



## Governor News

Message from Mark Dennison regarding the **Kent Catholic Schools Partnership Academy**.

I am pleased to announce that, after very careful and thorough consideration, governors decided at a meeting of the Full Governing Body on Tuesday 14th March, to apply to the Department for Education (DfE) for an Academy Order to convert to academy status and to join the Kent Catholic Schools Partnership (KCSP) in July 2017.

You will have read in the Governors' Newsletters published last year, that the Governing Body has been exploring this important matter. Becoming an academy with the Kent Catholic Schools Partnership will mean that St Augustine's will have the opportunity to be more closely involved in preserving, protecting and promoting the ideals and ethos of Catholic education in Kent; supporting the initiative of Archbishop Peter Smith.

By joining the Kent Catholic Schools Partnership as an academy, St Augustine's will secure the best financial certainty in these challenging times for school budgets. Thus we will be able to continue to improve the standards of education, with a strong Catholic ethos, for our children.

Once an Academy Order has been granted by the DfE, (this usually takes between four to six weeks, so probably just after Easter), there will be briefings for parents/carers and staff on the implications of becoming an academy. There is also a 30 day consultation period with staff.

As soon as the Academy Order is granted, I will let you know. I will also advise you on the dates of the briefings about being an academy.

In the meantime, I recommend that you look at the helpful Frequently Asked Questions section on the Kent Catholic Schools Partnership website: [kcsp.org.uk/FAQs](http://kcsp.org.uk/FAQs)

This covers various aspects of what becoming an academy means. The governors are determined to ensure that the transition to an academy with Kent Catholic Schools Partnership is a smooth one and that parents/carers and staff are fully aware what are the implications, including the benefits for our children at St Augustine's.

Mark Dennison, Chair of Governors.

## Our Community

- Pupil success: Isla from 2 St Bernadette is fortunate enough to be dancing with a group from the Catherine Bellinger School of Dance at the **Royal Albert Hall** on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Congratulations Isla!
- Past pupil success: Will Edwards, a former pupil at St Augustine's, represented England in the **Canada Sevens Rugby Tournament** at the weekend. He scored a try against Fiji in the semi finals, and England won the tournament!
- The Year 6 children from our **Mini Vinnies** group have been busy organising our new **Nourish Food Bank** which is located outside the school office. The Mini Vinnies will be overseeing the Nourish food project and are very excited about the responsibility. If you would like to donate food and household items to our food bank they would be most welcome. They are collecting: **Rice, Pasta and Curry Sauces, Tinned Vegetables and Meats, Soups, Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, UHT/Powdered Milk, Cereals, Sugar, Jams/Spreads, Biscuits/Snacks, Baby Food, Nappies/Baby Wipes, Toiletries, Toilet Rolls, Cleaning Products and Pet Food**. All these items will be regularly distributed to local families in need. Thank you for your support.
- **Easter Workshop**: St Anselm's Church in Pembury will be running an Easter Workshop from 10:00 - 11:30 on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April. Craft activities are free but children are asked to bring a pot plant for the Easter Garden. Contact Hayley Tomlinson for more information: [Hayley\\_woodhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:Hayley_woodhouse@hotmail.com)
- I hope you all saw the lovely pictures of our **'20 is Plenty'** children in the **Times of Tunbridge Wells** this week.



## Extra Curriculum Activities

- A reminder that the children in the school choir will be singing at the **Tunbridge Wells Primary Singing Festival** on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 19:30** at the Assembly Hall Tunbridge Wells. Tickets are on sale from the school office for **£5.00 each**.
- Also on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, children in KS1 (Years 1 - 2) will be visiting the Assembly Hall to take part in a **singing workshop** with other local schools but this will take place during the school day. The children will be travelling by coach after their lunch and returning before the end of the school day. As we need to pay for the transport we are asking families for a £1.00 voluntary donation. Every child took a home permission slip this week, please could you complete and return by Monday.
- We are very excited to announce that the characters from the **Cbeebies Rhyme Rocket**, First Officer Ditty and Professor Poet will be visiting children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 on Monday for a live performance of rhyme, poetry, song and silliness with the aim of promoting and improving rhyme awareness across the key stage. Families have been asked to contribute £3.00 towards the cost of the visit on a voluntary basis. Please hand your donation to your child's class teacher or in the black deposit box in the school entrance.
- Mrs Grinstead and Mrs Tyrwhitt-Walker have kindly agreed to run **French Club** again after the Easter break for children in Years 1 and 2. There are 20 places per term, due to the popularity of the club we are anticipating a high demand. If your child does not secure a place this term, we will place their name on a waiting list for the following term. We have asked families for a £1.00 donation per term to cover the costs of resources or activities. Permissions slips have been sent home via Parentmail.

## PTA News

- The **PTA Easter Egg Bingo** is on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 18:00 - 20:00. The PTA have made a plea for more help from families on the night, particularly with the clearing up afterwards. If you are able to help please email [ptaagustines@gmail.com](mailto:ptaagustines@gmail.com).
- On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, children are invited to **wear their trainers to school** in exchange for an Easter Egg donation for the Bingo.

## Spiritual, Moral, Social and Culture

- We have some disappointing news; Mrs Martin, who worked in the school office, was due to be running the **London Marathon** next month on behalf of **UNICEF**. Sadly, whilst training, Mrs Martin injured her foot. She has fractured her 3<sup>rd</sup> metatarsal so will not be able to run this year. Luckily Mrs Martin has managed to defer her place until next year so all your fundraising efforts on her behalf will not go to waste; all the money we raised for UNICEF will go towards next year's run.
- Mr Green, Oliver, William and Eddie's dad, is running the Marathon in April and wants to pass on his thanks to all of you who have supported his fundraising for **Hospice in the Weald** at our cake sales. **We wish him all the best on the day.**
- On Monday afternoon children from 5/6 St Mark were visited by the **Greg's Squad** from St Gregory's School who delivered a special workshop to the children on Lent. They got involved in all sorts of activities such as a 'mannequin challenge' displaying what they should do during Lent and they watched a video about how Lent started. The children made Lenten promises and helped the Greg's Squad make their promises too. Layana (St Mark) told me, "It's a great way for older children to connect with us and teach us in a fun way." Thank you to Aine from St Gregory's for visiting with the Greg's Squad and to Mrs Edwards 5/6 Class Teacher for organising.
- Thank you to all the children who came to school dressed in blue or silver items for our **CAFOD 'Turn Little Fish into Big Fish'** Lenten appeal. Your support, as always, is greatly appreciated.

## Class Assemblies

- **5/6 St Patrick** presented their class assembly to parents and carers on Tuesday. Their assembly theme was St Patrick's Day. The children explained why we celebrate the patron Saint of Ireland and Mrs Mooney had even taught the children some traditional Irish dancing. Well done to all the children, they had worked so hard in remembering all the moves. Thank you to Mrs Mooney, Class Teaching Assistant, for her choreography with the dancing and to Mrs Gallie, 5/6 Teacher and Mrs Hope, Class Teaching Assistant, for organising the assembly.
- The next class to present their class assembly is **5/6 St Luke** next Tuesday at 15:00. Families and friends are all welcome to join us.

**More upcoming class assemblies will be announced next term.**

## Coming Up...

- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Match - Cbeebies Rhyme Rocket for Years R - 2
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March - 5/6 St Luke Class Assembly
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March - Wear Trainers to School in exchange for an Easter Egg donation
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March - Choir Children to Assembly Halls for practice (in the morning)
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March - Infant Children to Assembly Halls for Singing Festival
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March - Tunbridge Wells Primary Singing Festival 19:30
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March - EY and KS1 Mother's Day Service 14:15
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March - PTA Easter Bingo 18:00 - 20:00
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March - EY and KS1 Easter Bonnet Parade 09:00
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March - Last Day of Term 4
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April - Good Friday
- Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Sunday
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Monday - Bank Holiday (No School for Children)
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April - First Day of Term 5
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April - PTA Children's Disco (more details to follow)

## Congratulations to our Award Winners

- **Attendance Ted:** 1/2 St Lucy and 5/6 St Luke
- **Punctuality Pete:** 1 St Theresa and 5/6 St Patrick
- **Lunchtime Award:** Kiara (St Mark) and Grace (St Peter)
- **Tidy Classroom Award:** 3/4 St Paul

## CAFOD prayer inspired by this week's Gospel:

### John 4:5-42

God of love, teach us to see past what is different about other people and to love them for who they are. Help us to share with others and to live in peace so that all your people can live free from poverty, hunger and fear. Amen.

## General and Reminders

- Thank you to all the parents and carers for completing the **Use of Images** form via Parentmail. If you have not already done so, we are in the process of updating our records regarding the use of your child's images whilst they are in school. Please could you complete the form online via Parentmail.
- May we remind you of our uniform policy regarding piercings and hair. **Pupils with pierced ears can -wear plain studs only**, which will need to be removed by the children themselves for PE. Children are not allowed to do PE wearing earrings. New piercings should be left until the six week summer holiday to allow for healing.
- Long hair **must be tied back** if shoulder-length or below. All hair bands/clips etc. should be uniform green or grey.

## Sporting News

- Our **Cross Country Squad** headed off to Schools at Sommerhill yesterday for the second of their league races. The runners all did extremely well and were placed as follows: 5/6 Boys - Sasha - 22, Sammy - 33, Oliver - 25, Sam G - 14, Joe G - 34, Ben - 46. 5/6 Girls - Lilia - 12, Tabitha - 8, Isabelle - 30. 3/4 Boys - William O - 17, Max F - 33, Alex S - 26, William G - 36, Lewis - 41, Max W - 35. 3/4 Girls - Rosie G - 29. Well done to you all! Thank you to Mrs Berry our PE and Sports Coordinator for organising, to Mrs Green for her assistance and to all the parents and carers for getting them all there and home.
- Our **Netball Team** travelled to Brenchley & Matfield School on Wednesday afternoon for a match in the lovely sunshine. The team consisted of: Isabelle, Nushi, Tabitha, Marilly, Maddie, Gaby and Florence. The girls played extremely well but unfortunately despite the best weather conditions for a match, they lost 3-2. We are still proud of you! Thank you to Mrs Berry for organising and to all the parents and carers for getting the team to and from the match.
- **Cricket Club** for children in Years 3 - 6 started this Tuesday. There are still a few spaces available so if your child is interested please complete a permission slip and return to Mrs Berry.
- Our **Football Team** are playing at St John's this afternoon. We will let you know how they got on next week.
- We are hoping to start a KS1 and KS2 **Gymnastics Club** run by mSporti after the Easter holidays if interest is high enough. There will be two 'try out' sessions next week, Reception and KS1 on Tuesday after school until 16:30 and KS2 children on Thursday after school (same timings). If your child is interested please complete a permission slip and return to Mrs Berry. We will let you know towards the end of this term if the Gymnastics Club is likely to start next term.