



St Augustine's Academy Newsletter

4th September 2026



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome back to the start of a new school year and a special welcome to all of our new families and staff.



It has been a positive and calm start to the year and the children are settling well into their new classes. We have been reminding ourselves of the school's values through special 'St Augustine's Way Activity Days'; this has helped to set the scene and expectations for the year ahead. Above, you can see the 'Respect' image that we created together on the school playground, and below, the friendship web and tree created by our Year 2 class.



This newsletter is packed full of information about all sorts of things including: Safeguarding, school dinners, curriculum information and general updates. Please read it through carefully and remember that we are always available if you have any queries.

It has been lovely to chat with many of you this week and we wish you all a lovely weekend.

Best Wishes
Amanda Howes - Headteacher



Lyfta

Lyfta is an interactive platform where children can visit different countries and learn about the lives of some of the people that live there. We have used Lyfta for the last 2 years at St Augustine's and are using it again this year.



By the end of the year, the school community will have completed another 33 'Lyfta Times' visiting many countries from around the globe, and meeting unique and diverse individuals. Lyfta time class lessons will be linked weekly with whole school collective worships, and will reflect our school's values and calendar. Children from EYFS through to Year 6 will have accessed Lyfta time at their own levels but will be able to come together, with their shared commonality, to celebrate our wonderful world.

You can find out more about Lyfta by watching the short introductory video by following the link below.
<https://www.lyfta.com/>

Vocabulary Velociraptors

This year, we will continue to help our children develop a hunger and passions for words through our 'Vocabulary Velociraptor' initiative.

Each week, they will learn 12 different words centred around a theme and there will also be a review week at the end of each half term.

The words will relate to various topics (many of them chosen by the children) and they will often link with Lyfta too. Examples include: Dogs, boats and crafts.

You can find the weekly themes on our website calendar.

It's going to be Roarsome!



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

Safeguarding for parents



What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding ensures that every child, has a right to equal protection from harm. Safeguarding is the steps that people take to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm. At St Augustine's Academy we support children and families through the Safeguarding Team:

Justine Fourmy (Deputy Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead)



Cheryl Smart (Family Support Worker/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)



Parents and carers are able to support as well, by being vigilant for any behaviours that may be of concern.

Safeguarding concerns to look out for:

Physical



You see one of the parents handling their child in a violent manner on the way to/from school or on the estate.

Sexual



You see one of the adults picking up a child and holding them in an inappropriate manner. You hear that children or young people are being groomed by other children or adults, outside of school

Emotional



You see a child run towards their parent who responds in a harsh manner, possibly using inappropriate language

Neglect



You see a child wearing the same dirty clothes everyday or who steals food from other children

How can you help?

If you ever see anything happen to a child that makes you feel uncomfortable, please let a member of the safeguarding team know. You are not causing problems but it could save a child from unnecessary harm.

Any one of these things might not mean anything, but if the safeguarding team isn't told, then they can't help.

You can also refer a concern directly to Children's Services. Central Bedfordshire's Hub can be contacted on 0300 300 8585.

If you are concerned about a member of staff this must be reported to the Headteacher Amanda Howes and not to any other member of staff.



For further information please contact us at school, look at the Safeguarding page on our website or have a read through the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Adrenaline Auto injectors (Epi-Pens) and Inhalers



If your child requires an adrenaline auto injector or inhaler, please ensure that the school is aware and that you provide an in-date injector/inhaler to be used at school as required.

The school does have spare adrenaline auto injectors and inhalers to use in an emergency however it is still essential that you provide the school with your child's personal devices.

Staff received adrenaline auto injector training as part of their INSET.

School Defibrillator Reminder



A defibrillator is a device that gives a high energy electric shock to the heart of someone who is in cardiac arrest. This high energy shock is called defibrillation, and it's an essential part in trying to save the life of someone who's in cardiac arrest.

We have a defibrillator for our school which is located just outside the school office.

Staff received training on the use of the defibrillator as part of this September's INSET.

Nut Free School

Our school is a nut free school. At St Augustine's Academy we have children with a variety of different allergies and we want to ensure that they are safe.

To help us do that, please ensure that no nuts and nothing that contains nuts (including Nutella) comes into school. Thank you.

Nut-Free Zone



Please do not bring any products containing nuts (peanuts or tree nuts) into area.

Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.

St Augustine's Academy



PLEASE REMEMBER

WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL



Dinner Money



£2.60

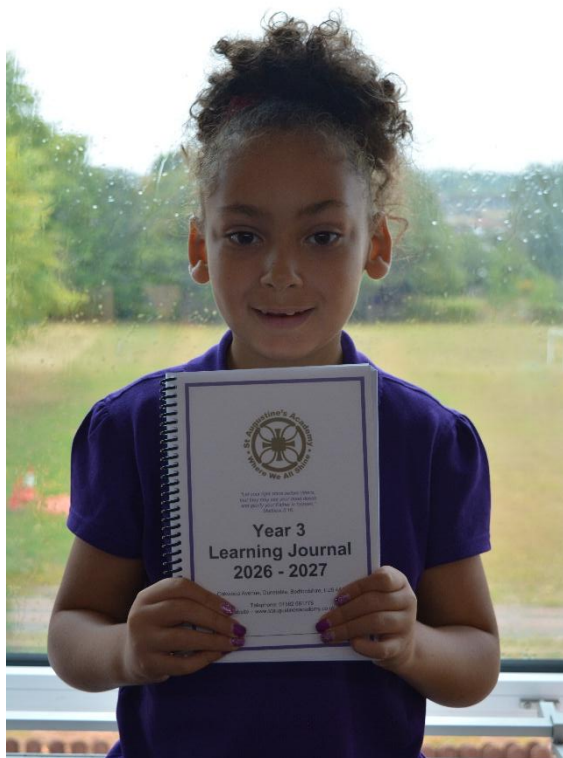
For children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, school dinners are free however for children in Years 3 – 6, school dinners are priced at £2.60 per day unless your child is entitled to free school meals.

Every child whose parents/carers are in receipt of Universal Credit are eligible for Free School Meals so please follow the below link to find out more.

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2025/06/expanding-free-school-meals-what-parents-need-to-know/>

If you would like further payment information then please contact the school office, or Gary in the kitchen, who will be happy to help you.

Learning Journals



This week, children will have brought home their Learning Journals for this year. They are always excited to receive them.

Please look through the journals to familiarise yourselves with their content. There are pages to record your child's daily reading at home, the targets that they are working on for the half term, resources to help children with their learning and general school information.

Please look after them and ensure that children remember to bring them into school each day.

Value of the Half Term

Each half term we concentrate on one of our school values during Collective Worship.

The value that we will be learning about during this half term is 'Thankfulness'. Later in the term, we will be holding our Harvest Festival and this will be a lovely way to show this value in action.



Noticeboard Reminder

There is a school noticeboard placed on the fence, next to the pedestrian gate.

The latest school newsletter and general information will be displayed there for you to view.

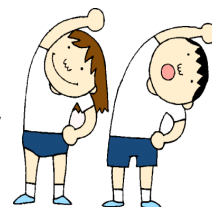
Please use the school website or School Jotter app for more information.



PE Days

Children must wear PE kit to school on the following days.

- Reception - Monday
- Year 1 – Monday and Wednesday
- Year 2 – Tuesday and Thursday
- Year 3 – Tuesday and Friday
- Year 4 – Wednesday and Thursday
- Year 5 – Monday and Friday
- Year 6 – Monday and Wednesday



Diary Dates

WB 7th Sep.	Vocabulary Velociraptors - St Augustine's Academy Week Lyfta – Enaney in Ethiopia – Awra Amba Community
Mon. 7th Sep.	St Augustine's Way Activity Day Reception home visits
Tue. 8th Sep.	Reception children begin school (Mornings only)
Thu. 10th Sep.	Reception children stay until 1:00pm
WB 14th Sep.	Reception children begin full-time Vocabulary Velociraptors - Musical Instruments Week Lyfta – Izandra in Brazil – Classical violinist

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

THE ST AUGUSTINE'S WAY

FORGIVE CELEBRATE

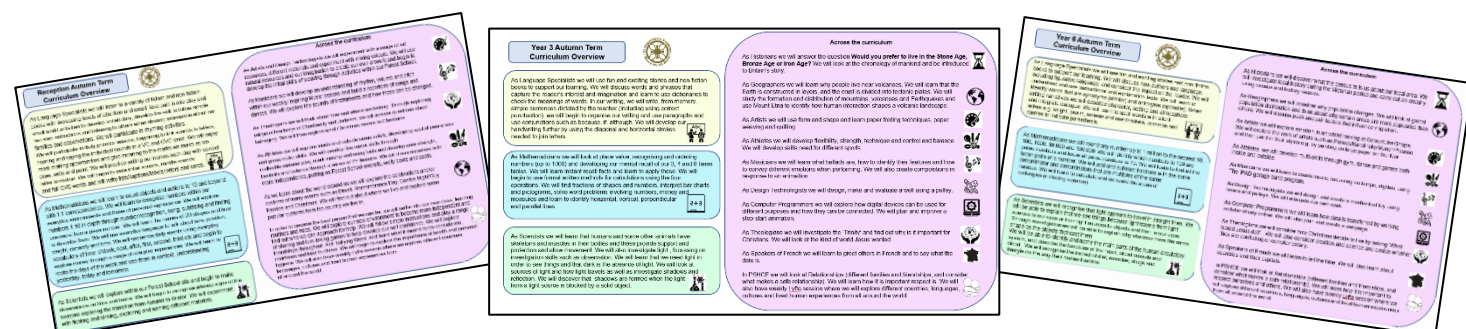


Above, you can see our 'St Augustine's Way' poster which shows the school's golden rules, values, rewards and consequences. This poster is displayed in classrooms and in other locations around the school and next week we will be looking at it in depth with the children as part of Vocabulary Velociraptors. Please support us in ensuring that the behaviour of children is the best it can be through celebrating achievements and helping children to learn from their mistakes.

The full Behaviour Policy can be found on the school website by following the link below.

<https://staugustine.sites.schooljotter2.com/parents/behaviour>

Termly Curriculum Overviews



Our Curriculum Overviews provide information about the Curriculum content that will be covered in school during the term, for each year group. They can be found on the school website, by following this link.

<https://www.staugustinesacademy.co.uk/curriculum/termly-curriculum-overviews>

Please read them so that you have a knowledge of what your child is learning at school and can support them at home.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

In every force. In every school. For every child.

St Augustine's Academy is part of Operation Encompass. This is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and police forces.

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, before the start of the next school day, when a child has experienced domestic abuse.

As a school we have ensured that a member of our staff, (Mrs Fourmy) known as a Key Adult, has been trained in the Operation Encompass procedures allowing us to then use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to support the child/ren in our care.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identifies children who experience domestic abuse as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.

On 24 May 2024 Royal Assent was granted to The Victims and Prisoners Act. The Act placed Operation Encompass into Law. This places a statutory obligation on police forces to share Operation Encompass notifications with schools/educational settings.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and through Operation Encompass we will be able to provide the best possible support to our children.

If you would like to talk to Mrs Fourmy about this, please contact the school office.





School Vision

At St. Augustine's Academy:



Cross... Our ethos is built on Christian values with 'love' at the core.



Child... Our pupils are at the heart of all we do.



Safety pin... The safety and well-being of our pupils is our top priority.



Sunflower Seed... We grow and flourish in a happy, stimulating and treasured environment.



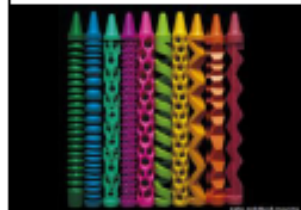
Jigsaw piece... We value relationships and work together to make a difference.



Balloon... We have high expectations and strive for the highest academic standards.



Stretchy person... We stretch ourselves and each other to achieve our full potential.



Crayon... We inspire creativity, innovation and self-belief.

How To Download Our New App:



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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to school after the summer holidays can be both exciting and daunting for children of all ages. Different routines, classes, schools, and academic pressures can cause anxiety or uncertainty. Parents play a vital role in easing this transition. This guide will help you support your child emotionally, mentally, and practically as they return to school.

1 RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINES

Gradually shift back to school-time routines a week or two before term starts. Regular bedtimes, wake-up times, and mealtimes can help children feel more secure and reduce the shock of change when school begins. Having a routine creates predictability and stability, helping to reduce anxiety while improving sleep and concentration.



2 TALK ABOUT FEELINGS

Encourage open conversations with children about their feelings. Ask them how they feel about returning to school, such as what they're looking forward to and anything they might be feeling unsure or worried about. Validating their emotions can help reduce anxiety and show them it's okay to talk about their emotional wellbeing.



3 SUPPORT WITH SLEEP

Children need adequate sleep for concentration, brain function, memory, and emotional regulation. Establish a wind-down routine without screens at least an hour before bed, and encourage relaxing activities like reading or listening to calming music.



4 LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS

Some children hide their anxiety. Watch for changes in their behaviour, such as withdrawal, stomach aches, and irritability. If worries persist, speak with their teacher or the pastoral team early to ensure your child receives support.



5 REFRESH SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Help children reconnect with school friends by arranging playdates or video chats in the week before school starts. Familiar faces and social interactions help the transition and provide emotional comfort on that first day back.



6 CREATE A CALM MORNING

Mornings set the tone for the day. Plan ahead with a consistent morning routine that allows time for breakfast, getting dressed, and talking calmly about the day. Avoid last-minute rushing to reduce stress for everyone.



7 FOCUS ON POSITIVES

Talk about the fun and interesting parts of school – seeing friends, favourite subjects, or exciting activities. One simple but powerful change parents can make is swapping “How’s your day been?” for “What’s been good about your day?” This invites more of a positive, open response. Focusing on positives can help shift children’s anxious thoughts and reframe school as a safe and engaging place.



8 VISIT OR VISUALISE SCHOOL

If possible, encourage visits to the school grounds before the first day, especially if it’s a new school. Walking the route or even looking at photos of classrooms and teachers can make the environment feel familiar. The school website is always a great go-to place for this. This is particularly helpful for younger children or those with additional needs.



9 PLAN AHEAD TOGETHER

Involve children in preparing for school – buying supplies, packing their bag, or choosing lunch options. This gives them a sense of control and builds excitement. Use checklists or calendars to prepare together, helping reduce last-minute stress.



10 STAY POSITIVE AND PRESENT

Children pick up on your outlook. Stay calm, positive, and present, especially during drop-offs. Avoid lingering goodbyes, and let them know you’ll be there at pick-up. A consistent, reassuring presence builds their confidence and resilience.



Meet Our Expert

This guide was created by Jo Morton-Brown, an Emotional Health Practitioner with nearly 15 years’ experience supporting children and young people’s mental health. She produces uplifting YouTube content for pupils and trains adults to better support young people’s wellbeing, with a mission to help every child feel valued and understand their emotions.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®



Queensbury
Academy

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DATE

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1.00PM – 3.00PM

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CIRCUIT WHILE BEING DOUSED IN VIBRANT COLOURS!**

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THE SIGN-UP SHEET!**

