



### Statements to Live By

Week beginning: 05.09.16:	We are all special
Week beginning: 12.09.16:	I can say one good thing about myself
Week Beginning: 19.09.16	I can say how I feel.

### **HAPPY NEW SCHOOL YEAR!**

I am delighted to welcome everyone back. We have had an excellent start to our new School Year. It has been lovely to see our children arriving looking happy and smartly dressed each morning and staff are very pleased about the way they are settling in their new classes.

Thank you for the preparations you made for your child's/children's return to school. A special welcome to our Reception children and their families. They have been fantastic this week; starting to come into school by themselves, learning new routines and settling into school life. This morning they visited church in preparation for our School Mass on Sunday.

**Religious Education and Statements to Live By.** Religious Education is at the very heart of our curriculum at St. Augustine's. You can find information about this term's R.E. topics on the Parent's letter that is being sent home today. The common theme of the first topic for each class is **FAMILY**.

Each Week during the school year, we explore a different '**Statement To Live By**'. The Statements are linked to our R.E. curriculum and the Catholic life of the school. They are supported by activities in school such as Circle Time and each statement will be celebrated in prayer. The statements help children, families and staff to think about who we are, what we believe and what we hope to become. Thank you for your support as we seek to help our children grow in love and understanding of themselves and others, and of God in their lives.

The Statements will be printed at the top of each school newsletter.

**Celebrating the New School Year at Mass.** We look forward to being joined by all our children and families when the children help to lead 9.15am Mass this Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Sept. For those parents new to the school, the children sit with staff at the front of the church. Children **do not** need to wear school uniform to the Mass. This is the time of year when we present our Remembrance Shield to a member of Year 6.

I look forward to seeing everyone there.

**Y6 Residential Visit to Dukeshouse Wood Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September.**

We wish the children, Mr. McGeeney, Mrs Doyle and Mrs. Stelling a safe journey and an enjoyable visit. We will get updates on their activities each day and will post any news on the KS 2 playground notice board, the front door of the school and on the School Website.

### **Changes in School for 2016-17**

#### **Staffing**

This year we welcome Mrs Barr to Year 5, Mrs Graham to Year 1 and we welcome back Mrs Guy in Year 1. We also welcome Mr Johnson who is a trainee teacher and will be based in Y6 this term.

#### **Curriculum**

##### **Cross- Curricular topic**

Further work has been by teachers on planning to try to bring together more subjects within topics. We will also be having some whole school topic weeks.

Teachers are preparing information about behaviour rules/homework etc to send home.

##### **Specialist teaching**

Our Sport Premium Funding allows us buy some **specialist coaching and teaching for P.E.** and to offer a wider range of sports experiences for the children.

We will be joined on Tuesday afternoons by Mrs Virtue from Carmel College. She will provide some specialist P.E. teaching to Y5 and y6 who will also be having a weekly Philosophy lesson with Mr. Miller.

##### **Bikeability**

This is part of the curriculum for Year 5 during the Autumn term and is not an extra / optional activity. Separate information has been sent to Year 5 parents / carers so that children arrive with all the right equipment (especially their bikes!!). The first session takes place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

Y5 will also benefit from being part of the **Junior Neighbourhood Watch Programme** this term.

### **Achievement for All**

School is taking part in a two year programme designed to support us in raising achievement and closing any gaps in achievement between different groups of pupils. I was delighted that all staff and governors were represented at the initial launch of the programme on Monday. There will be more information for parents as the term progresses.

We will hold an information session later in the term to provide parents with more details about national and/or school developments / changes and, as always, about the ways that you can help your child; supporting his/her learning.

### **Volunteers to help in school.**

We have a number of regular volunteers to help in school but we are always keen to have more. Parents, grandparents, carers, parishioners, people gaining experience prior to or during an aspect of child care/ education training; all provide additional support for children and staff in school. This may be through helping a group with basic skills, reading with groups or individual children, helping with food technology, accompanying children to and from swimming or on other visits out of school. If you would like to help in school please leave your name at the school office.

### **After- School and Lunchtime Clubs (first half term)**

Choir

Cookery club

Football

More information to follow

### **Messages for teachers**

If you need to pass on some information about your child, at the start of the school day, please speak to the staff on duty at each of playground gates. They will ensure that the message is passed on to the class teacher. You can of course call the School Office. Voice mail is checked regularly throughout the day.

If you have a concern about your child you can usually speak briefly to the class teacher after school (apart from Tuesdays) or make an appointment to see the teacher via the school office.

### **Reminders!**

**SAFEGUARDING:** Keep toddlers **with you at all times** + away from planters and equipment, especially the climbing frame, which is for KS2 children (under adult supervision).

**Any children arriving late must be signed in by an adult at the office.**

You need to collect children at 3.25pm. Please ensure that school is informed about any early collection of children (medical appointments etc.)

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE SCHOOL HAS ACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT WHO WILL BE COLLECTING YOUR CHILD EACH DAY. PLEASE PROVIDE AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE ON THE CONTACT FORM PROVIDED AND RETURN THIS TO SCHOOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

This newsletter can be sent to you electronically. Please make sure that you have given us your correct email address. It is also vital that you let school know as soon as possible about any changes to your contact details.

### **Text Service**

The majority of parents/carers now receive information/reminders by text. If you would like to sign up to this service, please tell the school office.

<b>Money</b> Labelled in an envelope/purse etc, only on <b>MONDAYS</b> Cheques are preferable. Dinner money for this $\frac{1}{2}$ term £68.00 (£2.00 per day)	<b>Healthy morning snacks</b> R, Y 1 + Y2 have free fruit daily. KS 2 may bring in a piece of fruit or 2 <b>PLAIN</b> biscuits. no sweets/ crisps/ chocolate	<b>Parking safely</b> Please ensure that you park safely and considerately. The school car park is for staff and official visitors.
<b>Uniform</b> <b>NAMES</b> on everything please! (including shoes!)	<b>Medicines</b> Form needed available at office.	<b>Walking to school</b> Enter/leave on paths. Not through the car park gate.
<b>Water bottles</b> In Mon. Home for a deep clean on Fri. Named!	<b>Absence</b> Ring school + let us know as early as possible.	<b>Disability access and parking</b> Please contact office staff.
<b>PE bags+ kit</b> Needed every day. Leave in school until half term <b>NAMES</b> please!	<b>Appointments</b> <b>Dentist etc</b> Out of school hours if possible.	<b>Appointments with staff</b> To be made via school office
<b>Swimming</b> Year 5 Mon, Year 4 Tues, this term.	<b>Cello</b> Starting Wednesday 14th Sept.	<b>Violin</b> Starting Thursday 15th Sept.

### Prescribed Medication

#### Medicines must not be sent to school in children's bags.

Please remember that only 4 times a day prescription medication will be administered in school. This must be handed in at the school office and the appropriate form completed.

Dogs in School Grounds Dogs are prohibited from entering school grounds and buildings (with the exception of guide/assistance dogs).

### Paradise Childcare

There are currently places available in both the Playgroup and After School. Please contact Jill Parkes on 07870775136 for more information.

### Tempest Photography

Both sibling and individual photographs will be taken on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Please ensure your child is wearing correct uniform.

### 31<sup>st</sup> Darlington (St Augustine's) Brownie Unit

If you would like your child to join this group then you need to formally register using the online system. Please go to <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk> Using the tabs at the top of the page, select PARENTS, then select REGISTER YOUR DAUGHTER and follow the instructions. If you are asked for a postcode, the address of the unit is: Parish Centre, 5 Larchfield Street, Darlington. DL3 7TG. If you require any further information then please contact Mandie Young tel. 01325 285709 or mob. 07796 280125.

A list of key events for the year is being prepared and will shortly be added to the website calendar.

Best wishes

*Mrs M McCollom*

Headteacher

Responses/questions relating to newsletter items should be sent to:

[office@staugustinesacademy.or.uk](mailto:office@staugustinesacademy.or.uk)