

St Augustine's News



Newsletter 1

www.staugustines.dorset.sch.uk

5th September 2014

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.



Please Pray for:

Deacon Wilf from our parish, who died suddenly this week.
Rose Bruce, our Chair of Governors, who is unwell.



Dates for the Term

These will go out next week when they have been finalised.

Data Collection

Children in Yrs 1 to 6 will receive a Data Collection Sheet today. Please could you fill this in over the weekend and return to school next week. There is now a box for email as we will be using more electronic communication.

Can you help?

Mrs Wilkins is starting to prepare for our Christmas Appeal already! We ask the children to make up shoeboxes for children in other countries, so if you have bought new shoes over the summer, please could you send in the empty boxes - wrapped in Christmas paper would be fantastic.

School Uniform

It was like walking into a new school on Tuesday! All the children look so smart in the new uniform and the logo helps to unify us all. Please encourage the children to keep up the high standards of appearance - we are very proud of them all.

New Staff

A warm welcome to our new staff: Mr Dennis in Yr 6, Miss Barlow in Yr 4 and Miss Lambourne in Yr 2.

Meet the Teacher

We will be holding Meet the Teacher sessions next Tuesday 16th September at 3.30pm for all classes except Reception, who will have theirs later in the term. 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.



Hot School Meals

What a success this has been! The new provider, Weymouth College, have produced the most mouth-watering meals, using local ingredients and all prepared freshly by a trained chef. The children have really enjoyed it all. On the first day of term, the BBC came and recorded our preparations for Radio Solent and you can hear the items here:



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0253lpt>

Starts at 01:48:15

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0253lpx>

Starts at 01:37:50



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.
- **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 the school before 12pm with any changes to going home arrangements.
- **Applications for holiday or leave of absence:** There have been significant changes in the law regarding absence from school which come into force this term. Headteachers may no longer grant any leave of absence in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. This means that no holidays in term time can be authorised. In law, parents and carers are committing an offence if they fail to ensure regular and punctual attendance at school. **Therefore any unauthorised absence, such as taking holiday in term time, can result in a Fixed Term Penalty Notice.** Failure to pay a Fixed Term Penalty Notice may result in a criminal conviction and a fine in the magistrates Court up to £1000. The Governors have amended our Attendance Policy in light of these changes and we will be using a new absence request form.