



NEWSLETTER

Friday 9th January 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new school term at St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School. We hope that you and your families had a wonderful and restful Christmas break, filled with joy and special moments together.

It has been lovely to welcome the children back into school this week. They have returned with enthusiasm and a real readiness to learn, and we are very much looking forward to all that the new term will bring.

As the winter weather continues, we would like to remind parents and carers about the importance of the correct winter school uniform, including wearing a coat, sensible shoes and a school tie each day. Wearing uniform correctly helps to foster a sense of pride and belonging within our school community, and we thank you for your continued support with this.

We would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of good attendance. Being in school every day is vital in helping children make consistent progress in their learning, build confidence, and maintain strong friendships. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to ensuring your child attends regularly and punctually.

You may have noticed that the new school entrance is now open while we complete the final finishing touches. We hope that this new entrance will make access to the school reception easier and more welcoming for parents and families. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this period of improvement.

We would like to extend a special thank you to parents and carers for bringing children to school during the snowy conditions earlier this week. Your support and determination ensured that learning could continue, and it was greatly appreciated.

It was also a joy to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with our parish community. Sharing this special occasion together reminded us of the importance of faith, reflection, and community at the heart of our school.

Finally, we would like to wish all our families a safe, restful, and happy weekend. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School.

Kind regards,
Miss V. McDonald
Headteacher

CONTACT INFO

Office Email: sta-parents@hccmac.co.uk

Phone: 02476 596 988

Website: sta.hccmac.co.uk

Welfare: *If you need to talk to anyone about help or support please do not hesitate to contact the school.*

Email: sta_welfare@hccmac.co.uk

Phone: 02475 186 520



ATTENDANCE

Class Attendance

Reception - 91%

Y1R - 94%

Y2MW - 94%

Y3H - 97%

Y3P - 89%

Y4K - 92%

Y5P - 96%

Y5S - 94%

Y6C - 91%

Y6D - 87%



Well done

Y3H!

For being this weeks class attendance winner!

Penalty Notice Fines for School Unauthorised Absence and Lateness

You may be aware that the law has changed regarding attendance at school. We are required to follow the guidance sent to all schools from the government. In order to ensure you are up to date with the changes, we have included a brief overview of updated penalty notice fines. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

1. **FIRST OCCURANCE** The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance or lateness (after register closes) the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child, if paid within 28 days Reduced to £80 per parent, per child, if paid within 21 days.

2. **SECOND OCCURANCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)** The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term Time Leave or irregular attendance or lateness (after register closes) the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child, if paid within 28 days No reduce rate will be offered.

3. **THIRD OCCURANCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCE** The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance or lateness (after the register closes) a Penalty will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' court which can be up to: £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' court can show on a DBS certificate for a parent due to the failure in safeguarding a child's education.

10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10 WEEK PERIOD A penalty notice fine will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence (including lateness after register closed) in a rolling 10 week period. This can span different terms and academic years.

We ask for medical evidence of children being poorly (doctor's appointment proof or antibiotics) so we can attach it to your child's attendance to support no fines occurring.

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

Snowden
Nikita M
Gabriel M
T.J C
Arthikan J
Billy C
Cian D

Happy Birthday from everyone at St Augustines!!



Brilliant Awards

Y1R – Octavia
Y3H – Lois & Suruthi
Y4K – Julia D
Y5S – Nicholas & John
Y6D – Martyna W



Curious and Active

Y1 – Gabriela K

Y3 – Sayesha S & Dolcie R

Y4 – Jakub N

Y5 – Kacper M



House Points



St David

1065



St Patrick

1040



St George

990



St Andrew

990

St David	St Patrick	St George	St Andrew
1065	1040	990	990

After School Clubs

After School Clubs begin next week on Monday 12th January.

Unfortunately, due to insufficient numbers we are unable to proceed with Mindful Movement on a Monday.

All other clubs will begin on Monday 12th January.

Please note there is no choir on Tuesday 13th January.

Please keep a note of the dates for this half term.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
No Clubs	Y3-6 Choir	No Clubs	No Clubs	No Clubs
Y5-6 Football	Football fixture vs All Souls (home) No Choir Y1-2 Coding Y3-6 Dance	Y3-6 Coding Y2-4 Trampolineing Y5-6 Girls Football	Y3-4 Multi Skills Y1-2 Football Y5-6 High 5 Netball (free)	Y3-4 Football Year Rec & Year 1 Little Laces
Y5-6 Football	Y5-6 Squad Football Y3-6 Choir Y1-2 Coding Y3-6 Dance	Y3-6 Coding Y2-4 Trampolineing Y5-6 Girls Football	Y3-4 Multi Skills Y1-2 Football High 5 fixture vs C&K (away)	Y3-4 Football Year Rec & Year 1 Little Laces Y5-6 High 5 Netball
Y5-6 Football	Y5-6 Squad Football Y3-6 Choir Y1-2 Coding Y3-6 Dance	Y3-6 Coding Y2-4 Trampolineing Y5-6 Girls Football	Y3-4 Multi Skills Y1-2 Football Y5-6 High 5 Netball	Y3-4 Football Year Rec & Year 1 Little Laces
Y5-6 Football	Football fixture vs Christ the King (home) Y3-6 Choir Y1-2 Coding Y3-6 Dance	Y3-6 Coding Y2-4 Trampolineing Y5-6 Girls Football	Y3-4 Multi Skills Y1-2 Football Y5-6 High 5 Netball	Y3-4 Football Year Rec & Year 1 Little Laces
Y5-6 Football	Y5-6 Squad Football Y3-6 Choir Y1-2 Coding Y3-6 Dance	Y3-6 Coding Y2-4 Trampolineing Y5-6 Girls Football	Y3-4 Multi Skills Y1-2 Football High 5 fixture vs Holy Family (home)	Y3-4 Football Year Rec & Year 1 Little Laces Y5-6 High 5 Netball

HALF TERM

Breakfast Club and Wraparound Care

We are pleased to inform you that we currently have spaces available in our Breakfast Club and Wraparound Care.

Breakfast Club

7:45am – 8:30am – £3.50 per session

Wraparound Care

Session 1: 3:10pm – 4:15pm – £5.50

Session 2: 3:10pm – 5:45pm – £11.00

If you are interested in signing your child up or would like further information, please contact the school office.

Tel: 02476 596 988

Email: sta-parent@hccmac.co.uk



ECO

Thank you for your support during our 'Switch Off Event' in November. The results are in and across the MAC we collectively saved 79 tonnes of carbon. Well done to everybody!

The winner of our art competition to design an Energy Saving Superhero will be announced in assembly next week. Over the next week our Eco-Team will be taking part in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch.

The RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch is an annual, UK-wide citizen science project where pupils spend an hour counting birds in their school grounds and submit results to the [RSPB](#) to compare with national data and learn about local wildlife.

You can all get involved between January 23rd-25th January by taking part in the annual RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch.

Find out more and to register

[Big Garden Birdwatch](#)
DAY 21st November



ECO

Online Safety

Smart devices promise to make our lives easier. In many cases - they do, however these new technologies present risks too. Whether you're using a digital assistant to record your shopping list or you're controlling your lights through a smart system, many smart functions can be 'hacked' and controlled by someone outside your home. This guide will help you identify some of the ways you can stay alert and protect yourself.

1 KNOW THE RISKS

The success of any smart device relies on it communicating with other devices using the Internet. It's an unavoidable part of using smart devices, but it does expose you to numerous risks. Attackers could use the Internet connection to steal your data for identify fraud or to make unauthorised purchases through your devices. There is even potential for more sinister exploitation, such as child grooming or cyber-bullying.

2 WHAT IS THE INTERNET OF THINGS?

This is the term given to all the devices connected to the Internet in your home. It includes a new digital doorbell connected to your smartphone, your kettle that boils when you tell it to on your tablet or your heating that comes on when you swipe on your smart watch. The Internet of Things (IoT) is designed to make life easier, but it also opens up your home network to potential cyber-attacks. It doesn't mean you can't enjoy the benefits, but it does mean being aware of the potential negatives.

3 CHECK ENCRYPTION SETTINGS

Whenever data is sent over the Internet, it is 'encrypted'. This makes it harder to read if it's intercepted. You should look to use a strong encryption setting, such as WPA2, rather than WPA or WEP. You can check your router manual on how to do this.

4 KEEP YOUR SOFTWARE UP TO DATE

Manufacturers constantly update and improve software used in smart devices. Some will automatically alert you to an update, but not all do. To be on the safe side, it's a good idea to set reminders in your calendar. Check the manufacturer's website for any updates and run them if necessary.

5 RENAME THE 'GATEWAY' TO YOUR HOME

Your Internet router is the virtual gateway to your home network. It needs protecting. To do this, you should change the default name (the SSID) and password. You can usually find steps to do this in the instruction manual. Don't use your family name. Choose something more obscure. Make the password complicated too, using upper and lower-case letters, numbers and symbols. Do this for your router and any other smart devices connected to the Internet.

12 Top Tips To Get Smart About The DEVICES In Your Home



National Online Safety®



6 USE A SEPARATE NETWORK FOR GUESTS

If your router has a feature that allows you to set up a separate network for guests, you should use it. That way, when guests use your Wi-Fi, they won't have access to your devices.

9 TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If you ever feel something is wrong or your network is being exploited, visit the manufacturer's website or ring their technical support department. It's better to be safe than sorry.



7 SAY GOODBYE TO SIRI AND ALEXA

It's a good idea to change the activation words on your smart devices so they are unique to you and your family. This makes it that much harder for people to break into your smart devices.



8 DEACTIVATE ANY UNNECESSARY FEATURES

Though it's a fun idea, you probably don't need to control your kettle from outside the house. In fact, there are often many unnecessary features included on smart devices. Where possible, you should look to disable these. Doing so reduces the ability for people to hack your devices. When someone sees you've actively taken steps to increase security, they're less inclined to try to compromise them.



10 BUILD A WALL

You could also purchase a dedicated 'firewall' device. This is something that plugs into your network and stops cyber threats reaching your router. Some routers do have a firewall element included, but they are no replacement for the real thing. A firewall device thoroughly analyses information coming in and out of your network and helps stop malicious attacks. A security device is strongly recommended to anyone who works from home or deals with sensitive information.



11

SECURE YOUR SMARTPHONE

If you do use apps on your smartphone to control devices in your home, make sure your smartphone is secure. At the very least makes sure the pin function is enabled, as well as any biometric authentication you have. Where possible, it's also a good idea to download some anti-virus software for your smartphone too.



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REGULARLY AUDIT YOUR DEVICES AND CONSOLES

Every now and then you should check through all of your smart devices (including games consoles connected to the Internet). Turn them off at the mains and disconnect them from the Internet. In fact, it's good practice to disconnect any devices that aren't in use. It's a small thing but really does help. Even when you think a device might be in sleep mode, if it's connected to the Internet it could still be listening or streaming data.



Meet our expert

Emma was a secondary school Computer Science teacher for more than a decade. Since leaving education, she has been working in a cyber security firm delivering cyber awareness training to businesses and carrying out network testing. She is a mother of a five-year-old and has vast experience of controlling and managing how children access online services and use apps.

