



Parents in Partnership

Bright Lights, Big Cities



Year 1
Newsletter 10.01.2020

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope you had a lovely Christmas holiday and spent lots of time with family and friends. Thank you for all our lovely gifts. We are so honoured to have such a thoughtful class.

Important Information

- Please can all clothing be labelled.
- Only water in water bottles.
- Book bags need to be brought into school every day with reading logs.

PE

This week we have been moving along benches, balancing and practicing our jumps. We were also lucky to play lots of 'school yard' games to get us back into our school routine.

God Matters News

Our new RE topic follows on from before the holiday. We are continuing with Christmas, Feasts and Epiphany. On Monday we were pleased to celebrate Epiphany and had lots of discussion in whole school liturgy.

Topic

Our topic has moved on to Bright Lights, Big Cities. It is all about the United Kingdom. Ask your children what the four countries are that make up the UK! And we looked at the capitals of each of the countries. We have researched the flags of the UK and made our own flag. We even looked at compasses and direction. Next week we will focus on England and London.

Helpful Hands

Monday: Max and Ivy

Tuesday: Jesse and Vincey

Wednesday: Martha and Dylan

Thursday: Grace and Gracie

Friday: Reece and Esme

Remember your show and tell! Only the helpful hands get to do show and tell on that day. However, please send your child with any certificates they earn so we can all congratulate them.

Phonics

At the end of last term all the children did a mock phonics assessment from the 2012 phonics screening. This just helped to give us an idea of any gaps in their learning for us to focus on in class. Later on in the half term we may send home some specific phonics homework to help fill any gaps.

The children are loving Story Time Phonics in class. They are all becoming familiar with the captions and actions for each sound. Please ask your child to show you and practice their phonemes (sounds).

Homework

Thank you to all the children that last week taught their parents what we have been learning in class. This week we have been learning how addition of two numbers up to 20 and number bonds to 20. Please allow your child to show you what they have learned.

Home Reading

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 record comes back to school every day so we can update when they do Guided Reading with an adult!

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 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 10 minutes of reading a book to an adult.

1 'read' = 1 day.

It still counts as 'a read' even if they haven't finished the whole book. Please use the yellow 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.