



# St Augustine's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

Issue 1

September 2017

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Faith is taking the first  
step even when you  
don't see the whole  
staircase. **Martin  
Luther King, Jr.**

Pray as though  
everything depended  
on God. Work as  
though everything  
depended on you.  
**Saint Augustine**

Our Value for  
September is  
Faith

The first few weeks have been very settled with children meeting their new class teachers and other staff. The children arrived back eager to learn, looking smart and full of enthusiasm. We especially welcome those pupils and parents new to our school. We hope you will enjoy your time with us and find us a happy and supportive learning community. Our start of year Mass with Father Sam was a joyous occasion with all the children and parents celebrating the start of our new academic year. Father Sam gave a wonderful homily to the children on the importance of remaining true to Christ, attending Church and always trying their best both at home and in school.

Sunday 10th September the **Parish celebrated "International Day"** with the event being organised by the French Community. We were very fortunate with the weather which remained dry and sunny. This gave everyone the opportunity to enjoy the delicious food and mingle with each other. The children enjoyed the "pop up" slide as well as the food from across the world.

On the 12th September, **Years 5 & 2** were lucky to have a special visitor – Firefighter Jordanna from the London Fire Brigade. She reminded us of all the ways that we can prevent fires from occurring in our houses, what to do if there is a fire in our homes and the phone number to call if we see a fire nearby. Jordanna had plenty of great activities for the children to do, as well as getting some of the children to role play what would happen if there was a fire in the bedroom! She also said it was very important that everyone has at least one working smoke alarm for each floor of their house or apartment and tested it weekly. The children decided to be the people in our homes that remind our parents every week to check that their alarm is still 'beeping' and going to keep them safe. All the children were encouraged to share these important messages with their friends and families, helping to make them safer from fire in the home too. Parents, please do ask your child about what they have learnt about fire safety.

**Internet Safety –There has been a great deal in the news about children and the Internet. As parents you need to ask, "What is my child doing online?" Talk to your child about what they're up to online.** Be a part of their online life; involve the whole family and show an interest. Find out what sites they visit and what they love about them. If they know you understand they are more likely to come to you if they have any problems. **Keep up-to-date with your child's development online.** Children grow up fast and they will be growing in confidence and learning new skills daily. It's important that as your child learns more, so do you. Visit the website [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) if you need advice about Internet Safety and you child.



**Swimming on a Wednesday morning**

Autumn Yr:5    Spring Term: Yr 3    Summer Term: Yr 4

**All the children have now started the Nursery** and are settling in. They are getting used to saying 'goodbye' to mummies, daddies and carers, and realising they always come back! The children have enjoyed exploring the setting and making new friends. The children have been enjoying the fabulous weather and being outside enjoying the fresh air and all the different activities. Fred bear will shortly be joining the Nursery and will begin visiting the children's homes.



**In History Year 1** are learning about castles and the children built castles using lego, and other construction materials. The children have learnt that castles were built by royalty and were very expensive. The castles year 1 will be learning about were made from stone and were built to show the wealth and status of the nobility as well as defend their themselves and their surrounding estate. The children all decide they would like to live in a castle

**Year 2 have had a busy start to the year.** Already this year they have had a visit from the Fire Brigade to learn about the importance of having a fire escape plan and checking your smoke detectors regularly. The children are beginning to settle into their new classrooms, finding where things are stored, new books to read and how things are similar or different as the oldest in the Infant School. They are looking forward to a busy and productive year, learning new things and rising to the increased work level expected in Year 2. The children have had their first French lesson with Mrs Borgese. They thoroughly enjoyed saying 'Bonjour' and 'Bonjour, je m'appelle'.



**Last term, the children from Year 3** planted vegetables: carrots, radishes and tomatoes. This September, they were delighted to discover that their hard work had paid off and they reaped a plentiful harvest. "It was really funny to eat purple and white carrots - I didn't think they would taste the same as orange carrots, but they do!" The children were rightly proud of their success.

**Finding our feet! Reception** has settled into school very well and all children are happily finding their feet. The children are enthusiastic about learning new things and are making new friends throughout the school. They are confident in finding the toilets, carrying the trays at lunch and eating all their lunch up. The children in Reception have had a wonderful couple of weeks settling in. They have been exploring their new learning environment and making new friends. There are more photos on the Reception class blog.



### HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

5 October 2017 at 2.15

St Augustine's Church

All Welcome



**Congratulations to our newly elected School Councillors** Children's School Council is a group of children who meet regularly with Miss Maat to discuss issues within the school. To help improve the school according to the children's point of view.

To make sure each class has a platform to voice their opinions.

To discuss and raise issues.

**Year 6** Luana de Oliveira Roberts & Jakson Jeyaseelan

**Year 5** Natasha Olisa & Giovanni Okolo

**Year 4** David Adebeyejo & Amber Akabuogu

**Year 3** Curtis Abbey & Chloe Arthur-Davis

**Year 2** Isaiah Berry & Alix Noirtin

**Year 4 have settled in** extremely well this term and are working very hard across all subjects. They have enjoyed learning about the Iron Man's Challenge against the angel-space-bat-dragon, and have contributed towards a huge list of similes and metaphors to develop and enhance their independent writing during their English sessions. The children have made Ancient Greek silhouettes and are looking forward to designing and making their very own clay pots. Year 4 have also taken part in a series of democratic elections where they had to vote for new House Captains and School Council Representatives. The children are taking their roles and responsibilities very seriously and this is helping them to develop their understanding of the world and the role they play as members of the School and wider community. What a great start to the new academic year!

The children of Year 6 have been offered a fantastic opportunity to take part in the BMX Legacy Programme, provided by Access Sport. The sessions commenced on the 21st of October and the children very much looked forward to Thursday afternoon when they walked to Beckenham Place Park to the new BMX tracks. They practised their steering, braking and balancing skills and became determined to do even better on the next session.



Last Friday saw the first of many exciting ukulele lessons for Year 5. Mr Marshall taught the children a song to remember the different parts of the ukulele. Did you know that a ukulele has a body, neck and a head? The children managed to perform an open-sting 'thumb-brush' strum and are all keenly looking forward to this Friday so that they can learn more about this fantastic instrument! What the children said: "It's like a little guitar; it's so cute!" "I love the sound it makes when you strum all the strings together." "It sounds tropical." The lessons were certainly enjoyable.



Pupils from the school took part in a **disability awareness day** on Monday 18th September following a visit to the school from John McCorkell to share what inclusion means. Mr McCorkell, led a whole school assembly in which he explained to the children about the nature of his disabilities, the problems he has faced and the successes he has achieved in overcoming them; including playing wheelchair basketball and gaining a degree from university. The assembly concluded with 3 pupils from Year 5 reading prayers based on the Beatitudes which reminded the children on the importance of treating everyone equally and being aware of people's differing needs.

Mr McCorkell continued his day by leading a workshop with each class individually. This enabled them to focus in more depth on the issues raised in assembly at their level. The children took part in practical activities which gave them some understanding of what it might be like to be without sight or speech, experienced using a wheelchair, learned about sign language and the need for clear communication. All of the children learned a great deal from the experience, asked many questions and certainly gained a huge amount of awareness of the various disabilities some members of society have. Mr McCorkell provided an opportunity for everyone to experience the meaning of disability and to ask questions about disabilities. A truly memorable day.



**Children's Safety:** All adults, drivers and pedestrians alike, are requested to be vigilant outside the school. **Do not attempt to drive up to the School gates. Park further away and walk.** We all need to take responsibility for the children's safety as they walk to school.

#### Future Diary Dates: more dates will follow

4 October	2:45 Reception Curriculum Meeting
5th October	Harvest Festival 2:15pm in the Church. Own clothes day
11 October	Parents' Evening
12 October	Parents' Evening
19 October	Yr 6 to the Houses of Parliament
<b>23-27 October</b>	<b>Half term</b>
Autumn Term	6th September –20th December

**Music of the Month:** To encourage musical appreciation and awareness, each month we focus on a musician, composer or singer. During **September** the focus is Mozart.



#### Gentle Reminders:

**Hair:** Please remember sensible haircuts—no logos or symbols. Long hair must be tied back.



**Sports shoes** may be worn for PE lessons only. We expect proper school shoes for daily wear. No fashion trainers allowed. PE bags, clothes and kit should be kept at school. Please ensure your child has the correct kit blue/black shorts and plain white t-shirts and school PE bag.

**Birthday celebrations** children may bring a **small bag of** sweets to share. No cakes or party bags.

**Appointments** -Please inform the School in advance of any appointments for your child. Try to make Dentist and Doctor appointments outside school hours. Appointment cards should be presented at the school office to confirm dates and times.

**This newsletter and other links are available on our website**  
[www.staugustines.lewisham.sch.uk](http://www.staugustines.lewisham.sch.uk)