



St Augustine's Academy Newsletter

21st November 2025



Deputy Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,



We have had another busy week at St Augustine's Academy and have not allowed the snow and ice to stop us! Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to the Chocolate Tombola for the upcoming Christmas Fayre. Make sure you have the date in your diary – Friday 5th December.

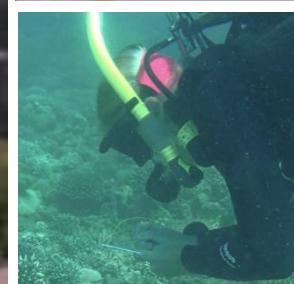


We were delighted that so many Reception class parents braved the freezing weather and were able to join their children in Forest School yesterday afternoon. During the session, they reused plastic bottles reminding them of the importance of reusing and recycling waste. With the bottles they made lamps. The bottles were filled with leaves and flowers, filled up with water and then when they are placed on top of a mobile phone with the torch on, the lamp lights up.

Have a wonderful weekend everybody. Remember to wrap up warm if you are going outside.

Best Wishes, **Justine Fourmy – Deputy Headteacher**

Lyfta and Our Schools Our World



This week in Lyfta we met Jana who lives in the USA and is a marine biologist. Jana works to ensure that groundfish such as cod and skate are fished sustainably as well as being enjoyed as a source of food.

On 21st November, we recognised 'World Fisheries Day' and in Reception Class, the children were creative and made their own fishes to be 'caught' in the boat's 'net'. Gary prepared sustainably sourced pollock for us to eat at lunchtime which the children thoroughly enjoyed!



'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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Commando Joe

As part of our weekly Commando Joe sessions, children learn to work collaboratively and to develop their leadership skills. This week, our older children were tasked with planning, rehearsing and delivering a session to another year group.

Year 6 taught Year 3, Year 5 taught Year 2 and Year 4 taught Year 1.

As you can see from the photos, the children enjoyed these peer led sessions very much. They learned new skills and developed relationships with pupils from other year groups.



Year 5 and 6 Sportshall Athletics

Last week, teams from Years 3 and 4, and Years 5 and 6 competed in a Sportshall athletics competition against other local schools. Both teams played extremely well and we were so proud of their positive attitudes and behaviour during the competition.

We have some really exciting news – the Year 5 and 6 team came 5th in the competition and have earned themselves a place in the finals. Well done to everyone who took place and good luck to Years 5 and 6 later on in the term!



Wednesday Club

Mrs Fourmy's Wednesday Club came inside this week from Forest School due to the snow and ice. Instead, they use their bakery skills to follow recipes and they created delicious chocolate cookies.

They spent time exploring the Brickit app where they scanned Lego pieces, looked at various possible creations and instructions and then followed them to create models.



Be Bright, Be Seen

Our Safety Squad have delivered sessions to the school, reminding them that they need to stay safe when walking, cycling or scooting now that the days are getting shorter, and mornings and afternoons darker. They highlighted the importance of being seen by wearing bright colours, reflective items and having lights on their bikes. Our local Active Travel Officer came into school this week and provided free lights to all bikes and scooters to help keep us safe.



CONGRATULATIONS to the following children.

Our Stars of the Week are...

Year 1 – Annie
Year 2 – Eleora
Year 3 – Uriel
Year 4 – Gracie-Mae
Year 5 – David
Year 6 – Lillie

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

Year 1 – Ariel
Year 2 – Lacie-Mai
Year 3 – Aria
Year 4 – Harriet
Year 5 – Jhane
Year 6 – Rehmell



Our Vocabulary Velociraptors are...

Year 1 – Mersana
Year 2 – Jedrzej
Year 3 – Esfir
Year 4 – Harley
Year 5 – Kajetan
Year 6 – Tayla



Our Attendance Bear Winner is...



The House Point totals this week are...



This week in our Roots and Fruits Collective Worship, we learnt about the story of The Good Samaritan and how we should try to be a good neighbour to others. We also watched the wonderful Lego stop animation video which you can find at... <https://gochatterstudios.org/the-good-samaritan>

Vocabulary Velociraptors

1 goldfish	2 clownfish	3 angelfish	4 white shark
5 sole	6 flounder	7 cod	8 skate
9 tuna	10 salmon	11 sardine	12 mackerel

This week, the children learnt to recognise 12 different types of fish as part of World Fisheries Day. They revisited them every day to help them find their way to their long term memory. Can you learn them too?

Diary Dates

WB. 24 th Nov.	Lyfta – Kristos in Greece – Isle of Arki 2 - Family Vocabulary Velociraptors – Music Week
Wed. 26 th Nov.	Queen's Park Faith Tour (Years 4, 5 & 6)
Fri. 28 th Nov.	2:45pm – Year 4 Music Performance – Parents and Carers invited 7:00pm – Dunstable Torchlight Procession
WB. 1 st Dec.	Lyfta – 36 – Lukas in Denmark – Christian Boy (Part 1) Vocabulary Velociraptors – RE Week Christmas Post Boxes ready
1 st Mon. – 4 th Thur. Dec.	Y6 Mock SATS
Fri. 5 th Dec.	3:20pm – PTFA Christmas Fayre

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 issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, tips and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about HOW TO COMBAT ONLINE BULLYING

Defined as "ongoing hurtful behaviour towards someone online", cyber-bullying makes its victims feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe. In the digital world, it has numerous forms – such as hurtful comments on a person's posts or profile; deliberately leaving them out of group chats; sharing embarrassing images or videos of someone; or spreading gossip about them. Cyber-bullying can severely impact a young person's mental health... so, in support of Anti-Bullying Week, we've provided a list of tips to help trusted adults know what to look for and how to respond to it.

1. GET CONNECTED

Playing online games together with your child or connecting with them on social media (providing they're old enough) is not only fun but also an excellent way of establishing some common ground to discuss things you've both seen or done online – as well as keeping an eye on who your child is communicating with in the digital world.

2. KEEP TALKING

Regular chats with young people about their online lives are good practice in general, but they can also be an excellent refresher to help prevent cyber-bullying situations. Topics you might want to revisit include why it's important to only connect online with people we know and trust, and why passwords should always remain secret (even from our best friends).

3. STAY VIGILANT

Observe your child while they're using technology and just after they've used it. Are they acting normally, or out of character? Possible signs of a problem may include seeming quiet or withdrawn, jumpy or anxious, angry or repeatedly checking their phone. When you feel it's the right time, you may want to check in with them to see if everything is OK.

4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

If an online bullying incident does occur, it may take a while before your child is ready to open up about what happened. Just gently remind them that they can always come to you with any problems – and that they won't be in trouble. You might also suggest a trusted family member they could turn to, in case they feel too embarrassed to tell you directly.

5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN

When conversations about online bullying do take place, they're likely to be difficult, emotional and upsetting for both you and your child. Actively listen to your child while they're bringing you up to speed, and try not to show any judgement or criticism – even if they haven't dealt with the situation in exactly the way you would have hoped.

FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE

If you or your child need additional help with an online bullying issue, here are some specialist organisations that you could reach out to.

Childline: talk to a trained counsellor on 0800 1111 or online at www.childline.org.uk/get-support/

National Bullying Helpline: counsellors are available on 0845 225 5767 or by visiting www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html

The NSPCC: the children's charity has a guide to the signs of bullying at www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/ and can be reached on 0800 800 5000

6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD

Depending on their age, your child might not want a parent 'fighting their battles for them'. In that case, talk through their options with them (blocking the perpetrator, deleting the app and so on). By allowing your child to choose the path they take, you're putting them in control but are also demonstrating that you're there to support them along the way.

7. REPORT BULLIES ONLINE

Cyber-bullying often takes place through a particular app, social media platform or online game. If this is happening to your child, encourage them to report the offender to the app or game in question – ideally with screenshots to support their complaint. Most games and apps have reporting tools specifically to stamp out abusive behaviour and protect users.

8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

Protecting themselves online is the priority, of course, but young people should also feel empowered to help if they witness other people falling victim to cyberbullying. Even if they don't feel confident enough to call someone out on their abusive behaviour online, they can still confidentially report that person to the app or game where the bullying occurred.

9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

Victims of online bullying frequently experience feelings of isolation and anxiety, a loss of self-esteem and potentially even thoughts of self-harm or suicide. If you think that an incident of cyber-bullying has affected your child's mental wellbeing, then seek psychological support for them. There are some useful contact details in the central panel below.

10. INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES

If the nature of any online bullying makes you suspect that your child is genuinely in imminent physical danger – or if there are any signs whatsoever of explicit images being shared as part of the bullying – then you should gather any relevant screenshots as evidence and report the incidents to your local police force.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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Free (bursary) places for all Stars and Dynamos programmes

These programmes are being offered, with funded places, for children who receive Free School Meals.

If you would like your child to participate, please sign them up using one of the links below:

[All Stars Expression of Interest 2026 – Fill in form](#)

[Dynamos Expression of Interest 2026 – Fill in form](#)

What Is All Stars Cricket?

All Stars Cricket provides a fantastic first experience for all children aged 5-8 years old where they're guaranteed 8 weeks of jam-packed fun, activity and skills development. The programme is designed to introduce children to the sport, teaching them new skills, helping them make new friends and have a great time doing so.

Every child that registers will receive a personalised t-shirt with their name on it.

The Programme

There are over 2,200 clubs and centres registered to run All Stars courses so you'll be guaranteed to find a session close to you when signing up.

Key course features include:

- A perfect first experience of cricket for all children aged 5-8 years-old
- Eight 60-minute sessions, usually held over eight weeks
- A personalised t-shirt, bat, ball and backpack.
- Valuable time with your kids – mums and dads are encouraged to take part too
- All Stars Cricket is fully inclusive and designed to support a wide range of abilities, disabilities and different learning needs
- Safe and fully accredited

What is Dynamos Cricket?

Dynamos Cricket provides a fantastic next step for all those graduating from All Stars Cricket and the perfect introduction for all 8-11 year-olds new to the sport!

Dynamos is all about fun and provides children with a more social offer, focusing on developing the fundamental skills required to play cricket.

We know how important it is to look like the heroes of the game, so every child who registers will receive their very own Dynamos Cricket New Balance t-shirt, personalised with their name and number.

The programme

- Children will use soft balls and light wooden bats
- Minimum of six 60-90 minute sessions, or minimum eight hours of course delivery
- Introduction to game play through a countdown cricket match
- New Balance personalised t-shirt with name and number
- Valuable time with your kids – parents/guardians are encouraged to take part too
- Complementary digital app experience
- Exclusive access to The Hundred Topps Wild Cards
- Dynamos Cricket is fully inclusive and designed to support a wide range of abilities, disabilities and different learning needs
- Safe and fully accredited

