



St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

"I called you by your name, you are mine." Isaiah 43

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Newsletter

8 September 2023



Welcome back to school everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful summer and enjoyed a rest and special time with family and friends.

It was lovely to welcome the children back on Tuesday and we look forward to our Reception children starting next Thursday. We are excited to begin this new school year to support and encourage our children to flourish and succeed within our strong home and school partnership.



As you will have noticed in the final July newsletter, we are inviting parents and carers to attend a welcome back to school picnic on our lovely field on **Wednesday 20th September at 2.30pm**. This will be an opportunity to bring a blanket and small picnic to enjoy time together as a school community with some games and activities—weather permitting of course.

Also, we would like to encourage as many parents and carers to attend the PTA meeting on **25th September at 2.45pm**. We would love to support the PTA with activities and events eg Christmas Fair, Discos, Summer Fair etc for all children and families to enjoy. However, we need a PTA to organise and run these events with the support of the school. If you are an existing PTA committee member or would like to join and help out in any way you can, please come along! We need you!

Attendance

At St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School excellent attendance is of great importance for the Education, Welfare and Safeguarding of our children. The Department for Education is in support of excellent attendance in schools for all children and it is clear in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 that good attendance is a crucial part of safeguarding.

We know that sometimes our children cannot come to school because they are really unwell - and that's the right thing to do for them and other children. Medical advice is clear however that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend - for example if they have a cough, or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.

We also know that children fall behind their friends and classmates when they miss school. At St Augustine of Canterbury we want the amount of missed education to be reduced as much as possible. We believe that our community is stronger together, with all of our children in school, on time, every day. We are building life skills, life-long friendships and preparing your child for future success.

I also ask that whenever possible routine appointments are made for outside of school hours. All absences must be reported to the office before 8.55am.

The school day begins at 8.55am. Children arriving at school after this time must report to the school office; children will be marked in the register as late. Children arriving after 9.05am will be registered as an unauthorised absence.

As Headteachers should only grant leaves of absence in exceptional circumstances, a leave of absence will not be granted for the purposes of a family holiday. Thank you for your continued support.

School Uniform

The children have returned to school looking very smart in our school uniform. Wearing our school uniform unites us in our St. Augustine of Canterbury family.

During Term 1, the children may wear their summer or winter uniform. After the half term break, when we enter Term 2, we ask that all children wear the winter uniform of white shirt (not white polo), tie, grey trousers, skirts or pinafores and grey sweater.

If your child wears earrings to school they must be tiny studs and must not be worn on PE days. Teachers are not able to remove earrings. **It is advisable that earrings are not worn in the school day.**

Please also remember that the children should be wearing school shoes and not trainers.

Second-hand uniform is available and can benefit all parents, particularly those on low incomes. In addition, by extending the life of garments, it is more sustainable.

Thank you for your continued support.

Class Attendance 2022/23

Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	99%	99%	93%	93%	98%	94%



Birthdays

Poppy age 9
Hayley age 8



Book of Excellence

Year 1 Alice and Faye
Year 2 Joshua and Lewis
Year 3 Charlie and Chikamso
Year 4 Callum and Sawyer
Year 5 Nathania and Freya
Year 6 Olivia and Francesca



Mathlete of the Week

Resuming next week!



Lunchtime Supervisors Award

All of the children for settling back into the lunchtime routines so well.



Parent/Carer Information meetings

In addition to the parent information letters that will be sent home this term, we will be inviting parents and carers to come into the classroom after school to meet the teacher and receive important information regarding curriculum coverage, learning focus, routines, homework and general essential information.

The meetings will begin as soon as possible after the school day once the children have all been released to you.

Please see the dates for your child's class under the 'Dates for your Diary'.

Water bottles

Please remember to send your child into school with a full water bottle. These should be the school water bottle.

Metal or glass water bottles are not permitted for Health and Safety reasons.

School water bottles may be purchased through Parentmail.



Dates for your diary

12 and 13 September Medway Test
14 and 15 September Medway Test Special Arrangements
12 September - Year 5 Parent/carer Information meeting
13 September - Year 6 Parent/carer Information meeting
14 September Year R first day of school
14 September - Year 2 Parent/carer Information meeting
15 September Year 5 swimming starts
18 September - Year 4 Parent/carer Information meeting
19 September - Year 3 Parent/carer Information meeting
20 September—Welcome back to school picnic 2.30pm more details to follow
21 September - Year 1 Parent/carer Information meeting
22 September Jeans for Genes day— wear an item of denim
22 September - Year R Parent/carer Information meeting
25 September—PTA meeting 2.45pm (all parents/carers welcome)
20 October last day of Term 1
30 October first day of Term 26 November individual children and school sibling photographs

PE Days

From next week the children will continue to wear their PE Kit to school on the days they have PE lessons.

PE Kit is plain navy shorts (not leggings), plain white t-shirt (not polo, with or without the school logo), trainers or plimsoles. On colder days, the children can wear plain navy tracksuit bottoms (not leggings) and plain navy hoody or sweat shirt with their usual plain white t-shirt.

Class	PE days
Year R	Monday and Thursday
Year 1	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 2	Tuesday and Friday
Year 3	Tuesday and Friday
Year 4	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 5	Tuesday and Friday
Year 6	Tuesday and Thursday

Year R will begin PE on Thursday 21st September

Contact Books

Your child has brought home a new contact book for the academic year. These are a valuable resource to communicate with your child's teacher regarding reading at home and any notes which may need to be shared between the class teacher and parents and carers.

Please look at your child's contact book every day and record their reading/spelling etc. There are also helpful resources at the back of each book linked to the curriculum.

Contact books should be sent into school every day and will be signed by the class teacher on Fridays. We ask that parents and carers also sign the contact book over the weekend to share with the teacher that you have seen it as we work together as a school and home partnership. Thank you for your support.

House Points

St. Patrick

188

St. George

250

St. Andrew

89

St. David

82

