St Augustine's
Church of England Primary School

# St Augustine's C of E Primary School Newsletter

**Date:** October 2025



## End of Autumn Term 1 2025
## 'To experience life in all its fullness'

### Message from the Principal

As we come to the end of our first half term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a wonderful start to the new academic year. It has been a pleasure to see our school community full of energy, enthusiasm, and a shared commitment to learning.

We have been delighted to welcome a number of new families and staff members to our school this term. It's been lovely to see how quickly everyone has settled in and become part of our caring and vibrant community. Our new colleagues have already made a fantastic contribution, and our children have shown kindness and friendship in helping new pupils feel at home.

This half term, both children and staff have set individual goals for the year ahead — personal targets to inspire growth, confidence, and a love of learning. It has been wonderful to see the determination and effort everyone is showing as we work towards these ambitions together.

I am incredibly proud of the strong start we have made. The classrooms are full of curiosity, creativity, and collaboration, and it's clear that our pupils are eager to achieve their very best.

As we head into the half-term break, I hope you all enjoy some well-earned rest and time together. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for an exciting and productive Autumn Term 2.

Mrs Dilworth

### Celebrations and events

**This half term...**

The whole school joined the Beat the Street initiative.

A karate demonstration by Red Tiger Karate.

We celebrated World Mental Health day.

We opened our new library; we hope the children are enjoying all the new books.

We became poets when we celebrated National Poetry Day.

We raised funds for Macmillan. Thank you to everyone for your contributions.

We celebrated European Languages day.

We all took part in a gold workshop.

Nursery went on an autumn walk in the local area.

Y6 completed Geography fieldwork in Swinton.

Y5 and Y6 visited Martin Mere grassland center.

This half term our explore and learn unit has been focussing on 'Who am I?'. We have talked about ourselves, draw

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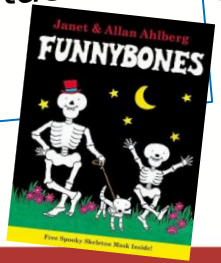
## Messages from the classes:

### Nursery

This half term, Nursery children have settled in beautifully, forming new friendships and adapting to their environment, well done Nursery!

In maths, they've explored matching and sorting by colour, shape, and size, and have continued to develop their fine motor skills through mark making and painting. As part of their topic *All About Me*, children learned about their own features and explored different materials, inspired by *Funnybones* and *The Three Little Pigs*. What a fantastic start to the year!




### Reception

This half term our explore and learn unit has been focussing on 'Who am I ?' We have talked about ourselves, drawn self portraits, talked about our families and explored homes. We have used our creative skills to make our own houses out of junk modelling materials and focussed on the different skills we would need to do this. We also explored baby photos and guessed the identity of the baby as well as looking at toys and pictures from the past and comparing them to today. We ended the half term with looking at our artist of the half term who was Guiseppe Arcimboldo and made artwork using fruit and vegetables! Fantastic first half term in Reception!

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## Messages from the classes:

### Year 1

This half term we have had lots of fun in our new busy bee room. The children have been fantastic when completing their challenges. We have been learning about our own personal history and have made timelines of our lives. In design and technology, we have been looking at structures and exploring stability. We have used our new knowledge and skills to create our own pencil pots.

### Year 2

Wow! Year 2 have amazed me in such a short time. The progress they have made since I last taught them in Reception is brilliant, and we are only 7 weeks into the year! They have written some fantastic letters and stories as well as creating some super artwork of which they have all been proud.

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## Messages from the classes:

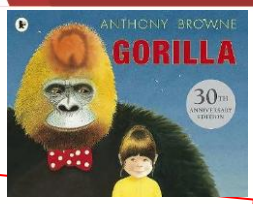



### Year 3

This term, Year 3 have learnt about lots of new and exciting topics. We have been practising our times tables and learning different addition and subtraction methods in maths. In English, we have used role-play and developed our descriptive writing and letter writing skills by pretending to be a character in a scene of our story 'Seal Surfer'. In Science, we have looked at what keeps animals and humans healthy, which also linked to our Design & Technology topic of cooking and nutrition. The class have been amazing at pretending they are nutritionists and designing a healthy, balanced meal. PE has been very exciting this term as we have played lots of different games that involve jumping, hopping and running. We have also learnt about The Stone Age, Iron Age and Bronze Age in History, where we have looked at different artefacts to explore the different periods. Year 3 have really shown off their knowledge in RE lessons, which focused on the Creation story and the values in which Christians believe . I have been so impressed with the resilience and hard work displayed by the children this term, well done Year 3!

**Questions to ask your children.**

What is a healthy, balanced meal made up of?
What are the vowels?
What came first in the Creation story?
What types of food include protein?
What do herbivores eat ?




### Year 4

This half term, Year 4 has been diving into a variety of exciting topics across the curriculum. In **Geography**, we've been focusing on where our food comes from and how our choices impact the planet. In **Reading**, we've explored stories about extraordinary children who have made a positive difference in the world. During our **English** lessons, we read *Gorilla* by Anthony Browne and used it to write our own imaginative stories. In **Music**, we've been experimenting with body percussion and composing our own rhythmic pieces. One of our favourite topics this half term has been **Science**, where we've explored the digestive system and learned how to identify an animal's diet just by looking at its teeth!

**Questions to ask your children**

What are the different types of teeth, and what ar they used for? How can you tell if an animal is a herbivore, carnivore, or omnivore based on its teeth? Can you tell me about one of the inspirational children you read about?

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**Date:** May 2025

## Messages from the classes:

### Year 5

Year 5 have been learning all about the Vikings and their impact on Britain. In English, we have been reading a book about an inspiring women who went over the Niagara Falls in a barrel. In Science, we have been studying materials and their properties.

Questions to ask your children

What were the trade routes the Vikings took and why did they take these routes?
Who was Annie Edison-Taylor and what did she do?
How does filtering work in science?

### Year 6

In Year 6, we have already enjoyed a fantastic start to the year with a range of exciting opportunities, including Bikeability, a visit to WWT Martin Mere, a geography field trip, and Poetry Day. Pupils have thoroughly embraced these enrichment activities beyond the classroom and are eager for even more experiences as the year continues.

In English, we have explored *Star of Fear, Star of Hope* and *When We Were Warriors*. Both texts focus on World War II and have inspired thoughtful and emotive discussions around the Holocaust and the impact of war on Britain.

In Maths, pupils have consolidated their understanding of place value, addition, subtraction, and column multiplication. Their confidence in applying written methods is growing, and they regularly reinforce these skills through weekly arithmetic practice.

Our art lessons have focused on photography and photorealism, encouraging creativity and attention to detail. In science, pupils have been classifying animals, while in geography, they have been exploring the world's ever-changing population.

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## Autumn 2



## Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 4th November~ Nursery and Reception Open Evening 4pm.

Thursday 6th November~ Harvest Festival at St Augustine's Church

Friday 7th November ~ Y3 and Y4 Tree Planting

Parents' Evening ~ 18th and 19th November

Saturday 22nd November ~ Christmas Fair at Church

Thursday 4th December~ Christmas Fair in School
Wednesday 10th December# Choir singing at St Peter's Church.

Thursday 11th December ~ EYFS Christmas Nativity

Friday 12th December ~ A Day of Christmas

Tuesday 16th December ~ KS1 Nativity

Wednesday 17th December~ KS2 Carol Concert

Friday 20th December~ Class Christmas Celebrations

*Please remember that all dates are subject to changes.

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we are kindly asking for donations for Salford Food Bank.

All donations will be greatly received.

If you could please bring them to school before Thursday 6th November.

Salford Central foodbank
Part of Freedom Central Manchester charity



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## Thank you

A huge shout out to **Chris Jones** from **Handyman Services** and **Daryl Barber** from **Finer Finishing** plastering and building services for your kind donations.

Thank you to everyone for your donations so far.



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## Bestie Bee Update

We have introduced Monday morning Hive Check-in. "Every Monday morning, we will meet in our Hive Groups. This is a special time for us to:

Connect with friends from different classes and help each other feel included.

Share how we're feeling and celebrate our successes from last week.

Set goals for the week ahead and think about how we can do our best.

Hive Groups help us feel part of our school community, support each other, and start the week ready to learn and have fun!"

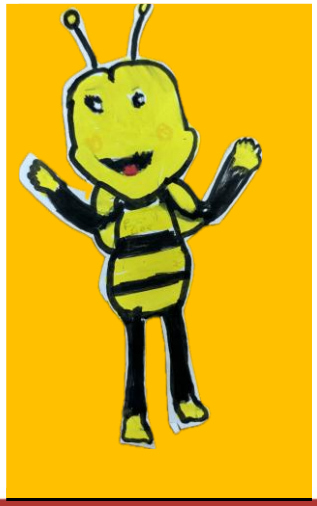






Bestie Bee Half Term Challenge
'Bee Creative'

Choose a way to represent autumn. This could be a picture, a song, a dance, or even a poem!



The winning hive for autumn 1 was Worker Bees!
We will arrange a celebratory event in the new term.
Mr Corrall says, 'Thank you very much to all my workers and we will do something special very soon!'

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## STARS OF THE HALF TERM

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Nursery** | **Mila** | **Mila has consistently shown kindness to her friends and displays a genuine love for learning, especially during Storytime. Her enthusiasm lights up our classroom, and she always sets a wonderful example for others. Well done, Mila!** |
| **Reception** | **Nolan** | Nolan has settled in so well in to reception. His behaviour is exemplary and he gives 100% effort in to everything he does. Keep it up Nolan! incredibly hard in this first half term and shown resilience into school everyday with a smile. |
| **Year 1** | **Nya** | For her excellent attitude to her learning and her consistently outstanding behaviour. |
| **Year 2** | **Max** | For an amazing start to Year 2. Max has settled into the lessons and learning already and he gives 100% every day. He listens carefully and this is evident in the work he produces. He has shown admirable resilience whenever things have been tricky - including his handwriting and reading. |
| **Year 3** | **Phoebe E** | Her attendance has been much better and she has really displayed her creativity in her writing and improved her handwriting too. She tries so hard in school and always wants to learn so I am really proud of her. She has also shown how kind and caring she is by always taking care of children who are upset or have been left out. |
| **Year 4** | **Sano** | Sano has shown incredible focus and determination in all her lessons, always trying her best and approaching every task with a positive attitude. She has produced some fantastic work across the curriculum, but we are especially proud of her efforts in English, where her story writing has truly shone. Well done, Sano – keep up the amazing work! |
| **Year 5** | **Valerie** | She has worked incredibly hard in this first half term and shown resilience especially in her maths. Valerie shows a<br>great attitude to learning and demonstrates amazing collaboration skills. She has a positive attitude and comes into school everyday with a smile. |
| **Year 6** | **Olivia** | Olivia is a wonderful member of Year 6 who consistently makes the right choices and leads by example. She is kind, helpful, and trustworthy, and she sets an excellent example for others around school. Olivia is making fantastic progress in her learning and always puts in her best effort during lessons. Well done, Olivia- keep up the amazing work! |

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## Attendance

The whole school attendance is **93.2%**. Our target is **95%**. Let's try our best to reach our target.

#Everyminutematters

| Class | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Reception | 95.9% |
| Y1 | 93.5% |
| Y2 | 95.74% |
| Y3 | 93.5% |
| Y4 | 94.85% |
| Y5 | 92.77% |
| Y6 | 89.51% |




## St Augustine's Church

Breakfast Club 9.00 till 11.00am. Please call in for a coffee and a chat on a Friday.

**What Is Persistent Absence?**

A child is classed as "persistently absent" if they miss 10% or more of school sessions.

That's the same as:

- **1 day every two weeks**, or
- **18 days across a school year.**

Even small amounts of missed time can add up quickly and make it harder for your child to keep up with their learning or feel settled with friends.

**How You Can Help Prevent Persistent Absence**

Here are some simple ways to support your child's attendance:

✅ **Set good routines** — bedtime, getting up, and preparing school bags the night before.

✅ **Avoid unnecessary absences** — make medical or dental appointments outside school hours whenever possible.

✅ **Keep school informed** — contact us early if your child is unwell or if there's a difficulty affecting attendance.

✅ **Encourage resilience** — if your child is feeling a bit tired or worried, talk together and let school know so we can help.

✅ **Celebrate attendance milestones** — praise your child for being in school regularly.

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## Staff Information

We are delighted that Miss Woolfenden has welcomed a gorgeous baby girl into the world. Welcome to the world, Margo!



We welcomed 4 new staff members at the start of the autumn term Miss Dunn, Mrs Hardy, Mr Pilkington and Miss Trehane. They have already made a valuable contribution to life at St Augustine's.

We have said goodbye to Mrs Barrett and are looking forward to welcoming our new administrator and a new teaching assistant after half term.

## Worship

This half term we have been learning about the Christian Value of thankfulness.
We have given thanks for the opportunities school gives us as well as showing appreciation for school itself, as we are aware that not every child in the world is lucky enough to go safely to school every day for free.
**We have also explored that the value of a person is not in their wealth.**
**Your character is not determined by how much stuff you have.**
**Your personality is not connected to your belongings.**
**Jesus was a carpenter and a carpenter's son. He had no time for wealth, money, or the gold, silver and trinkets that money can bring.**
**Happiness, kindness, family and being thoughtful are priceless.**
**And cost nothing.**
**The children continue to bring their positivity and incite to collective worship every week.**



## Prayer from Father Al

Dear lord thank you for our first term at school,
we thank you for the new friends that we have made,
for all the new things we have learnt,
for our teachers and everyone who works in our school.
We ask you to keep us safe in the school holidays,
we all love fireworks but please let us use them safely-
only our parents or a grown up to let them off for us-so
we can all enjoy them.
We ask this in your name Amen
Fr Al.

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## Our Bee Haven

Bee Haven is our St Augustine's sensory room designed to provide a calm, safe and supportive environment. Just like bees sometimes rest in their hive, our pupils can regulate their emotions, develop focus, and re-engage positively with learning.

It special features include:

A calming environment with soft lighting, comfortable seating, and sensory equipment.

A range of tactile and interactive resources that support sensory needs.

Spaces for children to de-escalate and self-regulate

Purpose:
The sensory room is particularly beneficial for children who may experience sensory processing challenges, heightened emotions, or difficulties with focus and attention. It offers them a structured opportunity to pause, self-regulate and then return to the classroom or outdoor environment with their peers ready to learn.

Access:
Bee Haven is available to children when it is needed, with access supported and guided by staff to ensure it is used effectively as part of the school's inclusive practice.



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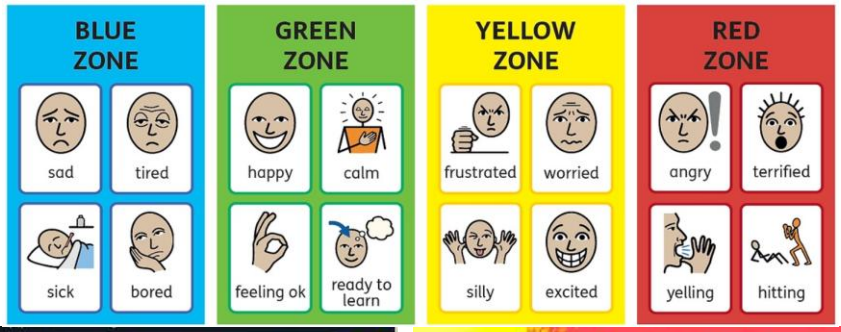
## Zones of Regulation

After half term we are introducing the Zones of Regulation . This will help us to learn how to understand and manage our emotions, sensory needs, and self-regulation skills. We will share more information as we move through the lessons.











# St Augustine's

**Church of England Primary School**

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