

St Augustine's News



Newsletter 1

www.staugustines.dorset.sch.uk

5th September 2016

Welcome Back!

All of us would like to extend our best wishes to you all as we return for a new school year. We hope you had an enjoyable summer break and are ready for the rigours of a busy term.



Welcome especially to all our new children and families - we hope you quickly settle in and feel at home here.

Meet the Teacher

We will be holding Meet the Teacher sessions next Monday 12th September at 3.30pm for all classes except Reception. Class teachers will talk to parents about the routines and expectations for this year and there will be a chance for parents to ask questions. Please try



to attend if you can and bring your child with you. If you have more than 1 child, then please attend one session and collect information from the other teacher afterwards.

Reception Parents' Meeting

We would like to invite all our Reception parents to a welcome meeting on Monday 19th September at 2.45pm. This will be an opportunity for you to ask questions and for us to give you more information on the Reception year.

Please Pray for

Sr Aquin who is grateful for all our prayers and thoughts.

Mrs Williams who is undergoing a long period of treatment.



Reading Volunteers

We rely very much on our volunteers who come in once a week to hear children read - if you know of anyone who would like to do this, please ask them to get in touch.



Building Work

The kitchen refurbishment work has now finished and we have a dedicated music room and a new group room as well. Thank you to Andy Gardner for his project management over the holidays and all his general maintenance work.



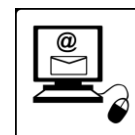
The chapel has now also been completed and has become a beautiful and prayerful space. The Bishop will be coming down later in the year to rededicate it and we will start to use it for services. A big thank you to Mr Dick Holton who managed the project for us.

Morning Routine

Please remember that work starts in school at 9am, so children should be in the classroom by 8.55 at the latest so they are ready for the register and not late to start work.

Office and Communications

As you know Mrs Cutts left us at the end of last term and Mrs Williams is currently on sick leave.



Mrs Parnell and Ms Pering will be covering the office for us until Mrs Williams' return.

To help our communications, we are aiming to use electronic means as much as possible from this term. Please see the attached letter for full details. We will be introducing electronic payment systems later in the term as well. Please also continue to watch the website for up-to-date information, photos and articles.

School Uniform

All the children came back to school looking so smart in the uniforms. Please encourage them to keep up the high standards of appearance - we are very proud of them all.



Reminder of school routines and procedures:



- **Medicines:** It is probably useful to take this opportunity to remind you of the school policy regarding medicines in school. Only medication prescribed by the Doctor and required to be given 4 times a day will be accepted in school. In such instances, please put one measured dose in a syringe or suitable container and hand it in to the office where it can be stored safely. You will also be required to complete a 'consent form'. Please note that unfortunately we are unable to administer medicine such as 'calpol' or cough medicines.

- **Money:** Any money for trips, clubs, dinners etc needs to be sent to school in an envelope clearly labelled with your child's name, class and the reason for the money. Please do not send in any loose money, except for charity collections. We hope that many of you will choose to use the online payment options when they are launched.

- **Signing in / out during the school day:** If your child arrives after 9 a.m. or has to be taken out of school during the school day, please make sure that you sign them in or out at the school office. In addition, if your child is away from school for any reason, please telephone us to let us know the reason for the absence.

- **Parking in school:** Please note that parking in school is not allowed. The main school gates will be closed and locked to all traffic between the times of 8.40a.m. to 9.15 a.m. and 3.00p.m. to 3.30 p.m. Please do not ask our office staff to unlock the gates during these times. The gates are to be kept locked for the safety of your children. Please be considerate to our neighbours and do not park over or on driveways. We would encourage you to park your car in Chickerell Road and walk up Hardy Avenue.

- **Morning routines:** Children are able to enter the school from 8.40a.m and go straight to their classrooms. Their teachers will provide them with activities as soon as they arrive. No children will therefore be on the playground at all in the mornings. Parents are asked to leave their child at their usual entrance door and staff will take over. (It becomes very difficult to monitor the children efficiently when the building is full of adults!) We hope these arrangements will help everyone to have a pleasant start to the school day.

- **End of the Day:** Please could you ensure that your child knows how they are getting home at the end of the day - it is very confusing for everyone when arrangements change during the day. Please could you telephone or email the school before 12pm with any changes to going home arrangements.

- **Applications for holiday or leave of absence:** In line with all the other schools in Weymouth and Portland, please note that the new Chesil Attendance Policy comes into effect this term. This means that no requests for "Leave of Absence" in term time can be authorised, except in exceptional circumstances. Any requests must be made on the school's Request for Absence form and handed into the school office for consideration by the Attendance Governor.