



# St Augustine's Academy Newsletter

## 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020



### Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Thank you, on behalf of our school, for your patience and support during our period of school closure. We have received many kind messages and treats, and these have been much appreciated.

The focus of this newsletter is about school reopening. Hopefully, after reading it, you will find the answers to many of your questions.

Last night, our Governing Board decided that our school will reopen to our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June (if Government guidance permits). This will allow for 2 days of INSET training and preparation by the staff team. On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, key worker children will still continue to be in school and the parents of children (who have told us that they wish their child to return to school) will receive a Parentmail informing them of their child's group adult, start and finish times for their school day and what classroom they will be in. Next Friday, a list of expectations for parents and pupils will also be communicated to you. This will include essential guidance that will need to be followed upon returning to school; e.g., "Only one adult may bring their child to school to prevent congestion at the school entrance." School lunches can be provided as usual but children will mostly be eating lunch in their classrooms, even if having a hot dinner.

Next week's challenge is **Our School**. Please send in your artwork, poems etc. You could draw a picture of your teacher, make a poster about one of our school's values or maybe even write a poem. The choice is yours.

We look forward to hopefully seeing some of you again soon but until then, have a good half term and stay safe.

**Amanda Howes - Headteacher**



### Chair of Governor's Message

Firstly, I hope this finds you all well and thanks to everyone for what you have been doing over the last number of weeks, either sending children to school, helping them with learning at home, doing rainbow pictures, keeping in touch with the school and others about school re-opening, and more. It is much appreciated in these exceptionally challenging times when there has been no 'rehearsal' for Covid 19 or how anyone is supposed to cope with lockdown etc. It is new to us all and we are all coping in different ways I am sure.

I have been in regular contact with Mrs Howes on behalf of governors, to show support to her and all the staff at school. This has been a huge test of stamina, creativity, determination and sensitivity on the part of staff to keep on top of the Health guidance and to keep us all informed of their weekly activities and progress.

I wanted to let you know that preparations for the next stage of re-opening at school have been going well. We held an Extra Special meeting of the Governing Board yesterday and having reviewed the Risk Register, Policy reviews and best Guidance at this time, we agreed for the school to reopen on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Mrs Howes will give details on the school start and finish times for those children returning. I know this will be another concern for some of you and that the school has contacted everyone to talk it through. We will be supporting Mrs Howes and all staff to ensure that every precaution and action is being considered and implemented to best effect to comply with Government guidance and the best interests of staff and children, to keep everyone safe and well.

Very best wishes to you on behalf of all our governors  
**Clr Carole Hegley – Chair of the Governing Board**

### Animals and Wildlife Challenge



This animal artwork is amazing. We love it! Well done!

### School Uniform - IMPORTANT

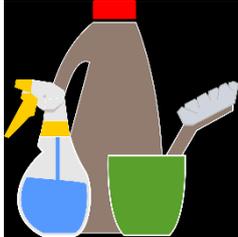
From Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June for Key worker children, and from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June for children potentially returning to school in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, school uniform must be worn. We understand that children may have outgrown some items and we ask that you contact the school if this is an issue for you.

Children will not need to bring a PE Kit into school and they may wear trainers to school if their school shoes do not fit. Children will be spending a lot of time outside so it is important that they wear comfortable footwear that they can run the daily mile in etc.

**'Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'** *Matthew 5:16*

After a long period of school closure, the Government have announced that pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 could soon be returning to school. As a concerned parent or carer, you will probably have many questions about school reopening and what this means for your child. The health and well-being of pupils and staff is top priority for all schools, but it is not possible for any school to promise that your child will not catch Covid-19. We will, however, do all we can to minimise that risk. We hope you find this guide useful in answering some of your questions for you.

### Preparation



Work is happening in school to help prepare for reopening. This includes:

- Carrying out a full risk assessment
- Thoroughly cleaning the school site
- Preparing signage to help maintain social distancing around school sites

### Personal Hygiene



Looking after personal hygiene is essential to stop the virus spreading. Children and staff will be expected to:

- Wash their hands with soap and water, for 20 seconds, at regular intervals throughout the day
- Catch sneezes with tissues or an elbow and put used tissues straight into the bin

### Staffing



Staffing levels in our school will be significantly reduced. This means that:

- Children may not be taught by their usual class teacher
- Children may be taught by a teaching assistant
- It may not be possible for schools to accommodate all Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children, if there is limited availability of staff. EYFS and Year 1 will have priority
- Children may need to be taught at another school

### Classrooms



Classrooms will look very different when schools reopen. Here is how:

- Children will sit individually at tables
- Tables will be spaced apart to stop germs spreading
- Class groups will be no bigger than 10 children and there may be less
- If there are a lack of teaching spaces, groups of pupils may not be able to attend

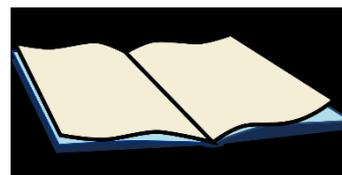
### The School Day



The school day will be different to usual. Here is how:

- Children will not be admitted into school without at least 24 hours' notice that they will be attending; seating and resources etc. must be prepared for them in advance
- There will be staggered start and finish times to the day to avoid large gatherings of people (To be communicated)
- School days will be shorter to allow extra cleaning time
- Groups will not mix at all during the day, including lunch/break
- Breakfast Club will not run, except for any child that has already attended during school closure (Up to today)

### Learning



Lessons may be different when schools reopen. Here is how:

- Children will be expected to work much more independently and close interaction with others will not be possible during lessons
- A greater emphasis will be placed on pupils' health and well-being
- A reduced Curriculum offer will be in place



# Preparing Your Child for Return to School

## Advice for Parents and Carers



Schools will look and feel different for your child when they return to school. It is so important that they are as prepared as much as possible for the changes they will experience. Here is how you can help them to be prepared, ready and confident.

### Re-set Body Clocks!



*In the week before your child is due back at school make sure they go to bed early and wake up in time to 'get ready for school'. Your child may feel anxious. Remind them that all the feelings they may have are normal and okay.*

### Clean Hands!



*Show your child how to wash their hands properly (click for link) explain that their teachers will want them to wash their hands 5 or 6 times a day when they are at school.*

### Catch it, Bin it, Kill it!



*Make sure your child knows how to blow and wipe their nose and to put the tissue in a bin. Show them how to cough into their elbow if they need to and do not have a tissue to hand. Click for [link](#)*

### Social Distance!



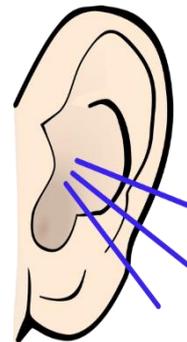
*Measure out 2 metres and show your child what that looks like. They may not always be able to keep that distance but an awareness of what it looks like will help us and them to stay safe.*

### Be Independent!



*Children will not be able to work with a partner or in groups like they often do and teachers will not be able to sit alongside children to help them with their work. Talk to your child about 'having a go' and not becoming upset if they are finding something difficult. Tell them that they can raise their hand or use a RAG card to ask for help, but remember, this help will be given from a distance.*

### Listen and Learn!



*Your child needs to be able to concentrate. Limit the amount of screen time your child has, they will need to re-learn how to be in a class with other children and to listen to the teacher. Read with them every day, tell them stories and ask them to listen all the way through before you discuss what you have read. With older children, get them to read to you and to explain what the text means and what they think about it.*

### Play Safe!



*Explain to your child that they will not be able to touch, hug or play close to other children. They may not be able to play on equipment or with some toys until we can clean them - so they will need to be patient and take turns.*

### Be Patient!



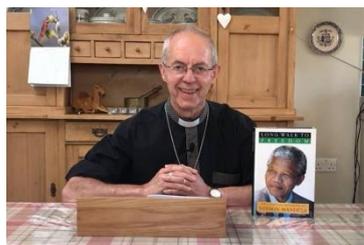
*Everything will take longer than usual and your child may have to wait in line for lunch, or to be picked up to go home. They may have to follow a one-way system in school and life will be very different to before lockdown - they need to follow instructions carefully to keep themselves and others safe.*

This week in Mental Health Week. Use these prayers, pictures to help you talk with God and encourage you.



**National Online Assembly**

Each week there is an online assembly for children across the UK. We hope that many of you followed the link that was sent on Parentmail for you to watch it. The Bishop of Canterbury led part of the assembly which was about 'hope'.



Each week, there will be an online assembly at 10:00am on Thursdays via the National Online Academy. If you missed it then please click on the following link to catch up and be part of the biggest assembly ever!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgdhOstV6il>

DAY EIGHT



*Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.*

*But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.'*

1 KINGS 19: 3-4

Have you ever been busy with work or a task and, having got through it all, then found the anti-climax afterwards even harder to deal with?

Following a dramatic confrontation with the prophets of Baal, Elijah found himself in a literal and spiritual wilderness. None of us are immune to bodily, emotional and spiritual tiredness. The threats of those who seek to do us harm, get to us. We feel negative about ourselves, about our circumstances, and about what might happen in the future. We get depressed. We doubt God, and feel that we have failed God. We might even feel that our lives are no longer worth living. Life seems both dark and hopeless. This is not about lack of faith.

Elijah's response is honest and leads him to meet with God not in dramatic events, but in a place of sheer silence (verse 12). However active and enthusiastic we may be in God's service, we all have our limits. When we reach these limits, are we able to encounter God in the silence to which they lead us? (Prof. Chris Cook)

**A "Have a Go" habit: Eat, Rest, Sleep**

- If you read the rest of Elijah's story, you'll see that he needed sleep, and food and something to drink. Are you getting enough sleep and eating well? • Use a meditation phrase from the psalms. "I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety." (Psalm 4:8) Repeating this as you go to sleep may help. • Practice the ancient prayer of examen at the end of each day.
- Thank God for signs of his love and beauty. Let go of things that were not lovely and beautiful. Be forgiven and try to forgive. Bless yourself with peace as you drop off. (Ruth Rice)

If you follow the link below, it will take you to a book of prayers compiled by the Church of England, especially for use during the Coronavirus outbreak.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer>