# ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY BULLETIN

Tel 01892 529796
www.st-augustines.kent.sch.uk
office@st-augustines.kent.sch.uk

Term 2, Week 2 | Friday, 13 November 2026

## UPCOMING DATES

- **Monday, 16 November:** Wear Odd Socks Today for Anti Bullying Week;
- **Monday, 16 November:** Year 5 visit to Flow Zone at SES Water;
- **Monday, 16 November:** Deadline for ordering school photos for free delivery to school;
- **Tuesday, 17 November:** Year 4 visit to Flow Zone at SES Water;
- **Wednesday, 18 November:** Football Match against Southborough Primary School at St Gregory's School. ***There will therefore be NO Football Club tonight.***
- **Thursday, 19 November: NO mSporti Football Club;**
- **Sunday, 22 November:** Christ The King Mass at St Augustine's Church at 9.30am led by children of our school;
- **Monday, 23 November:** Flu Vaccinations;
- **Tuesday, 24 November:** Year 6 visit to TWGGS;
- **Thursday, 3 December**: Year R & Year 6 NCMP (details sent to parents in September);
- **Friday, 4 December**: Own Clothes Day in exchange for a Hamper Donation (further details to follow);
- **Tuesday, 8 December:** Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity Production to Parents at 9.30am;
- **Wednesday, 9 December:** Own Clothes Day in exchange for a bottle donation (further details to follow);
- **Wednesday, 9 December:** Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity Production to Parents at 2.15pm;
- **Friday, 11 December:** PTA Christmas Market (further details to follow);
- **Friday, 18 December:** School Carol Service at 9.15am (all parents welcome to attend);
- **Friday, 18 December:** End of Term;
- **Monday, 4 January:** Start of Term 3;
- **Friday, 15 January:** Applications for Reception September 2027 Close.

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

### Growing in Wisdom

This week's Gospel and readings invited us to think about wisdom and how we use what we know to make good choices. I see that wisdom in the way our children live out our values of Love, Peace and Integrity. It's there when they notice someone needs a friend, take the first step towards making peace or choose to be honest when it feels difficult.

As you may know, we're learning Makaton together as a school. This week, Year 2 taught us the signs for Love, Peace and Integrity. Do ask your child to show you the signs at home. Thank you, Year 2!

### Celebrating with Canon Graziano

Last Friday evening, I had the pleasure of attending Canon Graziano's investiture at St George's Cathedral. It was lovely to share such a special occasion with members of our parish. As I write, I am getting ready to join the parish community for this evening's Thanksgiving Mass and celebrations at St Augustine's Church. Please keep Canon Graziano and our parish in your prayers.

### Remembering Together

We came together for our Remembrance Assembly this week. Thank you to everyone who took part in our poppy challenge. The children also made wooden poppies to hang on our Remembrance Tree. Four of our Year 6 school councillors represented St Augustine's at the Department for Education's Remembrance service and later toured Parliament. I'm very proud of how they represented our school and shared what we were doing back in Tunbridge Wells.

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## Community and Culture

We were delighted to welcome Mr Opara to talk with the children about community, culture and racism. His visit gave us a chance to think about what it means to belong, how we can learn from one another's experiences and why it matters to speak up when someone is treated unfairly. Thank you, Mr Opara, for spending time with us.

## Welcoming Prospective Families

Our Open Morning tours continue, and we've been delighted by the feedback from families who have visited. It's a pleasure to show families around and give them a feel for life at St Augustine's. One parent who visited this week emailed afterwards to say:
"The overall atmosphere of the school was exceptional, and the visit left me with a very positive impression."

## Christ the King Mass

All families are warmly invited to join us for Christ the King Mass at St Augustine's Church on Sunday, 22 November at 9.30 am. As in previous years, our children will lead the readings, bidding prayers and singing. If you plan to join us please let the school office know so we can prepare. I hope to see you there.

## Celebrating Attendance

Congratulations to St Patrick's class for achieving the highest attendance last term! The children celebrated with a non-uniform day which I know they all enjoyed.
Regular attendance helps your child keep up with their learning, build friendships and feel part of school life. If anything is making it difficult for your child to attend regularly, please get in touch so we can help. Thank you for your support.

## PTA Movie Night

A big thank you to our PTA for organising movie night. It was lovely to see how excited the children were. Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket and supported the event.

Wishing you and your families a lovely weekend.

God bless,

**Mrs Holden**
**Headteacher**

# WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

## Attendance

### Attendance Champions

Congratulations to St Patrick's House, who achieved the highest class attendance last term!

As a reward for their outstanding attendance, the class has been awarded a certificate and will have the special pleasure of hosting Chikondi, CAFOD's Catholic Social Teaching giraffe, in their classroom for the next two weeks. Chikondi represents The Common Good, reminding us that our actions affect others and that we all have a responsibility to contribute positively to our community

Excellent attendance is a wonderful example of this principle in action. By coming to school every day, pupils not only support their own learning but also contribute to the life of the class, ensuring that everyone can learn, participate and thrive together. To further celebrate their success, the children also enjoyed a non-uniform day today, Friday, 13 November.

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Well done to all the children and staff in St Patrick's Class for their commitment to excellent attendance.

## Attendance Matters

I would like to thank all parents and carers who attended our recent Parent Consultation Meetings. During these meetings, you will have heard about your child's progress so far this year. You should also have received an attendance certificate and a data collection sheet for your records.

If, for any reason, you did not receive these documents, please contact the school office and we will be happy to provide copies of your child's attendance information, data collection sheet, and any other paperwork shared during the consultation.

During Parents' Evening, a number of parents asked, "What does good attendance look like?" At St Augustine's, we aim for every child to achieve 97% attendance or better, in line with our Attendance Policy.

Regular attendance has a significant impact on both academic achievement and social development. Every school day counts. Children who attend school consistently are more likely to make strong academic progress, develop positive friendships, and feel confident and secure within the school community.

The gradings table below provides a helpful guide to attendance expectations and demonstrates why we work so closely with families to support excellent attendance.

| Attendance Rate | Gradings | Information |
|---|---|---|
| Above 99% | Excellent Attendance | 2 days or fewer missed, there is a direct correlation between excellent attendance and higher progress and achievement. |
| 97%- 99% | Good Attendance | Fewer than 5 days missed across an academic year. Regular attendance fosters a sense of belonging and higher levels of pupil well-being. |
| 95%-96.9% | Below Expectation | 9 days absence; students with lower than 95% attendance tend to have a lower chance of making good social and academic progress. |
| 90%-94.9% | Poor Attendance | 13-18 days missed; pupils with poor attendance have lower academic outcomes and find it hard to maintain friendships as they are not attending well. Current attendance rate is a concern. |
| Below 90% | Persistently Absent | The government classes pupils who have an attendance rate of below 90% as persistently absent. Pupils have missed more than 19 days or nearly 4 weeks of school. This is a major concern. |

## Remembrance Day : Lest We Forget






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Four of our Year 6 school councillors were lucky enough to attend a Remembrance Day Service at the Department of Education on Wednesday, 11 November.

The four school councillors were the first school group to meet the host, Minister of State Baroness Jacqui Smith of Malvern. They told her how their school were marking Remembrance Day with a whole school assembly and a poppy making challenge. They also shared how children had made wooden poppies to hang on a Remembrance tree at school in memory of those who lost their lives in conflict.

Andrew Sharp, one of our school governors, who helped arrange the visit, described the pupils as "an enormous credit to the school" and praised the way they spoke with the minister.

Later that day, the pupils toured the Houses of Parliament seeing for themselves where MPs and peers debate decisions that affect communities like Tunbridge Wells. The visit came ahead of UK Parliament Week, which encourages young people to find out how Parliament works and how they can make their voices heard.

We are looking forward to hearing what the four pupils have learned from this visit and will share with their fellow school councillors.

Whether gathered in the school hall or representing their classmates in London, the children put the school's values of Love, Peace and Integrity into practice by honouring those who made sacrifices and reflecting on how they can bring peace to their own community. In doing so, they lived out the school's mission of Growing Together in Faith, Knowledge and in God's Love.

Thank you to Mrs Beckett and Mrs De Guzman for accompanying the children.

## Anti Bullying Week

Don't forget that we taking part once again in 'Odd Socks Day' on Monday, 16 November as part of Anti-Bullying Week.

Children are invited to come to school wearing their usual uniform, along with a pair of odd socks. This is a fun way to celebrate what makes us all unique and to remind us that everyone is special and should be treated with kindness and respect.

## Van Cols Photographs

Please note that if you would like to order school photos with free delivery to school the deadline is **Monday, 16 November.**

## Prospective Parent Viewings - Reception September 2027

Our prospective parent viewings continue for Reception September 2027! If you, or anyone you know, would like to make a booking please contact the school office. The dates are as follows:

TUESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER AT 9.30AM;
TUESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER AT 9.30AM;
THURSDAY, 26 NOVEMBER AT 9.30AM;
TUESDAY, 1 DECEMBER AT 9.30AM;
THURSDAY, 3 DECEMBER AT 9.30AM.

## Application for Primary School – September 2027

Online applications are now open and **will close at midnight on Friday, 15 January 2027**. Applications can be made at: www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

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## EDEN CLUB

Our wraparound care provision (Eden Club) for parents takes place Monday to Friday during term time before and after school.

Eden Breakfast Club opens at 7.30am until the start of the school day and Eden After School Club runs until 6pm.

Breakfast Club costs £7 per session and includes a light breakfast. After School Club costs £15 and includes a light supper.

## PTA NEWS




Friday, 4 December – Own Clothes Day & Hamper Donations

Children are invited to come to school in their own clothes in exchange for a donation towards our Christmas hampers.

We would be grateful for donations that match your child's **house colours**. These could include festive treats, chocolates, biscuits, toiletries or other suitable hamper goodies.

Can You Help Us with a Raffle Prize?

Do you work for, own or know of a local business or company that may be willing to donate a prize for our Christmas raffle? We would love to hear from you! Any donations,

big or small, would be greatly appreciated and will help us make our Christmas celebrations extra special.

Wednesday, 9 December – Christmas Jumper Day & Bottle Donations

Children can come to school wearing a Christmas jumper in exchange for a bottle donation for the tombola. Bottles of all shapes and sizes are welcome! These could include:

- Bottles of wine, beer or soft drinks;
- Bottles of squash, juice or fizzy pop;
- Shampoo, conditioner or shower gel;
- Bubble bath, hand wash or other toiletries;
- Any other sealed bottle that someone would love to win!

Every donation helps to make our Christmas Market a success. Thank you for your generosity!

Friday, 11 December – PTA Christmas Market

Join us after school for a fun-filled festive afternoon at our school Christmas Market! There will be something for everyone, including:

- Exciting games and activities;
- Delicious festive food and treats;
- Christmas stalls and goodies;
- Lots of festive fun and celebrations!

Bring your family and friends along, soak up the Christmas atmosphere and help us raise valuable funds for our school.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

**The PTA Team**

## CLUB NEWS

### Dance Club

Congratulations to Ambia for being the Dancer of the Week at Dance Club!

## CHURCH NEWS

*St Augustine's Catholic Church - Tunbridge Wells*
*Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2LY*
*01892 522 525*
*www.st-augustine.co.uk*
*Office: tunbridgewells@rcaos.org.uk*
*Mass Online: Watch the Sunday 9:30 Mass live at:*
*https://www.youtube.com/@st_augustines_tw*

*Parish Priest: Canon Graziano de Palma*
*(grazianodepalma@rcaos.org.uk)*
*Assistant Priests:*

*Fr Paschal Omono (paschalomono@rcaos.org.uk)*
*Fr Melus Ezekia (melusezekia@rcaos.org.uk)*

## HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS

*Reception St Francis: Mrs Liddle & Mrs McCarthy*
Michelle - for her value of love and care. She has been cleaning up, supporting her friends and her teachers. She has been so helpful and caring to others;
Delilah - for amazing phonics, reading and writing this week!

*1 St Theresa: Mrs Croker & Mrs Slattery*
Valerie - for having a really positive week and taking part in her activities really well;
Alayah - for always participating so well in lessons and trying her best. Also, sharing love and peace with her friends.

*2 St Bernadette: Miss Atkinson & Mrs Mundy*
Hoorain - for always being willing to help others, approaching all of her work with integrity and a determination to conquer new challenges;
Hugo - for his enthusiastic approach to learning every day, his kindness, and his demonstration of our school value of love in all he does.

*3 St Peter: Mrs Stanbridge*
Phoebe - for trying extra hard in maths this week;
Theo - for showing an improvement in his behaviour for learning. He is showing how ready he is to listen, do his work and follow instructions.

*4 St Paul: Mrs Hope*
Benedict - for excellent perseverance with his English reading and writing;
Filip Z - for going above and beyond his learning in the classroom when he challenged himself to draw the flags of all the countries in the world for our Geography display board.

*5 St Luke: Mrs Crabb*
Phedora – who wrote some concise and interesting facts about Nigeria for our display board. She consistently edits and improves her written work;
Kaitlyn – who always follows our school values of Peace, integrity and love. She is always willing to help others and leads by example.

*5/6 St Patrick: Miss Atherton*
Emanuele – for his positive change in attitude and consistent knowledge shared with the class.
Nyameye – for always showing the value of love.

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*6 St Mark: Mrs Beckett & Mrs McCarthy*
Poppy - for her perseverance in all subjects and finding strategies when there is a challenge;
Lorcan - for being an incredible example to others and upholding our school values.

*Safeguarding*

*If you're worried about a child or would like some family support, please contact one of our Safeguarding Team:*

*Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):*

*Judith Taylor : senco@st-augustines-tunbridgwells.kcsp.org.uk*

*Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL):*

- *Louise Holden : headteacher@st-augustines-tunbridgewells.kcsp.org.uk*
- *Katrina Liddle;*
- *Candice Beckett.*

*If you are concerned that a child is at immediate risk of harm, please dial 999 or consult with the Front door on 03000 411111 or 03000 419191 (out of hours).*

*If you are concerned about a child's mental/emotional health please find below organisations that could support:*
*• NELFT mental health direct support line on 08000113474 (24 hours per day, 7 days a week)*
*• Childline – 08001111*
*• NHS Chat health – text 07520618850*
*If you are struggling, Text SHOUT to 85258*