

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception

We have now welcomed all of our Reception children to St Augustine's. On Monday the children will all stay for lunch for the first time and from Thursday they will all go full time. The Reception Teachers, together with Teaching Assistants, have made their home visits and the final workshop for new parents is a Numeracy one, next Wednesday. Please see diary dates below for information.

The Courier newspaper visited the two classes to photograph the children this week. The pictures will feature in a 'Welcome to School' edition, which will be on sale in October. Please look out for the special issue.

I thought this might be a useful opportunity, especially for new parents, to explain some of the terminology and abbreviations that are used around the school.

- EY or EYFS = Early Years Foundation Stage = Reception = the first class in school (our 4/5 year olds)
KS1 = Key Stage 1 = Infants = Years 1 and 2
KS2 = Key Stage 2 = Juniors = Years 3 to 6
- Phase = term used to describe a group of classes, we have four Phases in school:
EY (RS St Rose, RH St Helena)
Years 1 and 2 (1 St Theresa, 1/2 St Lucy, 2 St Bernadette), KS1
Years 3 and 4 (3/4 St Paul, 3/4 St Peter, 3/4 St John), Lower KS2
Years 5 and 6 (5/6 St Mark, 5/6 St Luke, 5/6 St Patrick), Upper KS2
- TA = Teaching Assistant
- Cover Supervisor = experienced Teaching Assistant that covers classes under the direction and guidance of the teacher
- PPA = Planning, Preparation and Assessment, time (10% of the teacher's contractual hours) out of class given to the teachers for planning, preparation and assessment.
- Attendance Ted - 2 cuddly teddy bears who are awarded to a KS1 and KS2 class each week for best attendance for the week
- Punctuality Pete - similarly, 2 cuddly dogs, awarded for the best punctuality
- EAL = English as an Additional Language
- AEN = Additional Educational Needs
- SEN = Special Educational Needs
- INSET = days for staff training, no children in school. We have five of these in an academic year
- WOW = Walk on Wednesday, an award of a golden boot goes to the class with the most walkers on a Wednesday; to qualify, children must walk for at least 10 minutes to school

Year 6 Residential Trip

The Year 6 children returned safely from PGL Liddington last Friday. The children and accompanying staff all agreed that although they were tired, they thoroughly enjoyed it! Mrs Edwards told me, "It was wonderful to see children working together, supporting each other, conquering their fears and achieving their own personal goals."

Marilly told me, "It took about two and a half hours to get there and around three hours to get back. In the coach on the way back we had karaoke. We did all of



the activities except for one which was cancelled because of a thunder storm. My favourite activity was Aeroball because we got on a trampoline whilst shooting balls into hoops. Also I really liked the disco!" Elena added, "My favourite thing we did wasn't an activity but it was an evening entertainment. I really enjoyed the campfire because we roasted marshmallows and also did karaoke for the second time this week!" It certainly seems that the trip was every bit as successful as it has been in previous years. Thank you so much to Mrs Berry, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Rutt, Mrs Mooney, Mrs Divall and Mr Gallie, for accompanying the children and looking after them so well. Thank you also to year 6 for making it a fantastic week!

Harvest Festival Appeal

We informed you last week that our annual Harvest Mass has been scheduled for Friday 7th October at 9.30am. We will once again be collecting your donations of food for our local community. Rather than just bringing in your contributions of food on the morning of the Mass we ask that you please start sending them in now. After the Mass your contributions will then be sent to St Augustine's Church who will share the food with the needy of the town.

In the past 12 months St Augustine's Church have distributed 14,000 tins to needy people and the demand continues to grow. Every Friday afternoon at the Church they hand 25 bags of groceries to people in need and the Church Welfare Team delivers bags to about ten families each week. They often take supplies to the three hostels in town (YMCA, Chapter 1 and Colebrook), supplement food stocks at the Winter Night Shelter when it is in operation and all through the year they support the four weekly Soup Bowl sessions which are currently feeding about 12 to 15 people. Finally, there are also a growing number of callers at the Church who need support.

From their years of experience, the Church request donations of non-perishable, staple foodstuffs within 6 months of their expiry date, for example:

tins of soup (not tomato)	tins of fish	tinned meat
tinned vegetables	tinned pasta	tinned fruit
tinned rice pudding	tinned custard	dried pasta/rice/noodles
tea/coffee/sugar	dried milk powder	squashes
jams	marmite	

Regretfully, they are not able to distribute fresh fruit and vegetables. Thank you in anticipation of your generous contributions and we look forward to welcoming you at our Mass.

Music For Schools

On Thursday 6th October, Music For Schools are coming to St Augustine's to deliver an instrumental demonstration to all our children. Music for Schools is an organisation that offer brass and woodwind music lessons to pupils in schools. Should you be interested in music lesson for your child there will also be an opportunity for parents to come along to an evening workshop at the school, run by Music For Schools Foundation on Monday 10th October from 18:00 to 19:00pm.

Stationery Shop

The KS2 Stationery Shop returned this week. It is open on Tuesday lunchtimes in Mrs Carew's classroom from 12:15-12:30 for children in Years 3-6.

Year 6 Bench

We want to pass on our sincerest thanks to all the 2016 Year 6 leavers for their parting gift to us, a beautiful, colourful picnic bench which reads "To St Augustine's School, happy memories, from all 2016 leavers." It arrived this week, Mr Yordanov our Caretaker has assembled it and it now has pride of place near the apparatus in the playground. Thank you to all the children and their parents for organising.

Buddies

We are really pleased to announce that the Year 6 Playground Buddies have started their duties this week following their exciting week away at PGL! The Buddies are as follows: Ryan, Ruby, Maria, Aiden P, Ella, Liberty, Alecia, Tom, Florence, Lilia, Daniel, Isabelle, Tabitha, Aiden W, Daniel.

The Buddies will be supported in their roles by members of staff on playground duty and I am delighted to see that they are already conscientiously carrying out their duty of helping the younger children. Thank you to Mrs Archer and Mrs Mahoney, (Teaching Assistants) for agreeing to oversee and manage the Playground Buddy scheme. They will be providing the children with on-going training throughout the year and have been impressed with the positive and enthusiastic attitude of our volunteers.

PTA Annual General Meeting

A reminder from Alex Green, Chair of the PTA:

"You are all warmly invited to the first PTA meeting of the academic year on Tuesday 27th September at 19.30pm. This is the Annual General Meeting so will we will start the meeting with drinks and a chance for new members to meet everyone. Please come along and find out more about the PTA, how you can help to raise funds for the school and have your say in how the funds are spent!

We also need to fill the following vacancies: Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. Please do try and come along. We look forward to seeing you there - your support would be very gratefully received! Thanks"

Secondary Transfer September 2017

If your child is in Year 6 the application process for transfer to secondary school begins this month. This week we sent out the Kent County Council 'Secondary Transfer - September 2017' leaflet. The leaflet explains the transfer procedures and contains important dates. Parents should also read the 'Admission to Secondary School in Kent 2017' which is available on the KCC website www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions

Please note this year the closing date for applications is Monday 31st October. It is preferable that applications are made online at www.gov.uk/ola . If you do not have internet access or require help completing an online application, please contact the school office, who will be happy to help you.

For those children looking to apply to St Gregory's, supplementary application forms also need to be completed and returned. Please see St Gregory's website for further information.

St Gregory's Catholic School Open Events

Parents and Carers of children in Years 5 or 6 are invited to come along and tour St Gregory's School at one of their open events. No need to book, just turn up.

Open Mornings: Wednesday 28th September and Thursday 29th September 9:00 - 11:00am (last tour at 10:00am) Tours finish with coffee in the library and an informal talk by the Headteacher.

Open Evenings: Thursday 29th September from 18:30pm, Headteacher talks at 18:30pm and 20:00pm. If you are planning to take your child out of school to accompany you for one of the morning open events, please would you inform your child's teacher in writing.

Christmas Dates

With only 92 days until Christmas, we have now confirmed the dates and times of the Christmas Nativity plays and celebrations. Please put them in your diaries!

They are as follows:

Reception	Wednesday 14 th December	9:30am
KS1 (Years 1 and 2)	Tuesday 6 th December	14:00pm
	Wednesday 7 th December	14:00pm
KS2 Celebration	Wednesday 21 st December	9:30am

Thank you to PTA who have very kindly agreed to provide refreshments after each event.

Year 6 ~ World's Biggest Coffee Morning

As many of you may be aware the 30th September is 'the world's biggest coffee morning' in support of McMillian Cancer support. Just to add a little twist to it here at St Augustine's, our Year 6 children would like to invite you to a McMillian Coffee afternoon. The children of Year 6 will be serving tea, coffee and cake from 15:00pm onwards in the hall. All parents and children welcome.

Plea from Nourish

Nourish, the Tunbridge Wells Community Foodbank supports people in crisis on an emergency, short-term basis in Tunbridge Wells and the surrounding areas. On Saturday 12th November, Nourish, in conjunction with Childrensalon Tunbridge Wells, is holding a special fundraising event at The High Rocks, Tunbridge Wells. The ticketed event has a 'Casino' theme and will be a night of music, food, close up magician, children's cut price designer pop up shop, auction and raffle....all in order to raise necessary funds and awareness for Nourish. If you are able to, would you please consider contributing an item or service to the auction or raffle which will be held during the event? Any item or service donated will receive exposure on their website and social media. Please see Dan C's (5/6 St Mark) mum, Grace to discuss donations or email grace@childrensalon.com / paul.haines@nourishcommunityfoodbank.org.uk. To find out more about the work that Nourish do, please go to www.nourishcommunityfoodbank.org.uk.

Coffee for CAFOD

Message from Mrs Fleming, "Dear friends (old and new), please join us for coffee and/or simple lunch on Monday 26th September from 9:30am to 17:00pm at 35 Woolley Road, Southborough TN4 0LE. RSVP 07747 858570."

Diary Dates

Tuesday 27 th September	PTA AGM - drinks at 19:30 for 20:00 start
Wednesday 28 th September	Numeracy Workshop for New Reception Parents - 19:30
Friday 7 th October	Family Fast Day and Harvest Mass - 09:30
Monday 10 th October	Music For Schools Meeting for Parents 18:00 to 19:00
Tuesday 13 th October	Kent Selection Test Results after 16:00
Monday 17 th October	Inset Day - no school for children
Tuesday 18 th October	Parent Teacher Consultations 16:00 - 18:30
Thursday 20 th October	Parent Teacher Consultation 16:30 - 19:00
Friday 21 st October	End of Term 1
Monday 31 st October	Start of Term 2
Tuesday 6 th December	KS1 Nativity Production to Parents 14:00
Wednesday 7 th December	KS1 Nativity Production to Parents 14:00
Wednesday 14 th December	EY Christmas Production to Parents 09:30
Wednesday 21 st December	KS2 Christmas Celebration 09:15

CAFOD prayer inspired by this week's Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Generous God, you created the world with enough food for all to share. Help us to play our part in making sure that all people can have their fair share of food to eat. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Congratulations to our award winners:

Attendance Ted:	2 St Bernadette	3/4 St Paul
Punctuality Pete:	1 St Theresa	5/6 St Luke

Mrs Warren