



St Augustine's Academy Newsletter

1st May 2026



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,



We are incredibly proud of our Year 3 pupils for successfully completing their Level 1 Bikeability course. Throughout the training, the children learned essential bike skills including how to set off, pedal, cruise, and stop safely.

A special "shout out" goes to Thomas, who achieved his certificate despite having never ridden a bike before the course began—what an outstanding accomplishment!

It has also been wonderful to enjoy the sunshine this week, which has finally allowed the children to make the most of the school field during lunchtimes. We hope the beautiful weather continues through the Bank Holiday weekend!

Best Wishes,
Amanda Howes - Headteacher

Lyfta and Our School Our World

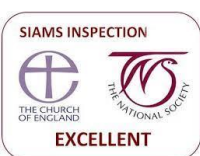


This week in Lyfta, we met Tomi from Finland. Tomi had a wonderful career as a professional dancer and was heartbroken when the time came for him to retire. Sometimes life can take an unexpected turn and this definitely happened to Tomi. Tomi was delighted to be able to continue his career in the arts by becoming a make-up artist at the Finnish National Opera and Ballet. He now leads a happy and fulfilled life once again, doing something he loves.

Everyday in school, we go on a journey to learn more about ourselves and each other. In Early Years, the children are continuing to learn to play and work together. They are learning to live out our school values and be a good friend.



'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 – Millie
Year 2 – Thomas
Year 3 – Harmony
Year 4 – Paige-Anthony
Year 5 – Ella-Louise
Year 6 – Riley

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

Year 1 – Greyson
Year 2 – Eron
Year 3 – Elijah
Year 4 – Mason
Year 5 – Jhanae
Year 6 – George



Our Vocabulary Velociraptors are...

Year 1 – Yemaryam
Year 2 – Kamsi
Year 3 – Johan
Year 4 – Harley
Year 5 – Logan
Year 6 – Olly



Our Attendance Bear Winner is...



The House Point totals this week are...



169

169

173

173

Vocabulary Velociraptors



This week we learnt the names of 12 different hairstyles as part of our Vocabulary Velociraptors learning. We repeated their names every day to ensure they stuck in our long-term memory. Can you learn them too?

Diary Dates

Mon. 4 th May	BANK HOLIDAY – No school today
Tue. 5 th May	Vocabulary Velociraptors – Occupations Week 2 Lyfta – Gebeyehu in Awra Amba, Ethiopia, Contributing to Awra Amba
Mon. 11 th May	YEAR 6 SATS WEEK Vocabulary Velociraptors – Bees Week Lyfta – William in Peru - Harvests Honey in the Rainforest
Thu 21 st May	2:15pm – EYFS Stay and Play
Fri. 22 nd May	2:30pm – Year 1 and Year 2 Church Service at St Augustine's Church – Parents and Carers are invited to attend Last Day of the Half Term
Mon. 1 st Jun.	Children Back To School Vocabulary Velociraptors – Geography Week Lyfta – Paula in Spain – Marine Biologist

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

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

10 top tips for safely using SMARTWATCHES

Kids love gadgets, and smartwatches – available to buy from as little as £20 online – make a tempting gift. As with any type of mobile technology, though, smartwatches can pose risks to children unless they're used safely. Receiving unwanted calls, cyber-stalking and distracting a young person when they're crossing the road are all known risks associated with smartwatches. However, these devices can bring plenty of benefits for children and parents alike – so let's examine the pros and cons of smartwatches.

AVOID CHEAP OPTIONS

A quick search online yields a torrent of cheap smartwatches for kids, costing as little as £20. It's wise to avoid this bargain basement tech: it tends to deliver a poor experience with inferior battery life, and it's hard to have faith in the software's safety. There have been cases of smartwatches being hacked to track or contact children; stick to known brands who have a reputation to protect.

CONTROL CALLING

Many smartwatches have the facility to make or take calls. As with a phone, you may want to restrict who your child can call – or be called by. On Apple Watches, you can select trusted contacts who are allowed to ring your child, while other watches' controls vary hugely. Some need to connect to a linked phone for calls, so you may be able to block unknown contacts via that device instead.

BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS

For a smartwatch to allow calls independently (that is, without being connected to a phone via Bluetooth), it will need its own mobile data plan. This might take the form of a tiny SIM card that you slot into the watch – or an eSIM, where the physical card is replaced by software settings. Either way, this will incur an additional monthly cost that you'll need to factor into any buying decision.

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Apple Watches aren't cheap, but they do offer superb safety features – allowing parents to control calls, messages and emails on the device, as well as a location tracking system that can send alerts if kids wander beyond pre-set boundaries. Their SOS function enables children to contact emergency services instantly if they're in trouble, which simultaneously also alerts parents and carers.

MAKE THEM COOL FOR SCHOOL

Some schools have banned smartwatches, as pupils have been using them as substitute phones. If your child's school does permit them, some devices can be set to prevent distractions in class. For example, Apple's Schooltime feature turns their watches into ordinary time-keeping devices during school hours. The display changes in this mode, showing teachers that it isn't being used for other purposes.

TRACK ITS LOCATION

Both Apple and Android devices have apps which allow you to track a smartwatch's location. They can also initiate an audio alert – avoiding those cushion-hurling panics when a treasured device can't be found at home. If you're planning to track your child's location via their watch, make them aware of that in advance. You could even make it a condition of them getting the watch in the first place.

THINK 'SAFETY FIRST'

Smartwatches are often worth hundreds of pounds, which can make young people wearing one a target for thieves. Advise your child to keep the watch hidden in public (when possible) and not to resist if muggers demand their watch. If you manage to track a stolen device, pass that information to the police: location data isn't always accurate, so you could end up wrongly accusing someone.

STORE MEDICAL INFO

Devices including the Samsung Galaxy Watch and Apple Watch can store the owner's medical details (such as their blood group and any pre-existing medical conditions), potentially giving emergency services access to vital information in a crisis. These devices also have 'hard fall' detection, which sends a text message to selected contacts along with a map showing the wearer's location.

USE THEM AS MOTIVATION

If you're worried your child's spending too much time slumped on the sofa staring at screens, smartwatches are great fitness trackers and can be a powerful incentive to get moving. Some devices will alert the wearer if they've been inactive for a long time and encourage them to do some exercise. Many watches record the user's daily step count and measure other health metrics.

BE MINDFUL OF BEDTIME

Many smartwatches offer sleep tracking, which some (usually older) children use to justify wearing them to bed. However, that also presents a temptation to message friends or check social media late at night, even if their phone is downstairs. Unless there's a valid reason not to, you could encourage your child to remove the watch in the evenings and ensure the charger stays in a different room.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *BBC Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and the *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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National
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#WakeUpWednesday



PRIDE IN DUNSTABLE

A Celebration of Diversity
Everyone Welcome

Saturday 9th May 2026

13.00-17.00

Grove Park, Dunstable

Live Music, Family Fun, Food, Community,
Pride Party Anthems, Drag, Pride Procession, Picnic,
LGBTQ+ Celebration