



Zachary H-M

Levi B-R

Alessia L

Oscar Mc

Lucy C

Essie B

Josie B

George L

Sebastian M

Jasper B

Emma Mc

Leonardo L

Sebastian M-T

Oliver B-Z

Matteo L

Luca S

Arabella A

Luna C

Alana M

Lola Mc

Sophia N

George R

Diary Dates

Thursday 1st December	Mental Elf Run-sponsored event Year 4 make their First Reconciliation 6pm
Friday 2nd December	Own clothes day-children to bring a bottle for the Christmas Fair
Tuesday 6th December	Key Stage 1 Nativity 9.30am & 1.45pm
Wednesday 7th December	Visit to Middlesbrough Theatre-Reception-Year 6
Thursday 8th December	Early Years Nativity 9.30am & 1.45pm
Friday 9th December	Storytime with Santa-9-12 Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch Christmas Fair 3pm-5pm
Sunday 11th December	Year 4 Middlesbrough Town Centre-Reindeer Parade- <i>details to follow</i>
Monday 12th December	EYFS Christmas Party
Tuesday 13th December	Year 5 & 6 Christmas Party
Wednesday 14th December	Year 3 & 4 Christmas Party
Thursday 15th December	KS2 Carol Concert-St Mary's Cathedral 1.30pm-Families invited Year 1 & 2 Christmas Party
Monday 18th December-Tuesday 3rd January	Christmas Holiday-Return to school Wednesday 4th January 2023

School Website

Please log on to our school website, all information, copies of letters and newsletters are easily accessible. www.staugustines.npcat.org.uk
You can also follow all our latest news on Twitter: @StAugustinesSc1 and on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/St-Augustines-Catholic-Primary-School



Christmas Lunch

We will be having Christmas lunch on **Friday 9th December**. If your child doesn't usually have a hot meal they are welcome to join us on that day-please ring Mrs Whittaker in the school office to book lunch for your child-payment needs to be via ParentPay, £2.20.
Please contact Mrs Whittaker by Friday 2nd December so that our kitchen staff know how many children they are catering for.

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School Newsletter Part of Nicholas Postgate Academy Trust



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December 2022



Advent-a time for getting ready

Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation of the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Advent comes from the Latin word meaning 'coming' where the birth of Jesus gives us great joy in our lives.

This week we lit the candle of Hope and said prayers for everyone in our school, parish, trust communities and beyond that they find hope and strength during the ongoing challenging times and know that Jesus's light shines for all of us.

We talked about how hard waiting can be and what we should be doing at this time of waiting to prepare for Jesus's birthday.

Remember that Jesus is the reason for this season.

Have a happy and holy Christmas.

Mrs Rehbohm

Performances

This year sees a return to normality in school. We are having two Early Years & two Key Stage One performances during the school day. We are limiting numbers to two tickets per family per performance-you are welcome to wear masks when attending.

To allow a wider reach for our Key Stage Two families we have joined with St Gerard's for a Carol Concert to take place at St Mary's Cathedral on Thursday 15th December at 1.30pm (the original date was changed by the Cathedral music team). The size of the Cathedral allows more people to attend at once.



School Attendance

Attendance is still incredibly important to us; sadly we have not yet hit our whole school target of **97%**; so far attendance this year is **95.5%**.

After all of the missed school children have had we must really encourage families to take holidays outside of term time and ensure children are in everyday and on time where possible.

We would also ask that families are honest with absence reasons. We have a number of families who go away for a long weekend but inform school their child is unwell. Children then return to school feeling uncomfortable about lying to their teacher and friends; we would never want a child to feel the need to lie or keep secrets in this way-we encourage openness and honesty from our whole school community and we ask that you support us in this.



Reception	98%
Year 1	95%
Year 2	95.3%
Year 3	96.8%
Year 4	98%
Year 5	91.9%
Year 6	94.8%



Sporting Superstars

Well done!

We have had lots of success in our recent NPCAT Sporting Events-we have come second in Year 5/6 Hockey and second in Year 3/4 & Year 5/6 Athletics.

Our Trust Sports Leaders have commented on the excellent behaviour and sportsmanship the children competing have exhibited. We are so proud of the children who have represented St Augustine's so beautifully!



Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 9th December

We are not asking for donations this year as we feel we have asked for a lot of money over the last few weeks and we are very aware that money is tight for everyone at this time of year. Instead we will be wearing our Christmas jumpers instead of our school jumpers and having lots of festive fun in class; as well as having our delicious Christmas lunch prepared by Sarah & our wonderful kitchen team. If you have any festive table decorations you no longer use we would be very grateful.

Staff will be donating to the James Cook Cardiac Unit instead of buying Christmas cards this year-we have posters displayed around school if you wish to donate to this cause too.



December is the month of Advent

This month our Mini Vinnies and Chaplaincy team have set up Advent themed prayer spaces in our school Chapel, they will be used by children from nursery to Year 6.

We are also sending home travelling cribs, these are for you to set up at home and share the activity with your family.

We would love to see any photographs you take.

Every class also has a crib scene displayed in their sacred space in classrooms allowing children the opportunity for quiet reflection.



PTFA Fundraising



This year we are able to resume our usual Christmas Fair; this is a huge fundraising event for us. After the disruption of Covid, our PTFA bank account is very depleted-we rely on these funds to help reduce the cost of school trips by subsidizing transport. We are also able to use these funds to buy treats for the children, new books for the library and classrooms, as well as craft resources etc.

This **Friday 2nd December** we have asked all children to wear their **own clothes and bring in a bottle** for our bottle tombola.

On **Friday 9th December** we will be having a visit from Santa!! He will be reading Christmas stories to each class with his special elf helpers. We ask that all children bring in **£2.00** on that day and they will bring home a little gift. He will also be attending our **Christmas Fair** later that day-there will be a free grotto visit where you can take your own photographs.

Any donations of raffle prizes are always gratefully appreciated.

Thank you to all of our families for your generosity!



Cause Hampers

In December 1987 the first 25 hampers from the CAUSE Christmas Hamper Campaign were delivered.

One of our school governors and founder, Pat McBride, tells how it all began; "

The inspiration for what I and so many others now do was a pastoral council meeting when a young mother called Carol spoke about the impact of her husband being unemployed. She told us how they had sunk into depths of despair but had been lifted out of it by acts of kindness and love. That year I worked with pupils at Newlands School, where I was teaching, and got together 25 hampers."

What makes the CAUSE Christmas Hamper Campaign so unique is that although the families remain anonymous, the family dynamics are passed on to those who prepare the hamper which allows it to be personalised to the needs of that particular family.

The Hamper Campaign is now active in over 22 schools across Teesside with this number rising annually as past pupils introduce it into their schools, workplaces and homes.

This year we are collecting for 7 families across Teesside; each year group has been assigned a family. We are collecting gifts and food to help make a family's Christmas better. If you know of any families in our school who would benefit from support please get in touch with Mrs Rehbohm or Mrs Nicholson.

All donations need to be in school by Friday 2nd December.

Thank you for your support so far.