how to program Marty the Robot. Technology is such a huge part of our lives and we all need to learn to use it safely and with confidence.

'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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MODESHIFT STARS EDUCATION
GOOD TRAVEL PLAN 2025/2026

LYFTA LEARNING LEADERS

SCHOOLS OF TOMORROW
Shaping a better future. Together.

PINS

MUSIC MARK recognition 2025 - 2026

SCHOOL GAMES SILVER 2024/25

Ofsted GRADED GOOD

COMING SOON: OUR NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE & APP!

BE THE FIRST TO EXPLORE!
VIEW NEWSLETTERS, CALENDARS & MORE.

DOWNLOAD THE APP NOW!

GOOGLE PLAY STORE

APPLE APP STORE

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD & GET READY!

**CONGRATULATIONS
to the following children.**

Our Stars of the Week are…

Year 1 – Liana
Year 2 – Eleora
Year 3 – Alfie
Year 4 – Abel
Year 5 – Jada
Year 6 – Tymon

Our 'Lyfta' Pupils of the Week are…

Year 1 – Rose
Year 2 – Kamsi
Year 3 – johan
Year 4 – Trinity
Year 5 – Ella-Louise
Year 6 – Courtney

Our Vocabulary Velociraptors are…

Year 1 – Oluwafirefunmi
Year 2 – Rodrigo
Year 3 – Jax
Year 4 – Mason
Year 5 – Logan
Year 6 – Lillie S

Our Attendance Bear Winner is…

Year 3
98.4%

The House Point totals this week are…

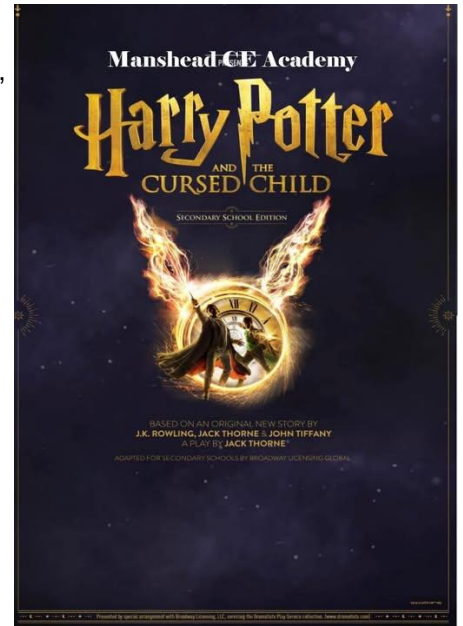| BEECH	WILLOW	MAPLE	OAK
358	297	351	368

WELL DONE!

Year 5 visited Manshead Academy, along with Year 5 children from other local schools, to see their annual show.

The whole cast gave a rousing and captivating performance and it was especially exciting to see an ex-pupil perform in the show.

We would like to say A huge 'Well done!' and 'Thank you!' to everyone.

Manshead CE Academy
Harry Potter
AND THE CURSED CHILD
SECONDARY SCHOOL EDITION

BASED ON AN ORIGINAL NEW STORY BY
J.K. ROWLING, JACK THORNE & JOHN TIFFANY
A PLAY BY JACK THORNE

Vocabulary Velociraptors

1 Brian Cox	2 Jane Goodall	3 Mary Jackson	4 Timothy Berners-Lee
5 Neil Armstrong	6 Stephen Hawking	7 Mae Jemison	8 Charles Darwin
9 Alexander Fleming	10 Marie Curie	11 Albert Einstein	12 Ada Lovelace

This week was 'Computing Week' and the children learnt the names of scientists that worked with a range of technologies. Can you learn them too?

Diary Dates

Tue. 10th Feb.	Safer internet Day
Thu. 12th Feb.	2:15pm – EYFS Stay and Play
Fri. 13th Feb.	Last Day of Half Term
Mon. 23rd Feb.	Children Return to School

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

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING SAFE USE OF AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly woven into young people's digital lives. It can offer some educational benefits and day-to-day assistance; however, it also raises concerns about misinformation, privacy, fairness, and safety. This guide provides parents and educators with practical strategies to support young people to navigate AI tools responsibly, and to use them safely and with discernment.

1 DEMYSTIFY WHAT AI REALLY IS

Children encounter AI in most online places, including games, streaming platforms, and school tools. Explain that AI uses patterns from past data to make decisions, but it doesn't think or feel like humans. Use age-appropriate examples, like how recommendations on YouTube or Netflix work, to build understanding and prevent false beliefs about AI being all-knowing or alive.

2 TALK ABOUT RISKS OF MISINFORMATION

AI can create convincing false information, including deepfake videos, photos, and fake 'facts'. Encourage children to think critically about what they see and read. Teach them to double-check information using reliable sources, to look at images and videos carefully, and to ask an adult if something doesn't seem right.

3 DISCUSS DATA AND PRIVACY

Explain that AI systems learn by analysing lots of data, sometimes including personal information. Help young people to be mindful of what they share online and why protecting personal data matters. Model good habits like reading app permissions together or reviewing what's collected by voice assistants like Alexa or Siri.

4 ENCOURAGE CREATIVE USE OF AI

Support children, when using AI tools, to explore ideas, make art, or build projects. This fosters confidence, imagination, and independent thinking. When children use AI creatively, rather than just passively consuming it, they are more likely to stay engaged and make thoughtful choices.

5 USE AGE-APPROPRIATE AI TOOLS

Not all AI platforms are suitable for children. Choose tools designed for education or creativity, with clear safety policies. Review terms of use and privacy settings, and help children use them in age-appropriate ways. For example, some chatbot tools mimic conversation but should only be used with guidance and boundaries in place.

6 USE AI TOGETHER

Exploring AI tools together can help adults understand how they work and spot potential issues. Try co-writing a story with an AI writing assistant or experimenting with an AI art tool. This encourages curiosity, helps you stay informed about the latest AI tools, and allows you to reinforce safe and respectful use while modelling critical thinking.

7 SET BOUNDARIES FOR AI USE

Establish when, where, and how AI tools can be used, just as you would with any digital technology. For example, you might agree not to use AI tools to complete school assignments without permission, or to avoid unsupervised use of voice assistants. Consistent boundaries help manage overuse and misuse.

8 WATCH FOR OVERRELIANCE

Some AI tools, like homework help apps, may be tempting shortcuts. Encourage children to use AI to support their thinking, not replace it. Celebrate effort and process over perfect answers. Reinforce that mistakes are part of learning and that relying too heavily on AI can limit real understanding.

9 TEACH DIGITAL ETHICS AND LITERACY

Help children explore how AI works, where it might be biased, and why ethical thinking matters. Building digital literacy alongside ethical awareness ensures children engage with AI critically, not just conveniently. Help young people to understand that not all people use AI for legitimate purposes; some use it for malicious reasons. Encourage questions about fairness, representation, and who benefits from certain tools; talk about algorithms, echo chambers, and the impact of automation on daily life.

10 STAY CURIOUS AND INVOLVED

AI is developing rapidly, and staying informed helps you support the young people in your care. Follow trusted sources for updates and keep the conversation going. If a child brings up a new AI trend or tool, take the opportunity to learn about it together. Showing interest builds trust and strengthens digital resilience.

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#WakeUpWednesday®

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Artificial intelligence safety tips for parents

What are AI tools and AI generated content?

AI generated content

This is where an image, video or voice recording has been created using an online generator. These can be completely artificial, meaning none of the content is real, or they can be altered versions of existing real content.

AI content generators

These are the tools used to create AI generated content by entering a series of commands to generate new content or edit an existing image or video.

AI chat bots

These are chat functions where you are speaking with a bot rather than a real person. They will often only respond to short messages and will usually introduce themselves as a bot. However, the bots can often be given human names.

AI summaries

This is where a platform gathers and summarises information, usually found at the top of a page or search engine result. The AI will often take information from across a range of sources and list the sources within the summary.

6 top tips: how to support your children to use AI safely

1) Talk about where AI is being used

A good place to start is by having open conversations with your child about where they are seeing AI tools and content online. This is an opportunity to talk about the risks and benefits they are experiencing.

2) Remind young people not everything is real

You can remind them that not everything online is real and much of what we see may have been edited.

AI is continually evolving but there can be common indicators to show something is AI generated but remember it is not always obvious. Some of these indicators can be an overall 'perfect' appearance, body parts or movements appearing differently or not looking 'true to life'.

3) Discuss misuse of generative AI

It's important to address the misuse of generative AI to create harmful content in an age-appropriate way. Make sure that your child knows it's not OK for anyone to create content to harm other people.

If they ever experience this or are worried about someone doing it, then they can report that. If you are concerned about how someone is behaving towards a child online this can be reported to law enforcement agency CEOP.

If a sexual image or video has been created, this can be reported via Report Remove.

4) Remind them to check sources

AI summaries and chatbots can be helpful tools to get quick answers to a question but it's important to know it's coming from a reliable source.

Sources should be listed and will often have links so they can be checked. If the source is not listed or is not a reliable source, it's good to encourage them to check a trusted site for themselves.

5) Signpost to safe sources of health and wellbeing advice

We know young people will use the internet to get advice and answers to questions which could mean they come across advice from an AI bot or summary. It's important they access safe information from reliable sources, so it can be helpful to make sure they know of child-friendly safe sites such as Childline.

6) Make sure they know where to go for help

Ensure your child knows they can talk to you or another safe adult like a teacher if anything worries them online or offline. They can also contact Childline 24/7 on 0800 11 11 or via email or online chat, there are lots of ways they can get support.

Saturday 14th Feb 10:30am – 12:30pm

Christ Church Dunstable LU6 1SX

FAMILY FUN DAY

Inflatable games   **Puppet Show**   **Crafts**

Face-Painting   **Challenges**

Please note: adults will need to stay with their children for the duration of the event.

February Half Term Crash Courses

Monday 16th Feb – Friday 20th Feb

8:00am – Stage 1
8:30am – Stage 2
9:00am – Pre-school
9:30am – Stage 1

Please book in at reception to avoid being disappointed

Smaller Classes

£50.75 for 5-day crash course

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