ST AUGUSTINE'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY
27
NOV 2026

LIVE • LOVE • LEARN WITH JESUS

WEEK FOUR • AUTUMN TWO

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

A very special week at St Augustine's! On Friday, we were delighted to welcome Bishop David Evans for a memorable visit celebrating our faith and care for God's creation. Our Year 6 children worked with dedication to prepare our beautiful Laudato Si' Garden, reminding us that caring for our world is an expression of our faith.

Across school we have also reflected on National Tree Week, and we were delighted to welcome two visitors from School of Sanctuary for Monday's assembly. Thank you to everyone who has helped make our school such a welcoming and caring community.

Mrs M Stanley • Headteacher

FAMILY FOCUS • ADVENT BEGINS

This Sunday, 29 November, marks the beginning of Advent: four weeks of preparation, hope and prayer as we look towards Christmas. In the busyness of December, let us make time for kindness, reflection and the true meaning of the season.

Thank you to the two School of Sanctuary visitors who joined us on Monday to lead a special assembly. Their visit reminded us of the importance of welcome, compassion and belonging.

Our Reverse Advent Calendar will support Father Hudson's Caritas. Together, even small gifts can make a difference.

Mrs R Warren • Interim Deputy Headteacher

THE WEDNESDAY WORD THIS WEEK IS PRAYER

Wednesday 25 November • First Sunday of Advent (Year B) • Mark 13:33–37



THE GOSPEL • STAY AWAKE AND BE READY!

Jesus describes a master leaving home and putting servants in charge. The doorkeeper must keep watch because nobody knows when the master will return. Jesus teaches us to be ready to welcome Him — through prayer, care and kindness.

During Advent, prayer keeps our hearts awake. We can listen to God, give thanks and pray for others.

PRAY

Jesus, help us make time to pray. Keep our hearts open as Advent begins. Amen.

REFLECT

Where do you like to pray? Who needs our prayers this week?

ACT

Spend a few quiet minutes praying and share a small act of kindness.

FAMILY CHALLENGE • Read the Gospel, then name one blessing and one person you will pray for.

"Prayer is the best gift of love you can give anyone you love." — St Teresa of Calcutta •

Wednesday Word family activities

THE ST AUGUSTINE'S FAMILY HUB

PRACTICAL • CLEAR • CONNECTED • HERE FOR EVERY FAMILY

"Here to listen • Here to help • Here for you"

★ ATTENDANCE CHAMPIONS

Every school day matters! Our school target remains 97%, and punctuality means being here before 8.50am.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: 94%
THIS WEEK'S WINNING CLASS: Year 4

Seven pupils from each of our Key Stage 2 classes enjoy our special Friday lunch table and an allergy-aware treat.

Our KS2 **cinema attendance reward is on Tuesday 15 December** — there is not long left to qualify!

End-of-term prize draw: £50, £25 and £10 vouchers, plus a separate parent/carer draw. Pupils with genuine medically evidenced absence and improved attendance can also be considered fairly.

Finding mornings difficult? Please contact Mrs Warren confidentially so we can help you and your child.

★ SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

ONLINE GAMING & MESSAGING: WHO IS YOUR CHILD TALKING TO?

- Check which games and messaging apps your child uses.
- Review age ratings, privacy and friend settings.
- Remind children never to share personal details or photographs with strangers.
- Report unwanted messages, bullying or requests for secrecy.
- Keep devices in shared spaces and talk openly about worries.

Children should always know that they can tell a trusted adult, even if they have made a mistake online.



FREE BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club is FREE for all children and opens at 8.15am each school day.

Please do not bring children before 8.15am — there are no staff available to supervise them earlier.

❄ WINTER WEATHER REMINDER

Please send children with a warm, clearly named coat every day. Name hats, gloves and scarves too. Wellington boots are welcome in wet weather, but children need dry shoes or pumps to change into indoors for comfort and safety.

FAMILY HELP • ATTENDANCE • WELLBEING • EARLY SUPPORT

For a confidential conversation, email enquiry@staugust.bham.sch.uk or contact the school office on 0121 554 5069.

CELEBRATING LEARNING

EVERY CHILD • EVERY GIFT • EVERY DAY

NURSERY

Our youngest learners have been having a magical time exploring their new **Meg and Mog role-play area!** Inspired by the much-loved stories, the children have been using their imaginations, developing language skills and building friendships through creative play. What wonderful little storytellers!

RECEPTION

The children continue to explore early sounds, stories and numbers, showing curiosity and developing the routines that help them flourish.

YEAR 1

Year 1 have been building confidence as readers, writers and thoughtful friends. Well done for approaching learning with such enthusiasm!

YEAR 2

Year 2 have been working on careful explanations and teamwork, demonstrating growing confidence in sharing their ideas.

YEAR 3

Year 3 have been enthusiastic learners, showing curiosity and a willingness to try new challenges. We are proud of their positive attitudes.

YEAR 4

Year 4 continue to demonstrate perseverance and independence, taking pride in the progress they are making across the curriculum.

YEAR 5

Year 5 have been considering how they can show responsibility, respect and care for others and for the world around them.

YEAR 6

What a week for Year 6! They have prepared our Laudato Si' Garden and enjoyed Wednesday's Puzzle Club, putting teamwork, patience and problem-solving into practice.

LUNCHTIME CLUBS • FRIENDSHIP, LEARNING AND FUN!

Lunchtime Puzzle Club with Mrs Warren • Wednesday



Our Wednesday Puzzle Club was full of concentration and cooperation! Year 6 tackled colourful jigsaws and shared ideas, discovering that patience and perseverance help solve even tricky challenges.

SCHOOL OF SANCTUARY

Thank you to the two visitors from School of Sanctuary who joined us on Monday and led a special assembly. Their important message encouraged children to think about welcome, friendship and kindness.

GOOD NEWS FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL!

Lindow Community Primary School in Cheshire has won a Wilder School Award after pupils helped plant 125 native trees. What an inspiring example of caring for nature — just like our own young gardeners!

Read the inspiring story • The Mersey Forest

NATIONAL TREE WEEK • CARING FOR CREATION

Our pupils have been learning why trees matter for wildlife and the world around us. Year 6 have put these ideas into action in our Laudato Si' Garden.

FAMILY CHALLENGE: Spot three different trees on a walk this weekend!

A VERY SPECIAL VISIT FROM BISHOP DAVID EVANS

FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER • ST AUGUSTINE'S LAUDATO SI' GARDEN

SMALL HANDS, BIG HEARTS • GROWING FAITH, HOPE AND OUR COMMON HOME

Our Year 6 children have worked alongside Mrs Warren, with a helping hand from Mr Crawford, to prepare the beautiful Laudato Si' Garden. They have dug, planted, tidied and transformed this space with pride and determination, putting Pope Francis' call to care for our common home into action.



REAL SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS • Our Year 6 gardeners working together to prepare the soil, plants and beds.

A TREE OF HOPE

Bishop David joined pupils to plant our school-purchased Japanese flowering cherry — Prunus nipponica 'Ruby' — in the Laudato Si' Garden. This special occasion celebrates our commitment to caring for creation; its spring blossoms will remind us of faith, hope and renewal.



A WELCOME TO REMEMBER

Our children prepared a musical welcome, including Garin on the dhol and songs from our young flautists. Bishop David spent time with pupils during his visit, and our school presented him with a commemorative glass award as a sincere thank-you.









Bishop David joins Year 6 for the planting of our flowering cherry.





Our pupils with Bishop David and his commemorative glass award.



Thank you, Bishop David, for your inspiration and encouragement. May faith, hope and love continue to blossom at St Augustine's.

WELCOME TO ADVENT 2026

FOUR WEEKS OF HOPE • PEACE • JOY • LOVE

ADVENT BEGINS SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER

Advent means “coming”. For four Sundays we prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus through prayer, patience and helping others. On Sunday 29 November, we light the first Advent candle: HOPE.

WHY AN ADVENT WREATH?

Its circle reminds us that God’s love never ends. The evergreens represent hope and life; three candles are purple, and one is pink for the joyful third Sunday.

THIS WEEK’S FAMILY IDEA

Pray for somebody who needs hope. If lighting a candle at home, always do so safely with an adult.

OUR ADVENT WREATH



MEET ST ANDREW • SAINT OF THE WEEK

Feast Day: Monday 30 November



St Andrew was a fisherman and one of Jesus’ first disciples. He listened when Jesus called him and helped bring others to know Him. He reminds us that even small acts of courage, welcome and friendship can help us follow Jesus.

SAINTLY CHALLENGE: Invite somebody to join in, make a new friend or share an act of kindness.

WEEK 1 • HOPE

29 Nov • A light that reminds us to trust in God.

WEEK 2 • PEACE

6 Dec • Bring kindness and calm to others.

WEEK 3 • JOY

13 Dec • Find joy in sharing and giving.

WEEK 4 • LOVE

20 Dec • Show love as Christmas draws near.

ADVENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus, fill our hearts with hope. Help us wait with love and share kindness. Amen.

CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

KEEP THIS PAGE HANDY • ALL THE IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

MON 30 NOV	Meet the Lion Class begins across school – PE and PSHE with Mr Berry.
FRI 4 DEC	**SCHOOL CLOSED – STOCMAC staff CPD and training day.**
TUE 8 DEC	KS1 Christmas Performance – 9.30am.
THU 10 DEC	KS1 Christmas Performance – 9.30am.
THU 10 DEC	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day – £1 donation.
FRI 11 DEC	Reverse Advent Own-Clothes Friday – optional 50p or non-perishable food donation for Father Hudson's Caritas.
TUE 15 DEC	KS2 attendance cinema reward.
WED 16 DEC	Children and staff Christmas dinner; Christmas raffle draws.
THU 17 DEC	Christmas dinner for Nursery children attending in the second half of the week.
FRI 18 DEC	Whole-school Christmas Fun Day and School Disco.
FRI 18 DEC	Reverse Advent Own-Clothes Friday – optional 50p or non-perishable food donation for Father Hudson's Caritas.

FAMILY FOOD & GIFT HAMPER

Win a wonderful Christmas hamper packed with food and gifts!

£1 for a strip of FIVE raffle tickets.

The draw is Wednesday 16 December.

100-SQUARE CUDDLY TOY RAFFLE

Choose your lucky number and be in with a chance of winning a BIG cuddly toy!

£1 per numbered square.

The draw is Wednesday 16 December.

All raffle proceeds support the St Augustine's School Fund. Thank you for your generosity!

MEET THE LION CLASS • GET SET BE THE CHANGE

From Monday 30 November, Mr Berry will lead activities across school helping pupils explore disability inclusion, fairness, teamwork and how we can make sure everyone can take part. Every child belongs!

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR • HELPING FATHER HUDSON'S CARITAS

On Friday 11 and 18 December, children may wear their own clothes. Families who wish to give can bring 50p or one non-perishable food item to help people facing hardship. Donations are voluntary; every child can take part.

ADVENT KINDNESS CHALLENGE

During these busy weeks, look for one simple way to share hope: invite someone to join in, thank a helper or donate to Father Hudson's Caritas if you can. Remember, giving is always voluntary and every child is welcome at our celebrations.

FAMILY INFORMATION & IMPORTANT NOTICES

WELLBEING • NURSERY PLACES • ADMISSIONS

COMPASS BIRMINGHAM IS BACK IN SCHOOL!

We are delighted that Compass Birmingham Mental Health Support Team (MHST) is returning to school. Parents may request support or discuss a referral for children experiencing worries, anxiety, low mood or difficulties managing emotions. The team may also offer guidance to parents, depending on the child's needs.

To discuss a referral confidentially, email Mrs Warren at r.warren@staugust.bham.sch.uk. Further information about the support and referral process will be shared as soon as we receive it.

NURSERY PLACES AVAILABLE • JOIN OUR SCHOOL FAMILY

A happy start for 3- and 4-year-olds



15 funded hours for all 3- and 4-year-olds, and up to 30 funded hours for eligible families. All faiths and backgrounds are welcome. Call 0121 554 5069 or email enquiry@staugust.bham.sch.uk to enquire or book a visit.

ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION • 2028/2029

Consultation runs until 4 January 2027

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School is consulting on proposed changes to its admissions policy for the 2028/2029 academic year, specifically the oversubscription criteria. Families are invited to review the draft policy on the school website.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE PROPOSED ADMISSIONS POLICY

ATTEND • READ • PRAY • BE KIND • EVERY DAY

SUPPORT WHEN YOU NEED IT

If your family is finding things difficult with attendance, food, housing or wellbeing, please contact us. We can listen, offer advice and help you explore appropriate support.

NO QUESTION TOO SMALL

Not sure which service could help? Ask for a confidential call with Mrs Warren through the school office or email enquiry@staugust.bham.sch.uk.

FAMILY LEARNING • READ, DISCOVER & GROW

NEW LINKS AND FUN CHALLENGES FOR THE WEEK

READING CORNER

Ten minutes of reading each evening builds confidence and imagination. After reading, ask your child: What surprised you? Which character would you like to meet? What might happen next?

FAMILY CHALLENGE: Read together, discover two exciting words and use them in a sentence.



MATHS MATTERS

Maths is everywhere — counting change, measuring ingredients or spotting patterns! Five to ten minutes of practice can make a difference.

FAMILY CHALLENGE: Solve five mental maths questions, then explain how you know your answers are correct.

Try the quick maths links below:

- **Primary Maths Games**
- **Daily 10**
- **Hit the Button**
- **Times Tables Rock Stars**



READ WRITE INC • VIRTUAL CLASSROOM AT HOME

Five short clickable activities for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Click the numbers below to open the activities. Please enjoy a few minutes of daily phonics practice together!

RECEPTION: 1 2 3 4 5

YEAR 1: 1 2 3 4 5

YEAR 2: 1 2 3 4 5

STAR VOCABULARY • FIVE WONDERFUL WORDS

Advent • hope • caring for creation

ANTICIPATION

Looking forward to something.

"We wait with anticipation for Christmas."

STEWARDSHIP

Caring for God's world.

"Gardening shows stewardship."

NURTURE

Helping something to grow.

"We nurture plants with water and care."

REVERENCE

Showing deep respect.

"We listen with reverence during prayer."

RENEWAL

A fresh beginning.

"Spring brings renewal to the garden."

FAMILY CHALLENGE • Use three of our new words in conversation this weekend!

ST AUGUSTINE'S FAMILY HUB • CHRISTMAS TRAVEL SUPPORT

FREE BUS TRAVEL FOR PARENTS THIS CHRISTMAS!

A helpful opportunity for eligible parents, guardians and carers across the West Midlands.



APPLICATIONS OPEN: MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER – SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2026

Eligible parents and carers can apply for two weeks of free bus travel. Scan the QR code on the original campaign poster to apply. Eligibility criteria apply; successful applicants will receive instructions by email after applications close.

We hope this helps families make the most of the Christmas holidays!