St Augustine's
Church of England Primary School

St Augustine's C of E Primary School Newsletter

Date: Dec 2025



End of Autumn Term 2 2025
'To experience life in all its fullness'

Message from the Principal

As we come to the end of another busy and engaging term, I would like to thank you all for your continued support, encouragement and partnership with the school. It has been a term full of learning, events and memorable moments, and the enthusiasm of our children has made it a joy to be part of. I hope you all have a wonderful and well-earned break with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, refreshed and ready for the exciting term ahead.

A special thank you to Mr Corrall for being a constant support over the last 18 months.

Mrs Dilworth

Celebrations and events

This half term...

We have held an open evening for Nursery and Reception 2026 new starters.

Harvest Festival at Church followed by a visit from Salford Foodbank to collect all your generous donations to this great cause.

Year 3 and Year 4 went tree planting.

Parents evening – thank you all for coming along and supporting your child's learning.

Christmas Fair at St Augustine's Church.

Christmas Fair at school.

Choir singing at St Peters Church.

EYFS Nativity

Day of Christmas

Choir visited Morrisons.

Year 5 and Year 6 Winter wonderland at the Etihad Stadium

Year 2 Polar Express Day

KS1 Nativity

KS2 Carol Concert

Class Christmas Celebrations

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

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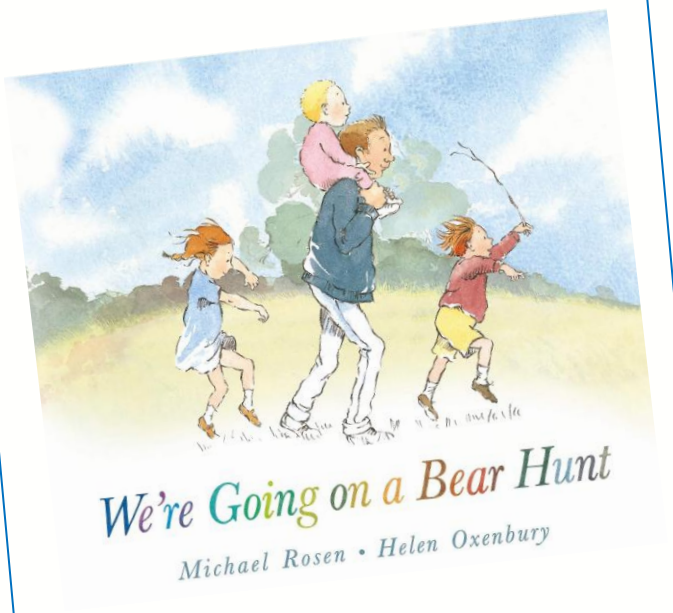
Messages from the classes:

Nursery

This half term in Explore and Learn, the children have enjoyed stories such as Going on a Bear Hunt, Lost and Found, and The Jolly Christmas Postman. They explored the local area and learned about different continents, including Antarctica and Africa. Thank you for a wonderful half term, we are very proud of the children's enthusiasm and progress.



Reception

This half term we have been learning about Amazing Adventures! We looked at maps and how to use them. We started with treasure maps and looking at features of a map and then moved on to using maps and looking at maps on google view. We drew our own maps of the local area and talked about what we see on the way to school. We also went on adventures through time and looked at how toys, people and transport had changed through time. We looked at families and how they've changed over time and also the Royal Family. We also looked at boats and designed and created our own. We have had a very busy half term with lots of learning going on! We have also looked at Jackson Pollock art work and recreated our own art inspired by him.





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Messages from the classes:

Year 1

This half term, Year 1 have had lots of fun in science exploring materials and their properties. We have had lots of fun conducting experiments to test if materials are tough, waterproof and absorbent.

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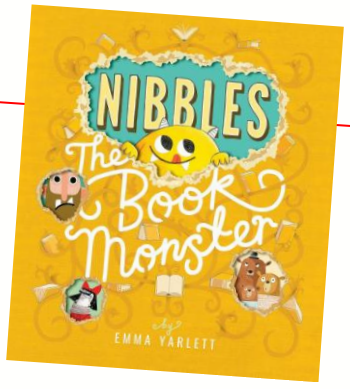
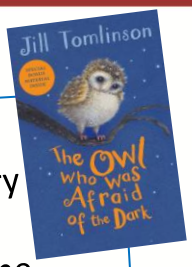
In English we have written a diary entry based on the story Nibbles: The Book Monster. We had lots of fun writing and designing and making traps to catch him in the Busy Bee Room.



Year 2



In Year 2 we have read the story The owl who was afraid of the dark. They have produced some excellent non-chronological reports and enjoyed learning a lot about owls. We have then had a visit from a Falconry expert and got the chance to meet and touch some beautiful feathery friends at St Augustine's.

The children have been polishing up on their addition and subtraction skills in maths before exploring shape, including sorting shapes, finding vertices and lines of symmetry.

As part of our History unit, we have also had a visit from a member of our school community who told us all about what school was like in the past. We were shocked to find out that they used the cane and every child wrote on their own blackboard!

How do you organise a non-chronological report?
What fun facts do you know about Owls?
How many sides on a hexagon?
Where do you find a line of symmetry?
What are the similarities and differences between schools in the past and schools now?

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Messages from the classes:

Year 3



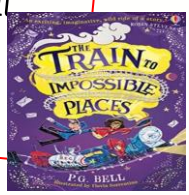
This term, Year 3 have been very busy! We have had lots of school trips, from tree planting to going to the cinema. In math's, the children have learnt their times tables and how to multiply and divide. We have written some amazing fantasy stories in English and learnt all about magnets and forces in science. In Geography, we have looked at volcanoes and tectonic plates which the children have enjoyed. We have also developed our drawing and shading skills in art and produced some beautiful pieces which are displayed in the classroom. I have been so impressed with the progress every single one of you have made since beginning KS2 in September!

Questions you can ask the children –

What happens when tectonic plates move?
How can we use addition to help us with our times tables?
What is a simile and can you give an example?
How can you show texture when drawing?
How can friction slow down an object?

Year 4

This half term, Year 4 has been engaged in a wide range of exciting and enriching learning experiences across the curriculum. In History, the children explored how life today differs from that of Tudor and Victorian children. In Reading, we have been enjoying *The Train to Impossible Places*, focusing on key comprehension skills such as prediction, inference and summarising. Our English work has been based around the text *Leon and the Place Between*, where the children learned how to write a clear and engaging recount. They focused on organising events in chronological order, using fronted adverbials and conjunctions, writing in the past tense, and improving sentence structure to make their writing more effective. In Science, the children investigated electricity by building simple circuits. They learned about different components, what makes a circuit complete, and experimented with creating circuits to power games. In Music, Year 4 explored rock and roll music, learning about its key features and enjoying performing the Hand Jive dance.



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Messages from the classes:

Year 5

This half term we have learnt all about the Alps in Geography: we have looked at the location and geography of The Alps and why people visit there. Also, comparing that area to our local one. Please ask your children where they are located? What continent they are in? And why people visit there?

In reading and English, we've been learning about Hansel and Gretel and looking at other traditional fairytales. Ask your children about the story and why there are dark themes in fairytales.

In maths, we have been learning Fractions, Division and Multiplication. Test your children by asking them 4 digit by 1-digit numbers like 4675 x 7? And short division like 678 divided by 5.



Year 6

This half-term, we have learnt about endangered animals in English. Pupils wrote their own report about tigers, the dangers they face and what is being done to help them. They had to gather lots of facts and ensure that they were writing formally for their target audience and purpose. In maths, we have focused on fractions. Pupils are making excellent progress, especially with their arithmetic scores. We also visited Bolton Coroner's Court. We met a real judge, asked him lots of questions and then acted out a case ourselves. It was very interesting!



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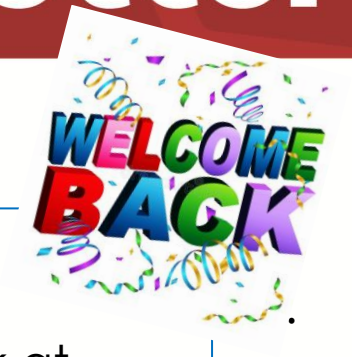
Spring 1



Dates for your Diary

05/01/26 First day back at school

15/01/26 Final day to apply for a reception place

20/01/26 – Nursery and Reception visit to Chester Zoo

10/02/26 Safer Internet Day

13/02/26 Young Voices

13/02/26 School finishes for 1 Week.

During Spring term we will be holding parent workshops for Y1 parents linked to phonics and KS2 parents linked to maths. There will also be a stay and play session and shine session in EYFS. We will share the dates with you after half term.
If you would like anymore workshops, please let us know.



*Please remember that all dates are subject to changes.

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Thank you

Huge thank you to Motor Save, PlayKids, Finer Finishes and Handy Man Service for their generous donation.

There is still time to donate if anyone knows any local businesses.

Thank you to everyone for your donations so far.



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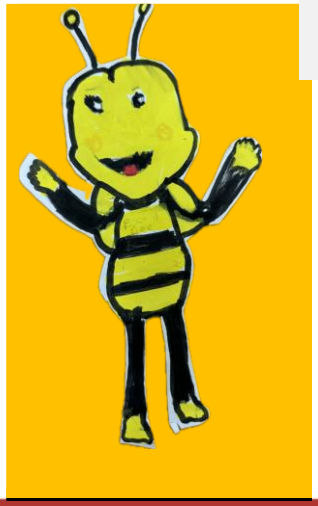
Bestie Bee Update

Our Monday morning *Hive Check-In* has been a real success and has quickly become a positive start to the week for our children. It provides a valuable opportunity to build connections across the school. These moments help develop confidence, responsibility and a strong sense of belonging for everyone involved. We would like to remind families of the importance of arriving on time on Mondays, as late arrivals may miss this special opportunity to take part.



Bestie Bee Half Term Challenge
'Bee a great reader''
We would love our children to read lots of books. Please send us your book recommendations on Class Dojo so we can share with others.



The winning hive this half term was the 'Bumble Bees' so they will get their reward in the new term. Well done, Bumble Bees!!!

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STARS OF THE HALF TERM

Nursery	**Lucas**	Lucas has shown wonderful resilience, never giving up and always trying his best, even when things get tricky. For example, during our Lost and Found topic, he strengthened his cardboard boat by adding extra materials and shared it with his friends. Thank you, for always joining in and sharing your learning with others!
Reception	**Jayden**	For being such a delight to teach since September. He always has such a happy smiley face and always shows such a positive attitude. He has made amazing progress in his phonics and has progressed through the different groups really quickly. We are so proud of you Jayden, keep up the good work!
Year 1	**Iris**	For fantastic work and already scoring full marks on her practice phonics screening check. She is exceptionally well behaved and considerate friend to everyone in her class
Year 2	**Jianna**	Jianna has shown amazing resilience this half term when it comes to all of her work. She listens well and always gives 100% in all her work. She has the biggest smile and is making progress in all her learning through her positive attitude to all tasks she is faced with. Well done Jianna!
Year 3	**Millie**	For always being a good role model and following our bestie bee values every day. She has also continued to come into school every day, despite having a broken foot!
Year 4	**Arlo**	Arlo has shown excellent focus, a real enjoyment of his learning, and has made great progress across the curriculum. He has come a long way in his learning this term, and we are very proud of his efforts.
Year 5	**Mady**	Since she has joined she has been a superstar - she works well with everyone in class and has a positive and infectious attitude to learning. She always tries her best and works incredibly hard to understand new concepts. She also shows great creativity and enjoys writing stories.
Year 6	**Billy**	Billy has strived for excellent this half-term within his work and he has consistently put a great deal of effort into his interventions. He is helpful within class and thrives in PE, where he often helps to lead warm up activities. Well done Billy, keep up the good work!



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Attendance

The whole school attendance is **92.96%**. Our target is **95%**. Let's try our best to reach our target.

#Everyminutematters

Class	Percentage
Reception	91.83%
Y1	92.96%
Y2	95.38%
Y3	93.98%
Y4	94.54%
Y5	91.73%
Y6	90.48%



.Attendance continues to be high priority at St Augustine's. We want every child to be here eery day because we know every minute matters. We have introduced attendance cookies for the class with the highest attendance.

Please remember that being on time for school is also very important. It helps children to feel settled and ready for the day of learning.

After half term we will be revealing who our new attendance bee mascot will be. Thank you to everyone who sent in designs.

Keep yourselves healthy ready for the spring term so we can raise our attendance!

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

From 5th January I will be moving on to work at another school within our trust, St James' CE Primary School in Gorton, for the remainder of this academic year.

It has been an absolute pleasure working at St Augustine's over the last 3 ½ years.

The children here are fantastic and a credit to you all. I have been very lucky to work with a highly professional and committed staff in my time here who give their absolute all for your children every day.



I wish all associated with St Augustine's all the very best going forward; our school is a terrific place in which to learn and work.

Have a wonderful Christmas and thank you for all your support in my time here.

Mr. Corrall

I am sure that you will all join in with wishing Mr Corrall all the best in his new role and we are very thankful for all he has done for us.

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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School Council

Hello St Augustine's our school council are here to tell you about the exciting things we have achieved and the even more exciting things coming up, Firstly we want to say thank you for all the donations to our very successful fair and thank you to everyone that visited us on our stall. It was a success! We raised awareness on antibullying day by wearing odd socks. We have some amazing ideas coming up like 'break the rules day' and teacher pupil swap. More news to follow on that one!



Please come and see us if you have ideas or put them in our suggestion boxes

In January we will be introducing 'Learning Ambassadors' to support the learning of all pupils at St Augustine's.

More information to follow!

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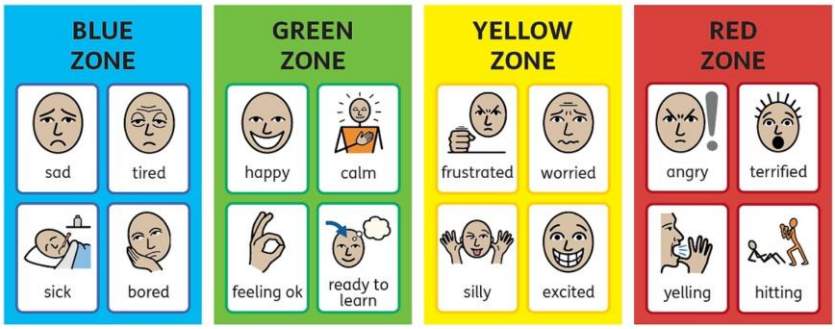
Zones of Regulation

Zones of Regulation have been introduced and everyone is using the techniques to help us all to stay in the green zone. Thank you to the parents who attended the emotion coaching workshop delivered by our educational psychologists. .





Although this time of year can be magical it can also be quite tricky. Please remember there are always people available to help you.
This is a link to Salford's Early Help platform. We will also be checking the office email during the festive period.

[Early help for families•Salford City Council]

Salford Family Partnership



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