



# St Augustine's Academy Newsletter

## 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024



### Headteacher's Message



### Easter Service

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,



Easter is now upon us and what a beautiful Easter Garden our Gardening Club has created with Mrs Babiak! The garden has been displayed in our reception area during the last few days and has been gifted to St Augustine's church where it will be displayed as part of their Easter Sunday celebrations. Thank you Gardening Club.



We were also delighted to receive a wonderful gift of Easter eggs, for all the children, from the residents of Sandown Avenue. We would like to thank Cllr Nicholas Kortarski and Governing Board member Bernie McNaughton for organising this kind donation. The eggs were much appreciated, and enjoyed.

We hope you enjoy reading all of the exciting news in today's newsletter. It really has been a busy few days. We wish you all a very happy and blessed Easter and look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

**Best wishes, Amanda Howes - Headteacher**



What a wonderful Easter service our pupil worship leaders and Mrs Turner created for us today. The whole school gathered in Forest school to sing, pray and listen to the Easter story which was beautifully retold by the children. We learnt about the message of hope that Easter brings and together, created an enormous sun from sticks and daffodils. Our wild worships are always the highlights of our school calendar and we are sure to remember this special service throughout the Easter days ahead.

### Goodbye Mrs Simpson

We would like to say a fond farewell and thank you to Mrs Simpson who is leaving our school to start a new adventure. We are sure you join with us in wishing her all the very best for the future.



**'Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.' Matthew 5:16**



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## Year 3 – Doodle Art Presentation



Year 3 presented their Doodle Art learning to their parents and carers this week. As well as sharing their knowledge of artists they have learnt about, such as Sam Cox and Lei Melendres, they also showcased their artwork. The afternoon ended with children, parents and carers creating their own piece of Doodle Art together. It really was a creative afternoon.

## Year 3 Wildlife Trust Visit



As part of their Science topic about Rocks, Year 3 took part in an exciting Science lesson led by the Wildlife Trust.

The lesson began with class-based learning where the children learnt about different types of rocks and investigated casts of real fossils. Using clay, they then made replica fossils of their own.

The final part of the lesson was to visit Blows Downs to look at the landscape and the rocks found there. The children had a very interesting, informative and enjoyable day.

## Year 5 Bikeability



5 of our Year 5 pupils took part in Bikeability this week and we are delighted to announce that they all passed their Bikeability Level 2 award. The children were praised for their sensible behaviour and their positive attitudes. We would like to say a huge, "Congratulations!" to all of you.



## NSPCC Workshops



Years 2, 5 and 6 have taken part in 'Speak out. Stay safe.' Workshops led by the NSPCC and the whole school have taken part in a special NSPCC assembly. The children learnt about the Childline services available to them and important safeguarding messages. Speak out. Stay safe!

## Young Artist Competition Winner



"Congratulations!" to our 'Young Artist' Competition winner pictured above, who has her drawing of her 'Lovable Family' printed on the front cover of the book. We would also like to say "Well Done!" to all the children in EYFS who had their pictures published. We are so proud of you all.

## Forest School Values Board



The last of our Forest School boards, funded the Jane Carts Trust, is now in place. As soon as you enter through our Forest School gate, we now have an important visual reminder of our school's values. "Thank you!" Mr Smart for creating the board and Jane Carts Trust for the funding.

## Kids in Action

COME AND JOIN US AT KIDS IN ACTION FOR AN EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS

<b>Tuesday 2nd April</b>	<b>Tuesday 9th April</b>
<b>Thursday 4th April</b>	<b>Thursday 11th April</b>
<b>Saturday 6th April</b>	<b>Saturday 13th April</b>

**10AM-3PM**  
Kids in Action Unit 26 Apex Business Centre, Boscombe Road, Dunstable, LU5 4SB

Please call 01582 477762 for more information

No need to book - just turn up and join in the fun!!!

## Celebration

### CONGRATULATIONS to the following children.

#### ✚ Christian Values ✚

Reception – Isla-Rose  
Year 1 – Cameron  
Year 2 – Ayla-Rose  
Year 3 – Ellie  
Year 4 – Miryam  
Year 5 – Carl  
Year 6 – William



#### 🇬🇧 British Values 🇬🇧

Reception – Eron  
Year 1 – Semehal  
Year 2 – Josh  
Year 3 – Eliezer  
Year 4 – Courtney  
Year 5 – Alessia  
Year 6 – Stephen



#### ✳️ Effort ✳️

Reception – Louis  
Year 1 – Natalia  
Year 2 – Maysa  
Year 3 – Charlie  
Year 4 – Kacper  
Year 5 – Devansh  
Year 6 – Willow

#### ✍️ Handwriting ✍️

Reception – David  
Year 1 – Jax  
Year 2 – Evie  
Year 3 – Akshoor  
Year 4 – George  
Year 5 – Saoirse  
Year 6 – Mercy



#### 📖 100 Reads 📖

Reception – Philip, Gwen  
Year 1 – Harmony  
Year 2 – Calum, Max. Marconi  
Year 3 – Harry, David, Antoni  
Year 4 – Lili, Angel-May, Lily, Riley, Samiksh, Riley  
Year 5 – Laelia, Akila, Armel, Oscar  
Year 6 – Praise, Mercy



#### 📖 200 Reads 📖

Reception – Philip  
Year 3 – Orion  
Year 4 – David, Sabina, Amy  
Year 6 – Karla, Matylda

#### 📖 300 Reads 📖

Year 4 – Amy  
Year 6 – Stephen, Sophia, Deon, Bathujan, Santiago, Angelo, Carlos



#### 📖 400 Reads 📖

Year 3 – Archie

#### 12 x 12 times tables

Year 3 – Antoni, Filip, Archie  
Year 4 – Samiksh, Amy, Jesse, Roman



## Learning the 'ar' Sound in EYFS



Children in EYFS have been learning the 'ar' sound. They made a huge star on the carpet and then sang the song, 'You are a star!' by Fischy Music. We agree. You are all stars!

## Red Nose Day Competition Winners



Well done to the winners of our balloon 'Keepy Uppy' challenge for Red Nose Day. The children pictured above each achieved the highest score in their classes. Well done!

## Diary Dates

Wed. 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Last Day of Term
Mon. 15 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	Children Return to School SWIMMING POOL ON SITE FOR 3 WEEKS (Swimming kit needs to be in school every day.)
Thu. 18 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	EYFS Vision Screening
Mon. 22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr.	Vocabulary Velociraptor Art Week Class Photographs

Sometimes we have to change diary dates due to circumstances beyond our control. Please keep checking the school diary regularly for updates.





# FORGIVENESS



**‘Just as the Lord has  
forgiven you, so you must  
also forgive others.’**

**Colossians 3.13**



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

### SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

### NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

### GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

### PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

### AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/what-are-the-risks-of-group-chats> | <https://www.nos.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/look-at-media-chat-apps/>



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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DIVE INTO A WONDEROUS UNDERWATER WORLD!



### JUNGLE

#### EXPLORERS

SUNDAY  
24TH MARCH

10.45AM, 1.15PM & 2.45PM

### DESERT

#### WANDERERS

SUNDAY  
12TH MAY

10.45AM, 1.15PM & 2.45PM

### OCEAN

#### DIVERS

SUNDAY  
7TH JULY

10.45AM, 1.15PM & 2.45PM



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK,  
PLEASE CALL US ON [01525 630783](tel:01525630783)  
EMAIL US AT [info@fullhouse.org.uk](mailto:info@fullhouse.org.uk)  
OR SCAN THE QR CODE.

PLEASE NOTE: BOOKING IN ADVANCE IS ESSENTIAL



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# THURSDAY FOOTBALL SESSIONS AFTER SCHOOL



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TOWN COUNCIL

COME AND HAVE  
A KICK ABOUT

BRING YOUR FRIENDS  
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CHOCOLATE AND  
PLAY A **FREE SESSION**  
OF FOOTBALL FUN!

Thursdays in March  
**Bennett Memorial  
Recreation ground**  
3.30 PM TO 5.30 PM

Detached youth workers and  
football professionals are  
supporting the sessions.

Please note, these sessions can be subject to  
cancellation due to unforeseen circumstances.

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*For more information please get in touch.*

*Christinamarksschoolofperforming  
arts@hotmail.com  
07525850232.*

*<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/holiday-activities>*



**BOOK NOW**

## **SING DANCE ACT**

**Performing Arts Easter extravaganza**

**Obtain your E-voucher from your child's school.**

**Larkrise  
Academy  
Linslade  
Lower School  
Watling Lower  
School**



**10am-3pm Provides FREE meals and spectacular performing arts provision within Central beds.**

**2nd-5th April 8th-11th April**







For  
Ages  
**8-18**

**£25  
PER DAY**

# EASTER Activity Camp

## Activities include

- ♦ football
- ♦ small animal care
- ♦ VR experience
- ♦ cooking
- ♦ music
- ♦ and much more

## Location

Weatherfield Academy –  
LU61AF Brewers Hill Road

## Week One

Tuesday 2nd April –  
Thursday 4th April



## Week Two

Tuesday 9th April –  
Thursday 11th April



Please email  
**[info@disabilityinaction.co.uk](mailto:info@disabilityinaction.co.uk)**  
for booking enquiries



# Supporting Young Minds

Central  
Bedfordshire

## A new resource for parents and carers

Your one-stop hub for guidance,  
advice, and support on young people's  
mental and emotional wellbeing in  
Central Bedfordshire.



[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/resources-for-parents-carers](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/resources-for-parents-carers)



**B Discover Bucks  
Museum**  
& Roald Dahl Children's Gallery

Discover Bucks Museum  
Church Street  
Aylesbury HP20 2QP  
discoverbucksmuseum.org  
01296 331441

# Easter Holiday Activities

**29 March - 14 April 2024**

Join us for our Egg-cellent Easter Craft Activities, take part in our new exhibition **This Fractured Land** inspired art classes, celebrate Eid with paper craft, step back in time to Victorian Bucks and make your own paper pet for National Pet Day! Plus enjoy our Easter Egg Trail on every day of the holidays.

For more event details, charges and to book please scan the QR code or visit [discoverbucksmuseum.org](https://discoverbucksmuseum.org)

