



# St. Austin's Catholic Primary School A Catholic Voluntary Academy Weekly Newsletter: Friday 7th September 2018 No: 1



## Spiritual Reflection—Healing

*This morning we had our first assembly of the new school year. We listened to and reflected upon the Gospel which we will hear in church this coming weekend. Jesus had been asked to heal a deaf man. Without question, he did this and although he asked the crowds not to tell anyone about it, they were so amazed that they told everyone. They were astounded that he could make the deaf hear and the dumb speak.*

*All of us are in need of healing at different times and in different ways. We all need the healing touch of Jesus. This morning we reminded the children that there will be times throughout the year ahead that we may do things that cause hurt to others and similarly there will be times when others will hurt us either by action or word or both.*

*Whilst we can't heal people in the way Jesus did—physically—we can heal people by a smile, a greeting or by asking for their forgiveness or offering them ours. We can pray for one another, talk through a problem together, take time to listen to each other and support each other where possible.*

*At the end of our assembly we prayed for each other, reminding ourselves that we are part of a school family loved by God.*

## New starters

Following the first assembly, myself and Mr. Molyneux spent some time with our newest and youngest members of our school community. After only four days in school we were amazed at how quickly our UFS children have settled into school life and the many routines that form part of our daily lives here in school. We introduced them to a tradition that we have here at St. Austin's of placing a pebble into a large pot of other pebbles. The pebbles represent ourselves and our oldest children can remember placing their pebble into the pot when they joined the school. Each child was awarded a certificate congratulating them on their first week in Foundation Stage.

This week we have also welcomed new starters in other year groups as well as two new members of staff—Miss. Gourmley who is teaching in UFS and Mrs. Mills who is teaching in Y4. We are delighted to have them working with us.

## Years 1-6 Mass in Church

Each year we begin with Mass in St. Austin's Church to mark the start of the school year. We pray for one another at this Mass and ask God to help us make it a happy and successful year. Parents are always invited to this special celebration and we are currently organising a date for this with Monsignor David.

## School Uniform

In general, all children have returned wearing the correct uniform and looking very smart too! We will continue to encourage this and will be giving out the occasional reminder about ensuring shirts/blouses are tucked in etc. Please remember that if your child is still wearing the summer uniform their polo shirt must be yellow/gold. The white polo shirt is for PE only.

This is an opportune time to remind you that extreme hairstyles are not permitted and we also discourage the girls from wearing large bows in their hair. Please let's keep it simple and smart!

## Medication in School

Please remember only prescribed medication can be brought into school and should be given to the office staff by the child's parent. This week, some children have brought in non-prescribed medicine which we cannot administer. If your child has been prescribed medication by the GP or other trained medical professional and needs to take it four times a day we will administer the dose required during the working day. Medication that has been prescribed for three times a day does not need to be brought into school. Thank you for your cooperation with this important matter.

## Diary dates for this half-term

Overleaf you will find the key diary dates for this half-term. Further details for many of these events will be sent home in due course. This term we will be having an 'Open Day' aimed at parents with children of pre-school age who are hoping to send their child to St. Austin's in the future.

## Entering and Leaving the School building

All children should enter school via the playgrounds each morning. Children only need to come in via the school office if they are arriving after 8.50am. Similarly, at the end of the school day we ask that children are collected from the designated areas to reduce congestion around the main entrance. If you are unavoidably delayed collecting your child please let the office staff know. Please ensure punctuality for drop off and collection of children. Thank you.

## Contacting you

If over the summer any of your contact details have changed including mobile numbers, addresses, land-line numbers you will need to inform the office as we will be unable to contact you if we need to without the correct details in place. This also includes details of other family members you have given us.

## Sickness and absence

Just to remind everyone that if your child is absent you will need to ring the school office before 10am on the 1st morning of the absence and each day thereafter until your child returns to school.

## Play equipment

**Can I remind everyone that children do not use the play equipment before or after school.**

## Diary Dates for this half-term

Thursday 13th September	Roald Dahl Day— <b>This is <u>not</u> a ‘dress up’ day, simply a day of Dahl based activities</b>
Friday 14th September	Representatives from our group of Mini Vinnies will be attending a special Mass at St. Anne’s Cathedral
Monday 17th September	Mass in Church –10am
Wednesday 26th September	Flu Immunisations for children in Years 1—5
Friday 28th September	Photographer in School—Individual and Family Group Photos
Friday 28th September	Smiley Sun Collection Day—Bring bags into school on this day please
Friday 5th October	CAFOD Harvest Fast Day—liturgies and assemblies will be taking place in school Further details to follow
Monday 8th October	Polestar Planetarium in school—presentations for all year groups during the day
Thursday 11th October	St. Austin’s School Open Day
Wednesday 24th October	Big Sing Liturgy Thing for all Y6 pupils
Wednesday 24th October	Parents Evening—5pm-8pm
Thursday 25th October	Parents Evening—4pm—6pm
Friday 26th October	School closed to pupils—Staff Training Day

## After-School Clubs this half-term

Next week we will be sending a letter home detailing the after-school clubs on offer this term.

### Smiley Sun Bag Collection

Following our launch of this initiative we have begun to plan enrichment activities within the school year for our children that can be subsidised with monies raised. Our first collection raised almost £200 and this will be used to benefit all pupils to subsidise the Planetarium Day in October. However, if at the next collection day on Friday 28th September, we could raise further funds we may be able to avoid having to ask any family for money towards this. Special collection bags will be distributed to the children next week. Please can they be returned by home time on Friday 28th September. Please note ordinary black sacks can be used too, if you have more than one bag to donate! If you don’t have anything you are wishing to get rid of for this collection don’t worry we hope to hold one at the end of each month as the year progresses. Items sent could be shoes, clothes, belts, bags, toys, bric a brac, household items, bedding. Please do not put in the bags school uniform, towels, underwear, damaged or stained items. Thank you.

### Water Bottles

We ask all parents to make a contribution of £3 per school year which ensures your child will have a new water bottle each half-term and access to fresh water each day. Thank you to those parents who have already paid for this.

### Milk

If you wish your child to have milk each day at school the cost of this is £7.60 per half-term

### School Meals (KS2 children only)

The cost of a school dinner is £2.30 per day or £11.50 per week.

Payments for all of the above can be made through the school office. Thank you.

## Parish Mass times this weekend are:

### **St Austin’s:**

Saturday at 6.15pm, Sunday at 8.15am, 11am and 6pm

### **SS Peter & Paul’s**

Saturday at 5pm, Sunday at 10am

**For further information please see the newsletters on the parish websites:** [www.peterpaul.org.uk](http://www.peterpaul.org.uk) and [stmartinswakefield.org/index](http://stmartinswakefield.org/index).



*Mr K Flood*  
**Headteacher**

*Mr J Molyneux*  
**Deputy Headteacher**