



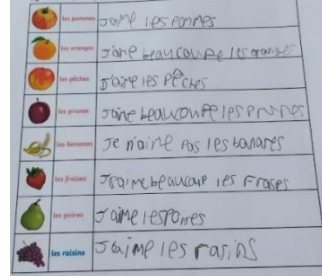
St Augustine's Academy Newsletter

12th February 2021

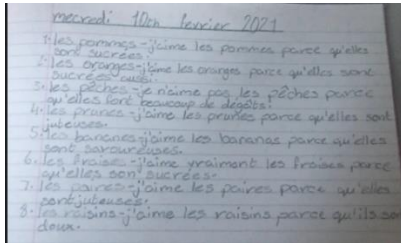


Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,



As we come to the end of the half term, we would again like to thank you for all the help and support that you have been giving, to your children learning at home, during lockdown.



Even though this half term will feel different with the current restrictions in place, we hope that you all find some quality, fun time to spend with your children and we look forward to seeing you all back at school when lockdown ends.

We hope that you find time to take part in the competitions detailed in this newsletter and to take part in our survey.

Best wishes to you all.

Amanda Howes – Headteacher



Children's Challenge Half Term Distance Competition



We are delighted to inform you that we have signed up for The Children's Challenge Half Term Distance Competition. This is a national competition and we will be competing against at least 86 other primary schools (growing daily!) from around the country. These schools represent over 27,000 pupils!

Parents are encouraged to walk, run, cycle or scooter with their children from Monday 15th to Sunday 21st February and then log their child's daily distance under "Submit Daily Distance" on the following website:

<https://thechildrenschallenge.com/feb-1521-half-term-competition>.

The sum of the distances travelled by all children attending our primary school should be submitted by parents at the end of each day. All rules, as well as the all-important daily leaderboard, can be found on the above website. The leaderboard will show the absolute distance travelled by all the children at the school as well as the average distance per pupil. The key to national glory will be maximum participation!

It promises to be a highly engaging, competitive and fun event. The purpose is to encourage children from all around the country to exercise every day for both their mental and physical health.

Good luck and do the school proud!



School Survey – Lockdown Learning

During lockdown, staff, parents and children have been working hard to try to learn in a very different way.

We are keen to hear feedback from parents, carers and children about how you have been finding our school's approach to learning during the recent lockdown.

Below is a link to a simple survey, created on Survey Monkey, which we would like you to fill in.

Please take the time to complete the survey as it will help us to understand what is working well and what difficulties you may be finding.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DFNBWP2>

Many thanks for taking the time to feedback to us. It is much appreciated.

Ride High – Baking Competition

Ride High is a charity that gives children the opportunity to ride horses, build their self-esteem and confidence and improve their future prospects. St Augustine's have been using Ride High for the past 3 years and hope to continue to use them in the future.

On the next page of this newsletter, you will find information about an online baking competition called 'Bake the best of it'. We hope that some of you will be able to enter and support this wonderful charity.



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

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Do you like baking?

Then why not take part in our new online baking competition and help raise some dough to support the most vulnerable children in Milton Keynes.

We're inviting participants of all ages to get baking and enter one of our three cake categories: Best horse-themed cake, Best coronavirus-themed cake and Best Valentine's-themed cake.

We have a wonderful panel of judges (including International Pastry Chef Claire Clark MBE), and some amazing prizes (including a Half-day one-to-one baking workshop with Claire Clark herself!).

Participants are invited to make a suggested donation of £10 to Ride High, but this is not a requirement of entering.

For more information and to register visit:

www.ridehigh.org/bakethebestofit

Please share with your colleagues, friends and family members.



#Bakethebestofit



RIDE HIGH

Registered charity No.: 1138260

Value of the Half Term - Perseverance



www.facebook.com/mamlmr

A Bible verse on Perseverance

“God helped you begin and he will help you until it is finished.”
(Philippians 1:6)



SELF – Question of the Week

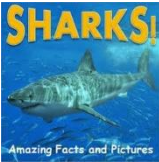


What have I learnt about self-control?

Prefix of the Week



Non



Non is from Latin and means ‘not’.
You find ‘non’ as a prefix in many English words.

Nonsense – Words that do not make sense.	Nonfiction – Writing that is factual or informative.
Non-existent – Not real or not present	Nonstop – Continuing without stopping or pausing
Non-stick – A pan or surface covered with a substance to prevent food sticking to it during cooking	Nontoxic – Not poisonous or toxic.

School Jotter App

The School Jotter app, by Webanywhere, is the app that our school uses. It can be downloaded to Android or Apple devices from their online stores.



Our school newsletters are uploaded to the app on Fridays and you can also view our calendar. Please sign up today if you haven't already.

Childcare Bubbles



Department for Education



You may or not be aware that families can form a childcare bubble to allow parents to attend work.

Below you will find a link to the Government regarding this.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-childcare-bubble-with-another-household#what-a-childcare-bubble-is>

SEND Webinars for Parents and Carers

Yvonne Newbold talk: the emotions of being the parent of a SEND child

Yvonne Newbold will explore the emotions around being the parent of a SEND child. What are the triggers and how we are left feeling following interaction with other people? You will also have the opportunity to join Yvonne for a follow up discussion over lunch or supper the following week. Take this opportunity to put questions to Yvonne in person and discuss your issues with her and other parents and combat isolation.

- Webinar 10th Feb - Join us for two hours hosted by Yvonne Newbold and Carers in Bedfordshire, 8-10pm
- Lunch 17th Feb - Make yourself a sandwich and a drink and join us for a mid-day discussion, 12.30-2.00pm
- Drinks and Nibbles 18th Feb - For those of us that are busy in the day, an evening discussion following on from the webinar, 8.00-9.30pm

Link to register is [Yvonne Newbold Webinar 10 February \(jotform.com\)](https://www.jotform.com)

Additional Resources links

<https://resource-bank.scholastic.co.uk/content/FREE-Julia-Donaldson-and-Axel-Scheffler->

<https://www.specialneedsjungle.com/distance-education-resources-for-children-and-young-people-with-send/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/coronavirus-supporting-children-special-educational-needs-disabilities/>

Letter from Sue Harrison, CBC Director of Children's Services



Your ref:
Our ref:
Tel no:
Email:

Date: 11th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

On the 8th January I wrote to you following the Government's decision to close schools to all but vulnerable children and the children of key workers. Since that time schools have been working tirelessly to ensure that children working at home get a high-quality learning offer in line with the Department for Education (DfE) guidelines.

I have been delighted to hear of all the messages of support and gratitude received by our schools from parents. Head teachers and school staff truly appreciate this recognition of their hard work. Many barriers have had to be overcome, too numerous to mention, but knowing that their work is recognised has made a huge difference to staff morale at a difficult time.

As we near half term, I would like to say a huge well done to the children for making such rapid adjustments within their lives and to how they are learning. I am hearing from schools that they are very proud of them and are looking forward to having them back in school again as soon as it is safe to do so. I also wanted to say a big thank you to parents, carers and other family members who have ensured that children have been able to continue their studies. Without doubt, this has been challenging, particularly for those of you juggling working at home yourself, coping with children in different stages of their education and the DfE's expectations, to ensure that your children get the opportunity to continue study without compromising their health and mental wellbeing.

The demands that are being placed on families and schools at this time are considerable and parents rightly have concerns about educational progress. I am aware however that there has been some confusion in regard to remote learning and what schools should be offering.

Schools without exception are doing the best they can to provide the highest quality education that circumstances will allow, they do however face very different challenges. It is not reasonable therefore to compare the offer made by different schools. The national guidance is that:

- Pupils should be set meaningful and ambitious work across a range of subjects
- Lessons will include a mix of either:
 - Recorded lessons and time for pupils to complete tasks
 - Live lessons and time for pupils to complete tasks
 - Or a mix of the three elements
- Recorded lessons will not necessarily be of teaching staff in school
- Schools should consider how to transfer into remote education as much good practice as possible
- Schools should consider and adapt lesson time, content and delivery to meet the age, stage and needs of pupils
- There is no expectation that the provision is solely digital

I would therefore ask parents to consider carefully the above guidance as they seek to challenge schools where they feel the quality of provision is not what they had expected. I would also ask that you take account of the fact that teachers are investing many hours into lesson development at present, as they are teaching their classes in school, whilst also providing remote learning for those pupils at home and, whilst it may seem an obvious solution to live stream from classrooms, this is not always practicable.

Should you have any questions about your child's home learning then I encourage you to raise these in the first instance with your child's school. This will enable a constructive dialogue about why the school has chosen to deliver remote education in the way it has, taking into account the individual circumstances of each school. The vast majority of issues can be dealt with by a quick exchange with a teacher or other member of staff before taking any formal steps. This approach is much more likely to lead to a positive outcome for all.

At the moment, the earliest we will see a return to school-based teaching for most pupils is 8th March. In the meantime, I wish you all a relaxing half term break and look forward to welcoming back the children into school very soon.

Yours sincerely

Sue Harrison

Sue Harrison
Director of Children's Services

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 Chicksands, Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

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Valentine's Day Puzzles

Valentine's Day Word Search

K S Q S J I V R T D S R Q G K
 R Q Q T D M A B X U F N Q J J
 K G D A S N L Y E U S F S N S
 S V E E M B E R I G C E V O L
 Q W Q R Q Q N I A W R A O C G
 T Z E T G R T Z R E Y I N Q T
 D Q I E E O I K Z F D R E D J
 H O B N T P N W N O E F T G Y
 X U T H C H E H V X E A L A T
 N A G B P R E E Y B M T C B H
 F O M G T U S A R L R K U T Q
 I M T M Q S K U R A U N P E H
 C A R D S K A A E T W I I G U
 M C D I R R M H H X E P D P N
 W Q K L Y S R E W O L F J O J

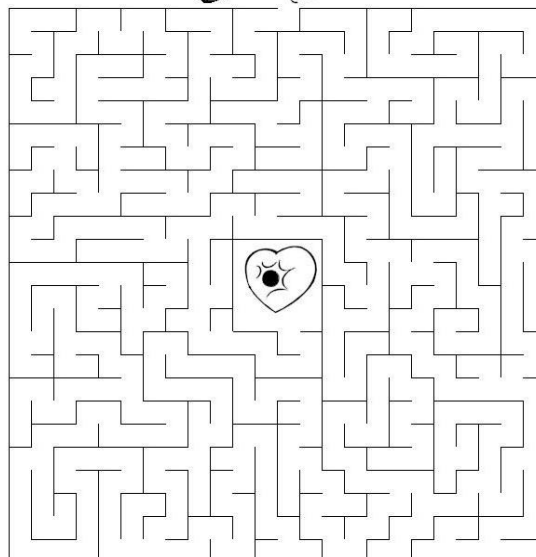
CANDY
 CARDS
 CUPID
 DEAR
 DOVES
 FEBRUARY
 FLOWERS
 FRIENDS
 HEART

TREATS
 VALENTINE
 SWEETHEART
 RED
 LOVE
 KISS
 PINK
 HUG



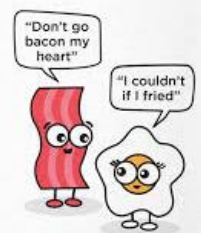
JINXYKIDS.COM

Valentine's Day Maze



Q: What do you call two birds in love?

A: Tweetharts!



Happy Valentines

Support and Advice

The table below gives a whole range of support services that you can access for help and advice. Please use them. This is a really testing time for us all and we all need a little bit of help and support sometimes. Remember, if you feel you can't cope, you can also ring the school to speak to someone.

Service	Number	Website	Information
Child Line	0800 1111	https://www.childline.org.uk/	Child Line is a free, private and confidential service where young people can talk about anything. Support is available online, on the phone, anytime
Rev Ricky Dunstable Team Vicars	01582 528485	Contact – rickyturner@ntlworld.com PrayDunstable@gmail.com	Prayer and general help and support.
MIND	0300 300 0648	https://www.mind.org.uk/	Mind offers information and advice to people with mental health problems
Headspace		https://www.headspace.com/ App is available to download on the App store or Google Play	Mental health activities. Provides guided meditations, animations, articles and videos
Victim Support	0808 1689111	https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/	Free and confidential support for people affected by crime and traumatic events – regardless of whether you have reported the crime to the police or not
Salvation Army	01582 606031	https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/dunstable	The Samaritans offer a church and social services to support those in need
Kooth		https://kooth.com/	Kooth is an online and confidential service giving help and advice about emotional health to young people
Samaritans	116 123	https://www.samaritans.org/	Free and confidential support and advice
Anxiety UK	TextService: 07537 416 905 Infoline: 03444 775 774	https://www.anxietyuk.org.uk/	Anxiety UK relieve and support those living with anxiety and anxiety-based depression by providing information, support and understanding
Youngminds	Parents Helpline 0808 802 5544	https://youngminds.org.uk/	A UK charity fighting for children and young people's mental health
Signpost	0800 0282 887	https://www.signpostforbedfordshire.com/	Support for those affected by crime
NSPCC	0808 800 5000	https://www.nspcc.org.uk/	Help for adults concerned about a child
National Online Safety		https://nationaleducationgroup.cmail20.com/t/t-l-nkrhuy-fyhllutij-y/	Highly visual and informative Online Safety posters for parents, carers and children
Central Bedfordshire Council		https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers	Coronavirus – Information for Parents and Carers
Central Bedfordshire Children's Services	0300 300 8585 Out of hours: 0300 300 8123		If you think a child you know is being harmed or at risk of being harmed, please contact the Access and Referral Hub, who you can talk to about your concerns. All child protection calls are treated in confidence and you don't need to give your details

You can also find the latest information updates on the corona virus at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>