St Augustine's
Church of England Primary School

# St Augustine's C of E Primary School Newsletter

**Date:** February 2026



## End of 'To experience life in all its fullnes

### Message from the Principal

As we reach the end of a very busy and successful spring  first half term, I would like to take a moment to thank our entire school community for their continued support, commitment and enthusiasm.

Our children have worked incredibly hard and have represented the school with pride in their learning, sporting events and enrichment activities. Their positive attitudes and determination make us proud every single day.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated staff team. Their energy, creativity and unwavering commitment ensure that our pupils receive the very best opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

Finally, thank you to our parents and carers for your ongoing encouragement, partnership and support. Working together makes a real difference to our children's success and wellbeing.

It has truly been a half term full of achievement and memorable moments. We look forward to an equally exciting and productive half term ahead.

Mrs Dilworth .

### Celebrations and events

**We started the New Year with a Bestie Bee Day.**

**Reception had an amazing visit to Chester Zoo.**

**We celebrated sporting achievements outside of school to show how we are always striving for excellence.**

**We learned about the British Value of tolerance and ways that we can support this in school.**

**Y6 have started their SATS booster clubs.**

**We started the National year of Reading celebrations with our got caught reading photographs.**

**Y4 visited Silverdale as part of their geography fieldwork learning.**

**Water sustainability workshops from Manchester City.**

**Nursery and reception parents and carers joined us in school for a maths workshop.**

**The School Council organized a break the rules day.**

**We held our eco-refill shop.**

**We celebrated the NSPCC Number Day.**

**We raised awareness of supporting mental health.**

**We celebrated Internet Safety day and learned how to keep ourselves safe online.**

**EYFS helped us all to celebrate Lunar New Year.**

**The Choir representing St A at Young Voices 2026.**

**Y6 visiting St Augustine's church and reading to the congregation.**

# Messages from the classes:

## Nursery

**This half term in our explore and learn we have covered traditional tales. We looked at different ways we could help others feel better when they are feeling unwell like Little Red Riding Hood did with her grandma. We learnt about how bread is made, what ingredients we need and even became bakers for the day and baked our very own bread like the Little Red Hen – it was delicious!! Our new artist this half term was Paul Klee, we linked this learning to our story The Elves and the Shoemaker. After learning that Paul Klee uses different shapes and colours to create his art, we used his ideas and designed our very own shoes – just like the elves did. We have also created some lovely mark making over the last few weeks, using our gross motor skills with chalks on the ground and paint brushes and water on the black board outside. As well as developing our fine motor skills by getting lots of use from our writing area inside, writing lists, letters and creating lots of beautiful drawings too. What a very busy but lovely half term we've had.**



## Reception

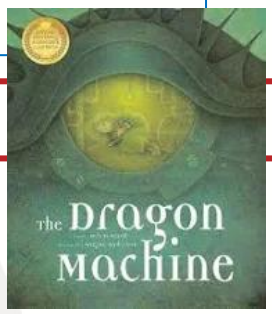
**My learning for the half term - this half term in our explore and learn we have covered traditional tales. We've made gingerbread men, lost gingerbread men and then found and ate them. We've made porridge like the three bears and learnt about the royals when we did Cinderella. We've been to the zoo, learnt about Chinese New Year and had a lesson on road safety. We have learnt a new artist this half term, Wassily Kandinsky and have produced our own artwork in the style of his. Reception have blown me away with their progress in phonics and have worked so well with their new maths skills. Fantastic, busy half term!**



# Messages from the classes:

## Year 1

In Spring 1, Year 1 have been learning all about the history of toys. They have made timelines and looked at the differences between toys of the past and present. They explored olds toys in the busy bee room and thought about how children may have used them and how they would have been made.
In science we have been learning all about our sense and have tested them. We looked at optical illusions that tricked our sight, we guessed the smells and we guessed what we were touching in a feely bag.
In Design and Technology, we made a hand puppet based on the characters in Little Red Riding Hood. We had to carefully think about the best way to join fabric together.
Things to do with your child at home:
•Ask them if something is old, how can they tell.
•ask them what senses they are using.
•Practice addition and subtraction within 20.




## Year 2

What a fantastic half term it has been! In English, the children have been exploring the story *The Dragon Machine* and have thoroughly enjoyed creating their own mythical creature tales. In Science, they have been investigating different materials and learning about their properties. In Geography, the children have been learning about the continents and oceans, and how to locate them on a map. During Art, they created their own collages, carefully adding textures to create different effects.

It has been a wonderful first half term—thank you

Ask your child if they can name the continents and oceans.

# Messages from the classes:

## Year 3

This term, year 3 have continued to impress me with their knowledge and attitude towards learning. In maths, we have moved from multiplication and division to length and perimeter which the children have enjoyed. In English, we read a story called 'The Stone Age Boy' and the children produced some amazing narratives at the end of the unit. We have been learning about rocks and soil in science and conducted lots of different experiments. DT has been very fun and interesting this term, as the children have designed their own wearable technology on their laptops and through drawing. We have learnt all about the Roman invasion of Britain in history and even held some debates in class. Well done Year 3 for your consistent effort and positive attitude to learning!

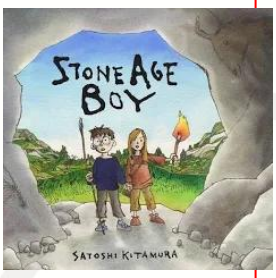
Questions to ask the children -

What were some of the pros and cons for the Roman invasion of Britain?

How many mm are in 1cm? How many cm are in 1m?

What is a fossil?

What are some differences between life in the stone age and now?




# Year 4

This half term, Year 4 has been engaged in a wide range of exciting and enriching learning experiences across the curriculum. In **Geography**, the children have been learning about the **Amazon Rainforest**, exploring its location, climate, layers, wildlife and why it is so important to the planet. Our **English** work has been based around *Escape from Pompeii*, where the children have been learning how to write a **historical narrative**. They focused on writing in the past tense, using descriptive language, organising events in chronological order, and creating tension to engage the reader. In **Science**, the children explored **states of matter**, learning about solids, liquids and gases. They investigated how materials can change state through heating and cooling and carried out simple experiments to observe these changes. In **French**, Year 4 learned the **numbers** and **days of the week**, practising pronunciation and using them in simple spoken activities. In **Art**, the children explored **light and dark**, learning how artists use shading, tone and contrast to create depth and atmosphere. They experimented with different techniques to develop their own light and dark paintings.

**Questions:**

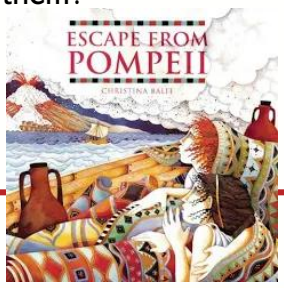
What are the main features of the Amazon Rainforest and why is it important?

Can you retell the main events of *Escape from Pompeii* in order?

What are the three states of matter and how can materials change between them?

Can you say the days of the week and count to ten in French?

How can artists use light and dark to improve their artwork?



Messages from the classes:

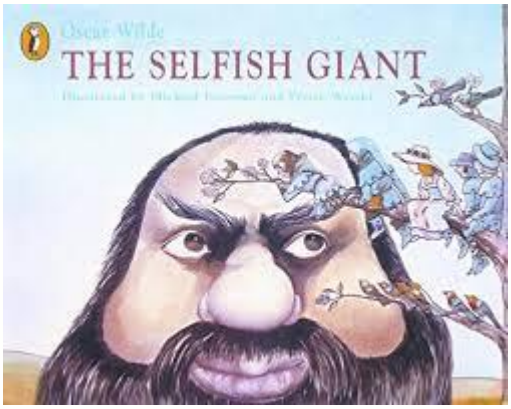
## Year 5

Year 5 this half term have learnt about lots of mazing concepts. In History, our focus has been on the Tudors and the class have enjoyed learning about famous monarchs like Henry VIII. In English, we have read a book based on Norse mythology which has linked back to our previous learning on the Vikings. This had led to the children writing their own Norse Myth. In Maths we have been learning about fraction calculations, division and introduced a new method in long multiplication which has been a great challenge. In design Technology, we have made our own pop-up books and in Computing we have learnt about the Mars Rover and how it was programmed.

# Year 6

In year 6 we have read The Selfish Giant and The Happy Prince by Oscar Wilde. We have really enjoyed these stories and exploring formal language and complex vocabulary.

In Geography, we gathered evidence to answer our enquiry equation, 'would more bins in our local area stop littering?' Pupils used different modes of recording information and then reported their conclusions.



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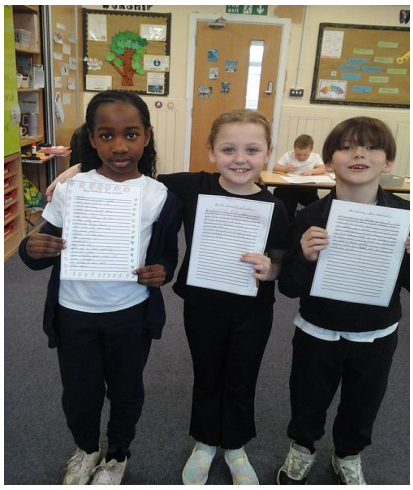
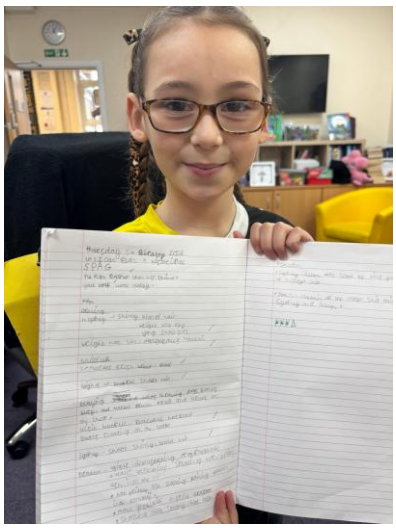
## A selection of happy visits from spring 1













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In January we were visited by three reviewers from a company called Challenge Partners. They spent three days with us at St Augustine's. During their visit they spent time in every classroom, interviewed staff and children. At the end of the review they celebrated what is going well at St Augustine's and provided us with some ideas of even better ifs.

These are some of the strengths that they shared in their report.

High levels of engagement and positive attitudes to learning were observed in most classrooms. Pupils were fully enjoying their learning and relationships are built on mutual respect. One pupil stated how, 'the quiz we have at the start of the lesson helps us to learn,' while another added, 'teachers help us to learn.'

The EYFS provides a vibrant environment for children to begin their journey through the school.

Pupil voice is powerful at the school. Staff listen to pupils' feedback and act on their suggestions.

Teaching assistants (TAs) play a vital support role in the school. The training they have received enables them to monitor the progress the pupils they work with.

There has been a successful re-structuring of the senior leadership team, with the principal, vice principal, SENDCo and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) leader all relatively new to post. However, this has unified the strength of leadership, leading to greater clarity in the direction of the school. There is a great deal of mutual respect among leaders at all levels which is leading to success.



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## STARS OF THE HALF TERM

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Nursery** | **Mashal** | His confidence has blossomed over the past few weeks and it's been wonderful to see him sharing his ideas with his big, brave voice during story time. |
| **Reception** | **Viggo** | He has settled so well in to school, always follows our school rules and is a pleasure to have in the classroom. He has made fantastic progress in phonics and has moved up 2 phonics groups! It is lovely to see the smile on his face throughout the day. |
| **Year 1** | **Chase** | He always tries his best with his school work. He consistently joins in class activities and is always happy to share his ideas. He is a kind and caring friend to all the pupils in the class. |
| **Year 2** | **Logan Si** | Logan Si has shown great resilience, friendship, and empathy. He works hard across all areas of learning and asks thoughtful and insightful questions. |
| **Year 3** | **Royalty** | who comes to school every day with a smile on her face and a positive growth mindset. She is always kind and caring to everyone around her and the first to comfort someone who is upset. Royalty's work and effort is consistently amazing across all subjects! |
| **Year 4** | **Sam** | For always being so positive in his learning, approaching every task with enthusiasm and a great attitude, and showing a real willingness to try his best. He is consistently kind, helpful and respectful to both adults and peers |
| **Year 5** | Isabella. | She comes to school everyday with an amazing work ethic - always listens in lessons and wants to improve her learning. Her behaviour is also fantastic and demonstrates amazing morality. She is a brilliant class mate too and will always try to help others when she can. |
| **Year 6** | **Aura** | has settled into our class wonderfully. She is a kind and considerate member of year 6 and an excellent role model to others. Aura works well with those around her and puts a great deal of effort into her work. |





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## Attendance

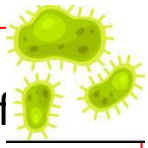
The whole school attendance is **92.56%**. Our target is **95%**. Let's try our best to reach our target.
#Everyminutematters

| Class | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Reception | 92.19% |
| Y1 | 92.47% |
| Y2 | 94.78% |
| Y3 | 93.39% |
| Y4 | 94.68% |
| Y5 | 90.7% |
| Y6 | 90.12% |




## St Augustine's Church

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



We have noticed that a number of children have been absent recently due to seasonal illnesses, which is common at this time of year. In school, we are continuing to promote healthy habits by encouraging regular handwashing, good respiratory hygiene (catch it, bin it, kill it), staying active and drinking plenty of water. We are also reminding children about the importance of rest and a balanced diet in keeping their immune systems strong. Thank you for your continued support in helping us reinforce these healthy routines at home so that we can keep everyone well and ready to learn.

Let's increase our attendance together over the next term.

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This half term we said goodbye to two wonderful members of staff Mrs Bayley and Mrs Green We just wanted to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to you both for everything you've brought to the team. Your hard work, positivity, and commitment have made a real difference, and you'll be genuinely missed.



Wishing you all the very best in your next chapter—may it bring you new opportunities, growth, and plenty of success. Please do keep in touch.

## Worship

This half term we have been learning about the Christian Value of Courage.
We have listened to stories from the Old and New Testaments to **.learn about the importance of courage and how God will help us.**

**We have thought about everyday courage and how we can develop courage to help us in our lives.**

**We reflected on how sometimes it can be hard to be courageous but it is important to always stand up for others.**



Dear God,
Thank you for always being with us.
Please give us courage to try new things,
to keep going when learning feels difficult,
and to stand up for what is right.
Help us to be brave in our words,
kind in our actions,
and strong in our hearts.
Amen.

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Dates for your diary

25.02.26- Y6 residential to Lleder Hall

26.02.26- Disability workshops from Manchester City

05.03.26- World Book Day

05.03.26- Year 6 visit to Crucial Crew

06.03.26- STEM workshop for Y4,5 and 6.

10-14.03.26 Mothers' Day afternoon tea.

10.03.26 Y1 parent phonic workshop 9am.

17.03.26- Y4 visit to the art gallery

20.03.26 Neurodiversity Day

20.03.26- Y4 multiplication parent workshop 2.30pm

27.03.26- Y5 Maths parent workshop

31.03.26- Family Easter Egg Bingo

02.04.26 Easter Eggtravaganza Day

*Please note all these dates are subject to change

VANTAGE ACADEMY TRUST

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Thank you for your support

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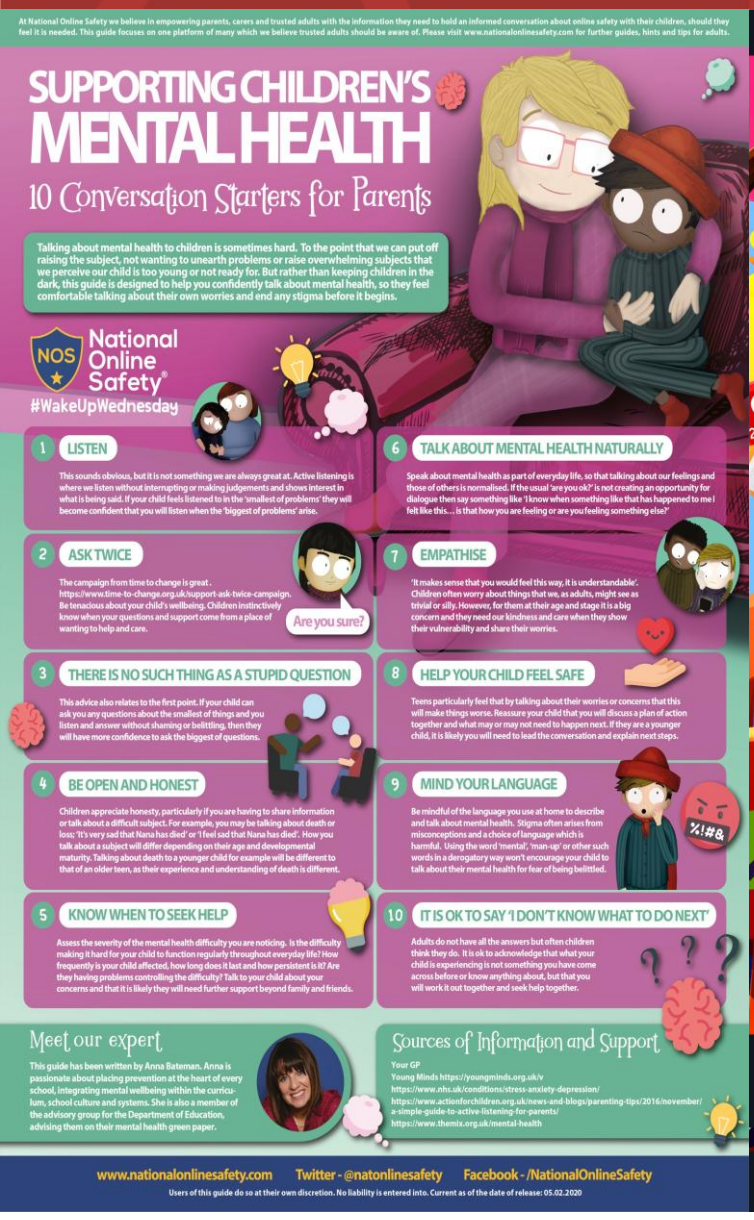





[Early help for families•Salford City Council]

Salford Council provide lots of support for families. Please take a look at their website or call into school for any support you may need.

# St Augustine's

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