



Extra Curriculum Activities

- Children in Year 3 and 4 will be visiting **The Observatory Science Centre**, in Herstmonceux on Wednesday 14th June. If you have not given your permission or a voluntary contribution yet, please look for the 'to pay' or 'shop' item in your payment area on Parentpay. The deadline for payments and permissions is **Monday 5th June**. Unfortunately, if we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions by that date the trip will be cancelled.



- Children in Reception have been spending time observing the seasonal changes to the **school pond** and have been on 'creature watch'. This week, to their absolute delight the children have found a **newt** and have affectionately called him 'Newton'. We wanted to say thank you once again to Mr Oubridge who gave up his time last December to clear out the school pond. We are very fortunate to have this wonderful addition to our *outdoor learning space* and it is thanks to our kind volunteers over the years, who have given up their time to maintain



this area and keep the pond (and it's inhabitants) 'healthy'.

Governors News

Message from Mark Dennison, Chair of Governors: In my announcement of 26th April about the granting of the **Academy Order**, I said that briefings for parents/carers were being arranged with the Kent Catholic Schools Partnership. I am now pleased to tell you that these will be held in school on: **Tuesday 23rd May at 9:30am** and **Thursday 25th May at 6:30pm**

I appreciate that the evening briefing on 25th May is the last school day for the children [the 26th is an INSET day for staff], but I felt that it would be best if the briefings were held before the end of the term.

I hope that you will be able to attend a briefing, because it is important that all parents/carers are kept well informed on what becoming an academy means for the school. A representative from the Kent Catholic Schools Partnership will give a presentation.

If you cannot attend and have an academy matter, which needs clarification, please contact me on my email [mark.dennison@st-augustines.kent.sch.uk] and I will come back to you. I hope to see you on the 23rd or 25th May.

Our Community

- On Wednesday evening we welcomed the parents and carers of our new Reception children for September 2017 at our **Welcome Evening**. Mrs Southall, Foundation Stage Phase Leader lead the evening and introduced our Foundation Stage teachers for next year, Mrs Price will be teaching in St Helena and Mrs Palourti and Mrs Novelli will be teaching jointly in St Rose. The PTA served refreshments and introduced themselves and their roles, Helen from School Trends introduced our new uniform, Mark Dennison, Chair of Governors spoke about the Governors' role within the school and Father Peter talked about our special bond with the local parishes. The evening was a great success and we are very much looking forward to our new children starting in September.
- St Anselm's in Pembury (Lower Green Road, Pembury) are holding a **Spring Fair** on Saturday 20th May from 11:00 - 14:00. There will be face painting, craft, cakes, raffle-games, jewellery and much, much more! Please come along if you are able.
- We have organised another family/friends/dog **Wellie Walk** in half term. Please meet Mr Wilson, our Family Liaison Officer at 10:00 outside the Dunorlan Café, Tunbridge Wells on Tuesday 30th May and bring a picnic.
- Tickets are still available for the James O'Donnell, **Organ Recital** at St Augustine's Church on Wednesday 21st June. Tickets can be purchased from Britten's Music Shop in Grove Hill Road or from St Augustine's Church Office.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Culture

- The **Mini Vinnies** are holding another pre-owned scarf and jewellery sale today at 15:25. All proceeds will go to St Vincent de Paul (SVP charity).
- Yesterday afternoon Deacon Kevin presented a special assembly to children in KS2 to celebrate the 100 year anniversary since the apparitions of **Our Lady of Fatima** to the three children who were asked to pray the Rosary for the conversion of Russia and peace in the world. Thank you to Deacon Kevin for your informative assembly.

Sporting News

- Please can we have **all borrowed School Kit** returned - we are missing an enormous amount. Please return, washed to Mrs Berry.
- Children in Years 5 and 6 took part in the **INSPIRE Pentathlon** on Wednesday afternoon at TWRFC Club grounds. The children were jumping, throwing and sprinting in the pouring rain! Despite the weather, we were pleased with our results, coming 4th out of 9 schools. The children had great fun and as always, tried their absolute best. Thank you to Mrs Berry, our PE and Sports Coordinator, for organising and special thanks to Bryn and Ella's mums for volunteering marshal during the event and all the other parents for enduring the rain.
- Good luck to all the children visiting St Gregory's next Wednesday for their **Primary School Football Tournament**. Matches start at 09:30 and children should be taken directly to St Gregory's. Please complete and return the permission slip, if you haven't already and pass to Mrs Berry via your child's class teacher.

PTA

- **School Tea Towel fund raiser** - Don't forget the deadline for placing orders for the school Tea Towel is **Tuesday 23rd May**. Please return all order forms in an envelope with the correct money to your child's teacher clearly marked 'PTA Tea Towel Request'.
- Our Chairs of the PTA were present on Wednesday evening serving refreshments at our new Reception parents **Welcome Evening** for September 2017. The PTA explained to our new parents about their fundraising efforts; the annual calendar of school social events and all the support the PTA provide the school and the St Augustine's Community. Thank you to Anna E, Anna F and Monika, the Chairs of the PTA for attending and for welcoming our new families to our school.
- Is anyone available to help serve refreshments during our **Reception 2017 Children's Story Sessions** on Tuesday 20th June and Tuesday 11th July, from 14:45 to 15:15? If you are able to assist please let the Chairs of the PTA know by email: ptaAugustines@gmail.com
- For parents and carers with children in Year 6: Please help the PTA and the organisers of the **Year 6 Leavers Yearbook** by providing photos of your child from Reception onwards (even if they started in another school). The PTA are asking for a voluntary contribution of £5 per child towards the printing costs. Please send donations (cash or cheques made payable to St Augustine's PTA) and photos to Fiona Carolan (Bryn's mum) by **Thursday 25th May** at the latest.

General and Reminders

- Toys, trading cards and 'fidget spinners' have been **banned** from school. From Monday 22 May children will not be allowed to bring any toys into school, this includes all collection/trading cards and 'fidget' toys. If a medical or educational professional has recommended that your child has something in lessons to aid concentration, please ask to speak to our Inclusion Leader, Mrs Taylor. Please read the letter on Parentmail.
- We have sent out **Term Dates for 2017-2018** this week via Parentmail, these includes our amended INSET dates.
- **New School Uniform Afternoon:** Helen from School Trends will be spending the afternoon in school on **Tuesday 6th June from 14:00 - 18:00** with samples of our new uniform.
- We have updated our policy for **bumps/bruises/accidents** at school recently and in particular, the way in which we treat bumps to the head. If your child incurs a bump/injury to their head/face whilst at school, the appropriate first aid will be given and we will inform you of the incident by phone. Likewise, if your child has any kind of accident at school and we would like you to collect your child, we will phone you. Please ensure that we always have up-to-date contact numbers for you and where possible, contact numbers of family or friends willing to be called in an emergency.
- We have several cases of **headlice** in school at the moment. Advice on how treatment has been sent home via Parentmail this week. Please continue to check your child's hair regularly.
- If you would like to apply for your current Year 5 child (due to start secondary school in September 2018) to sit the **Kent Test** (formerly the 11+) in September this year, you must register your child's details between 1st June - 3rd July 2017 online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola

Coming Up...

- Friday 19th May - Minnie Vinnies Pre Owned Scarf and Jewellery Sale
- Tuesday 23rd May - 5/6 St Luke Class Assembly 15:00 - **Cancelled**
- Tuesday 23rd May - PTA School Tea Towel **Order Deadline**
- Tuesday 23rd May - Academy Conversion Briefing for Parents/Carers 09:30
- Thursday 25th May - Academy Conversion Briefing for Parents/Carers 18:30
- Thursday 25th May - St Augustine's and St Dunstan's Feast Days - Family Mass at 09:15
- Friday 26th May - INSET Day (No School)
- Tuesday 30th May - Family Wellie Walk 10:00
- Monday 5th June - First Day of Summer Term 6
- Monday 5th June - Deadline for Year 3 and 4 Visit to The Science Observatory Centre
- Tuesday 6th June - New School Uniform Afternoon 14:00 - 18:00
- Friday 9th June - Van Cols to Photograph Sports Teams and Classes
- Saturday 8th July - PTA Summer Fayre (Provisional Date)
- Tuesday 11th July - Year 6 Production to Parents 18:45
- Wednesday 12th July - Year 6 Production to Parents 18:45
- Monday 17th July - Year 6 Residential Meeting to Parents and Children 16:00 - 17:00
- Tuesday 18th July - Leavers Celebration 18:45
- Thursday 20th July - End of Year Mass 09:30
- Friday 21st July - INSET Day (No School)

Congratulations to our Award Winners

- **Attendance Ted:** 1 St Theresa and 3/4 St John
- **Punctuality Pete:** 1/2 St Lucy and 5/6 St Mark
- **Walk on Wednesday:** St Luke
- **Lunchtime Award:** Sonja (St Helena) and Lylee/Eve (St Luke)
- **Tidy Classroom Award:** 3/4 St John

CAFOD prayer inspired by this week's Gospel: John 14:15-21

Christ Jesus, you came into the world to show us how to live. May we follow your commandment of love for one another and do what we can to care for all people, especially those who are poor. Amen.