



Happy Holidays

Well Done Reception

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the children in reception.

They have made a fantastic start in reception and we are proud of the way they have settled and have tried their very best in all areas of their learning.

We hope that you and your child have a wonderful holiday.

If you haven't seen the photos already, the Dorset Echo have now printed their annual First Class pictures. Our class feature and look very smart, so please do look at the following link if you haven't done so already.

<https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/17985653.gallery-2019-20-first-class-reception-pictures-across-dorset/#gallery20>

Our photo is number 21/64.

Next term we start our topic of 'Helping Heroes' and ask you for your help.

If you have a job in one of the emergency services or have an occupation that you think will be of interest for the children to learn about, please let us know as we aim to invite speakers into school to talk to the children about their work.

We thank you in advance for your support with this.



This week in RE

Following on from our work on Prayers, Feasts and Saints, the children have been learning about prayer in the Christian Faith and in the Islamic faith.

They have learned how people prepare for prayer and how they show respect for God through prayer.

PE

Next half term we will continue to have PE lessons on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings so we asked that named PE kits are in school during the first week of term.

Thank you.

Autumn Treasures Reminder

Two weeks ago, we sent home a paper bag for your child's Autumn Treasures.

Just to remind you, we ask that your child returns their bag (with their name clearly marked) during the week of 5th November (the first week back after half term.) This will help stimulate interest and discussion and provide a stimulus to help the children explore and investigate at school.



Reading Challenge!

At St Augustine's, we believe that reading is an essential skill for all children and we hope that they enjoy reading for pleasure. After half term, we, as a whole school, are launching our new 'Reading Challenge'. The aim, is to encourage children of all ages to read aloud at home to an adult, develop their fluency and their love of reading! When a child achieves 30 'reads' this success will be shared in our Celebration Assembly on a Friday and children awarded with a special reading star badge. These badges can be worn proudly on their school jumpers! Additional badges can be won at 60 'reads', 100 'reads' and 150 'reads'.

We would like a 'read' to mean around 5 - 10 minutes of sharing a book with an adult.

1 'read' = 1 day.

It still counts as 'a read' even if they haven't finished the whole book. Please use the reading records to record when your child has read at home, these will be monitored by staff.

Thank you for your support and hope that all children make super progress over the year to become happy, enthusiastic and more fluent readers.

British Values and Parliament Week – 4th November 2019

St Augustine's needs you...

We are setting up a brand new School Council, which will involve a boy and a girl from each year group joining together each week to discuss the children's voices and ideas. The School Council members will play an important role in other areas too, such as, showing visitors around our school, meeting with Governors and organising fund raising events with the Mini Vinnies!

We will use a democratic vote to choose our Reception School Council members. Children who would like to nominate themselves will be encouraged to say why they would like to be our School Council representative and why they would be good at the role. On Tuesday 5th November, each child who would like to be involved will be given the opportunity to explain to the class why they would like to be out representative and then each child will take part in the voting process! The girl and boy with the most votes will become our Year 2 School Council representatives and will be named in our Friday Celebration assembly!

Also, during our first week back at school, to launch our work on helping Heroes and to link in with British Values Week, we will be learning about Queen Elizabeth II.

Phonics and Word blending

Please note that this week we have added the letters 'r' and 'h' to your child's phonics book. Please spend time looking at the sounds, with your child. Now that the children have worked on these letters, we have continued word blending activities in our phonics lessons to help the children learn to decode words.

Please find all the words we have taught your child to blend and read 'using their robot arms.'

We have assessed the children's phonic knowledge this week.

Please find attached a record of how many of the 16 letter sounds your child has learned. If there are any gaps in your child's phonic assessment, please find time in the holidays to revisit that sound, using the phonic book if this is helpful.

Thank you.

Also, on the next page, you will find a letter regarding changes that are happening with the way we are organising our book changing at school. We ask you to read it carefully as we will be starting this new way of working after the half term holiday.

Thank you.

(Please detach and return this slip to school.)

My child's response to the task.

Home Reading at St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

At St Augustine's we know that the development of early reading and writing skills are of paramount importance and children's progress in reading and writing for the rest of their lives.

With this in mind, we have some exciting changes afoot! After half term, children will be given a document folder inside their reading book bag. On the front cover will be your child's name and the day of the week that their books will be changed. In each folder children will have:

- 3 reading books at their stage of reading, for your child to read to you.
- A library book to read for pleasure with you!

These books will be kept in your child's folder for the week and changed on the day stated on the front of your folder. Children can still earn 'reads' for the Reading Challenge as they can read the same book more than once!

Why are we making these changes?

We want children to be fluent and confident readers, here at St Augustine's. Reading the same book more than once allows children to really focus on the comprehension skills needed when understanding what is happening within the text they have. This allows children to fully understand the text and consolidate previous learning. Below are some useful points you could use whilst reading the books with your child.

- Hold a conversation and discuss what your child has read. Ask your child probing questions about the book and connect the events to his or her own life. For example, say "I wonder why that girl did that?" or "How do you think he felt? Why?" and "So, what lesson can we learn here?".
- Help your child make connections between what he or she reads and similar experiences he has felt, saw in a movie, or read in another book.
- Help your child monitor his or her understanding. Teach her to continually ask herself whether she understands what she's reading.
- Help your child go back to the text to support his or her answers.
- Discuss the meanings of unknown words, both those he reads and those he hears.
- Read material in short sections, making sure your child understands each step of the way.
- Discuss what your child has learned from reading informational text such as a science or history book.

Thank you so much for your support with this, the children have been shown their new reading folders and are very excited about the changes!!

Final note!

Please ensure your child's reading book bag with their reading record book continues to come to school every day so that we can record whether your child has read, record their Guided Reads with an adult and also to continue to use as a valuable form of communication. We thank you in advance for your support with this new reading initiative.