

St Augustine's Newsletter

October 2026



Dear parent/carer,

Welcome back to what is sure to be a busy term!

I have really enjoyed getting to know the children and families of St Augustine's Primary School and been really encouraged by the support you have afforded me in my first few months as Head Teacher. I am particularly proud of the school achieving 'Silver' Rights Respecting Schools Award last month.

Thank you for your recent attendance at our Meet the Teacher event, Sacramental information evening and your generosity for our Sponsored Walk.

I am looking forward to this 'Christmas' term working alongside our pupils, parents and parish to give everyone a great experience and making our first Christmas together in St Augustine's a memorable one.

Please use this newsletter as a reminder of what is coming up - starting with our Halloween plans!

As with all planning, we will try our best to ensure events run as planned. However, please note that, at times, things can change for various reasons - not least the weather affecting things in this busy winter term! We will always aim to notify you as soon as possible if any changes are required.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your views gathered to date and would welcome a wider view on the ongoing work of school improvement. A feedback survey will be available for gathering more of your views at your child's Parents Reporting Evening.

Many thanks,

Mr S Duffy

ST AUGUSTINE'S PARENT COUNCIL 2026/2027

The Parent Council & PTA AGM was held on Wednesday 9th September. The following new office bearers have been appointed:

Co-Chairperson (s)	Gillian McCaul and Jo McMahon
Vice Chairperson	Louise Dunion
Secretary	Johanne Foley
Treasurer	Laura Rooney
Parish Representative	Elizabeth Moore



PARENT COUNCIL HALLOWEEN SCHOOL DISCO 29.10.26

On Thursday 29th October, our brilliant Parent Council are hosting a Halloween Disco in the school. This follows on from our very first, highly successful P1 Disco that gave our new intake of pupils their first experience of Disco fun and games.

Tickets can be purchased online from the website: <https://www.pta-events.com/staugustinespcandpta>
Arrangements for Thursday 29th October are as follows:

- P1-3 will run from 6-7:15pm
- P4-7 will run from 7:30-8:45pm

All children are encouraged to dress up and must be collected by an adult when each disco ends.

HALLOWEEN ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL & NURSERY

On Friday 30th of October, we will celebrate Halloween as a whole school and nursery with all children being encouraged to dress up if they wish to do so.

We will run the following schedule for parents/carers:

- 10am - P1-3 Halloween Parade
- 10:40am - Halloween Raffle (11am Finish)
- St Augustine's Nursery families are welcome to the Nursery from 2pm to hear a few spooky songs before home.



All school children will enjoy Halloween activities in their own classes for the afternoon.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Many thanks for continuing the high standard of uniform in the school. For this term I would ask that children are dressed appropriately for the weather as pupils will still be spending time outdoors.

Even though we are only a few months in, we already have a considerable amount of lost property. Where items have been labelled, it is much easier to reunite them with their owner. Lost items will be displayed at Parents Reporting Evening. Please claim what you believe to be your child's!

SNAPSHOT JOTTER & PARENTS REPORTING EVENING

We hope you received your child's report card and if not, please contact the school office and a copy will be supplied.

Over the next two weeks our children will be completing work in their Snapshot Jotters in their current classes. These jotters capture points in the year throughout your child's time at St Augustine's. These will be available to view at our upcoming Parents Reporting Evening.

Parents Reporting Evening with your child's teacher will take place on **Thursday 12th November** and there are two slots available:

- 3.15 - 5pm
- 6 - 8pm

Please book asap when you receive the text/email on **Monday 26th October**.

However, please be aware that your child's teacher has a series of appointments in the evening and this discussion will be focused around the report card and snapshot jotter.

P2 SOFT START & SAFE PARKING

As we continue to develop our Play in Nursery-P2, I would like to invite P2 and P2/3 to come straight into the building in the morning to get started. This is routine will be familiar to the children since their time in P1.

I would also appeal once more that you do not park at the roundabout in the morning, as this is not only illegal, but causes significant congestion at drop off/pick up times.

In the interest of the safety of all, if you are bringing a vehicle to the school, please use the designated parking to avoid the risk of accidents. Parking is available in the Time Capsule car park and also in the car park of St. Augustine's Church.



P6 OUTDOOR EDUCATION - PALACERIGG

As we continue to develop our Outdoor Education programmes in St Augustine's, I am delighted that our P6 children will participate in an Outdoor Education week at Palacerigg Park. This will double up as a transition event as we will be attending with St Bartholomew's Primary School P6 for the week running 17th- 20th of November.

LOCAL SALVATION ARMY APPEAL

I would like to appeal to parents/carers looking to get rid of any old carrier bags to be donated via the school over the next 2 weeks. These can be handed in at the school office by you or your child to assist a local charity.

The local Salvation Army shop has provided, free of charge, some soft furnishings used in the classrooms, school uniform donation and the clothes rails we have. They have also donated a significant number of books for our reading corners plus crafts materials and resources for the nursery. It would be a good way to say thank you for what we have received.

This is to assist with their Christmas Fayre which begins on the 2nd of November.



INSERVICE DAY - 16TH NOVEMBER

Pupils do not attend school on Monday 16th November. School staff will however be in the building.

MOBILE PHONES

The schools current policy in relation to Mobile phones is that they are **not permitted**. If your child needs to bring their mobile phone, then they must drop it off at the office at 9.00am for safe keeping and it will be returned at 3.00pm.

If you need to be in contact with your child in the course of the school day for any reason, you should proceed through the usual channel, which is through the school office. We are always very happy to pass on a message or let your child know of any unexpected change of arrangements for home time.



SICKNESS AND DIARRHOEA

Please note that children experiencing these symptoms should not return to school for **48 hours** following the last period of sickness/diarrhoea.

ALLERGY AWARE ZONE

St Augustine's aims to create a greater understanding and environment which supports children who have severe allergies. We have a duty of care to everyone in our community and the key to managing severe allergy is awareness, avoidance and action. Please inform us of any medical information as soon as possible.

There are children who are extremely allergic to any kind of nuts, so I would ask you to be particularly vigilant with snacks and packed lunches.



HEAD LICE

Be extra vigilant now that all children are back in school. Once a week, take a peek!

MAKE-UP / NAILS



There has been an increase in the number of children wearing false nails which are not suitable when participating in PE and playing in the playground as they are too long and sharp. If this occurs you child will be offered an alternative to lower the risk of injury.

The wearing of 'make up' is **NOT permitted**. Any child wearing 'make up' to school will be asked to remove it immediately.

JEWELLERY

For reasons of health and safety jewellery should **NOT** be worn to school. For those children with ears pierced, please note that small studs only are permitted. Children will be asked to remove all other jewellery.

NB. Stud earrings should be removed on PE days and in the case of recently pierced ears then these should be covered with tape.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE



Our Christmas Fayre is fast approaching, and we're looking forward to welcoming everyone along for some festive fun!

 **Saturday 28th November 2026**

 **11am - 1pm**

 **St Augustine's Primary School**



To help make this year's Fayre a success, we're looking for a little help from our school community!

 **Donations:** We're looking for donations for our bottle tombola, good-quality used toys and raffle prizes. Whether it's something big or small, every contribution is greatly appreciated!

 **Raffle Prizes:** Do you own a local business, work for one or know someone who might be willing to donate a prize? We'd love to hear from you! We'll happily give a shout-out to businesses supporting our Fayre.

We also need some helping hands on the day! Whether you can spare an hour or help throughout the Fayre, we'd be grateful for your support. Events like this simply wouldn't be possible without our wonderful volunteers.

How can you help?

If you can donate a raffle prize, offer support through a local business or volunteer on the day, please get in touch with the Parent Council directly through our social media pages or by email.

Donations of bottles and good-quality used toys can be handed into the school.

Thank you, as always, for supporting our school community. We can't wait to see everyone there!



WHAT'S ON THIS TERM

P1 Welcome Mass

On Sunday 25th October Primary 1 are specially invited to Mass to celebrate their welcome into our school and parish community.

Parent Council Halloween Disco

Thursday 29th October will be our Halloween Disco.

P1-3 Halloween Parade & Raffle

Friday 30th October - Please come along to support our school and see all of the spooky costumes. This event will be led by our House Captains and leaders.

First Friday & St Andrew's Day Mass

On Friday November 6th the whole school will attend Mass at 10am. We will also be leading the Mass for the feast of St Andrew on Monday 30th November in St Augustine's Church.

Parent Council - Christmas Cards

Christmas Card designs will be made available to the school and picked up on **Thursday 12th November** by Parent Council for issuing during Advent.

P5 & SAHS Sports Leaders

St Ambrose High Sports Leaders will begin to work with a Primary 5 class this term partnering up on a Friday afternoon to coach the sport of Handball.

Flu Immunisation Programme

The nurses will be in school on Friday 27th November to undertake the Flu Immunisation programme. Consents should already be with parents/carers.

Parent Council

Christmas Fayre is scheduled for **Saturday 28th November 11am - 1pm** and Elfridges will follow on **Tuesday 1st December**. We urgently require volunteers for these events. Please get in touch with Parent Council.

School Christmas Lunch

On Tuesday 1st December the school menu will change in order for us all to enjoy our Christmas lunch. A menu will be issued shortly to all children to pre-book.

WHAT'S ON THIS TERM continued

Christmas Shows - Save the Date!

Our shows have been pencilled in for 2x evening and 2x afternoon performances.

P1-4 Nativity on evening of Tuesday 8th December & afternoon of Wednesday 9th December.

P5-7 Panto on evening of Wednesday 9th December & afternoon of Thursday 10th December.

Separate communication of when tickets will go on sale and how to purchase will be issued at a later date.

Christmas Parties

Will take place in December and these will be in stages - not classes. Composite classes will join together to form year groups:

Friday 11th December - P3 and P4 Christmas Party (afternoon)

Monday 14th December - P5 Christmas Party (afternoon)

Tuesday 15th December - P6 and P7 Christmas Party (afternoon)

Wednesday 16th December - Nursery Christmas Party (morning)

Wednesday 16th December - P1 and P2 Christmas Party (afternoon)

I look forward to a happy, holy Christmas term with all our school and parish community.

Mr. S Duffy

Head Teacher

Dates to Remember

- Sunday 25th October - P1 Welcome Mass
- Thursday 29th October - Halloween Disco
- Friday 30th October - P1-3 Halloween Parade & Nursery Spooky Songs
- Monday 2nd November - Salvation Army Carrier Bag Appeal
- Friday 6th November - First Friday
- Thursday 12th November - Deadline for Christmas Cards
- Friday 27th November - Flu Immunisation
- Saturday 28th November - Christmas Fayre
- Monday 30th November - St. Andrew's Day Mass (10am)
- Tuesday 1st December - Elfridges & Christmas Lunch
- Tuesday 8th December - P1-4 Nativity (night)
- Wednesday 9th December - P1-4 Nativity (afternoon) & P5-7 Panto (night)
- Thursday 10th December - P5-7 Panto (afternoon)
- Friday 11th December - P3 and P4 Christmas Party (afternoon)
- Monday 14th December - P5 Christmas Party (afternoon)
- Tuesday 15th December - P6 and P7 Christmas Party (afternoon)
- Wednesday 16th December - Nursery Christmas Party (morning)
- Wednesday 16th - P1 and P2 Christmas Party (afternoon)