



Statements To Live By:

Week Beg 31.10.16: I try to be just and fair.

Week Beg 07.11.16: I can tell you how I look after myself.

Learning to Lead at Mass

A special thank you to the children who took part in ministries such as welcoming and reading at the 9.15 Mass on Sunday. It is a great way for the children and families to get involved in parish life. Those children also worked with Mrs France, who prepares the flowers in church. The flower arrangements created by the children were displayed on the high altar over the weekend. Thank you to everyone who has replied to the letter asking about children's availability to take part in the ministries during this term.

November Remembrance

Poppies will be available in school after Half Term and all money raised goes to the Royal British Legion. During the month of November we always pray especially for family and friends who have died. The children add names to a 'Book of Remembrance' which is given a central place in our Liturgies.

The Feast of All Saints - 1st November

The children are understandably excited about Halloween celebrations which seem to have gained a higher profile in recent years. In school we have been trying to help the children understand about the connection between Halloween (All Hallows Eve) and the more important Christian celebration of All Saints (All Hallows). For the first time in a number of years, this Holy Day of Obligation takes place on a weekday and we will be going to Mass in church. Please let a member of staff know if you would be able walk to church with us.

Cross Country Competition Well done to all the children who represented the school at the competition yesterday. Yet again, the team returned with a number of medals and team awards. Team Bronze for Y3/4 Boys & Girls. Team Bronze for Y5 Boys. Team Gold for Y6 Girls. For the second year in a row, 10% of the team that represents Darlington in the Tees Valley Competition will come from St. Augustine's! Thanks to Mrs Bell and Mr Raper for giving up many lunchtimes to coach the team, and to the very enthusiastic and determined group of children who have devoted their time to training.

Modeshift Stars Awards

I have already shared with you that school had achieved the **Gold Modeshift Star Award** for promoting healthy, safe and sustainable travel. The lead group of pupils, along with Mrs Doyle and Mr Raper, attended an awards ceremony in Leeds this week. Not only did our school receive their Gold Star Award but also, unexpectedly received two more awards; The **'Reduced Car Use' Award** and **The Regional School Award**. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who has made an effort to cycle, scoot, or walk to school or to park and stride. This is an award for our whole school community.

Reception Class 'Stay and Play' Days. Reception Class parents have visited the School this week to spend time with their children in the setting, speak to staff and find out how the children have settled in during their first half term.

Open Day for Prospective Parents/Carers. This will be held on **Monday 7th November**. **We are holding 3 sessions: Morning/Afternoon/ Evening to try to provide more opportunities for people to visit.**

Anyone considering applying for a place in next year's Reception Class is welcome. There will be a short introductory talk and visitors will be shown around school by pupils. Senior members of staff will be available to speak to prospective parents, answer questions and provide advice on the admissions process.

After School Clubs

Due to the dark evenings After School sports clubs which take place outside will finish at half term and start again during the Spring term. Clubs next half term will include a Science Club (Y5/Y6) Ballroom Dancing (Key Stage 1), Dance Club (Key Stage 2) Board Games Club.

Book Fair The Book Fair raised £326.68. Thank you so much for your great support which models a love of reading for your children and enables school to purchase further resources. A huge thank you to parents/carers who helped to run the fair on different days. As always, it couldn't have happened without you!

Dates and Events

TODAY - Friday 21st October - school closes for HALF TERM

TONIGHT 21st October - PFA Family Disco - SOLD OUT.

1st November -All Saints Day. (Holy Day of Obligation) School attending 10.00 a.m. Mass in Church

7th November - Open Day for Prospective Parents/Carers

18th November - Children In Need Day - The Big Spotacular - Pupils to wear clothing with as many spots on as possible. More information to follow after half term.

Please also see the list of calendar events sent to every family earlier in the term.

Malawi Appeal A flyer from Sporting Futures has been sent home today requesting donations of unwanted sports clothing and equipment. Due to limited space we would ask that this is brought into school on 31.10.16 **ONLY**. It will be collected on the afternoon of this day.

Newsletter Via Email It has been an extremely busy half term and the task of inputting/checking of email addresses has taken longer than anticipated however it is hoped that it will be completed very soon.

Social Media If you have concerns about your child's work or progress please speak directly to the class teacher. Posts on social media can be misinterpreted and can damage the reputation of teachers and schools.

Local Management Board

Our School Governors met last week to discuss the results from last year and the school's improvement priorities for this academic year.

Early Years and Key Stage 2 results were again very good compared to national figures but as always we want to continue to raise standards.

Priorities this year are:

Improving outcomes for children at the end of Key Stage One

Helping more children to achieve the higher standards in Reading,

Continuing to develop the use of Talk4Writing strategies across the school.

Working towards the Rights Respecting School Award.

Mr Mark Dimelow was elected as the new Chair of Governors and two new Foundation Governors are in the process of being appointed by the diocese.

Information Session We will be holding an information session for parents after half term. Please join us to hear more about improvement priorities for the school and the many ways that parents/carers can support the work of staff and governors. In order to try to meet the needs of busy families we will hold the information session twice:

Wednesday 9th November 2.15 p.m. to 3.15 p.m. - for parents who are collecting from school

Tuesday 15th November at 6.30 p.m. - to try to accommodate working parents.

Governors Fund Contributions

Families can contribute a regular amount to this fund which supports improvement priorities for the school.

Most recently the Governors Fund has helped with the cost of improvements to the Key Stage 2 quad, making it again a safe and attractive space which can be used for dining in the fine weather and for group and class activities. Please contact the School Office for more information on how to make single or regular contributions.

Parent Friends Association

The contributions made by parents/carers through their support for PFA events also helps us to keep improving all aspects of school life for all pupils. Please think about getting involved with the PFA; helping to plan and support events. The committee are very keen to welcome some new helpers.

Star Radio

A group of pupils were interviewed for Star Radio and St. Augustine's will be the 'School of the Week' for the Breakfast show at 7.30am & again at 4pm during the week beginning 14.11.16.

Wishing you a happy and safe half term break.

Mrs M McCollom

Headteacher