



St. Austin's Catholic Primary School – A Voluntary Catholic Academy
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 Email: admin@sa.bkcat.co.uk



Interim Headteacher: Mr. John Molyneux **Chair of Academy Council: Mrs. Michelle Selway**

Friday 16th October

Our Virtue to live by is: Thankfulness

We show God that we are thankful to Him by cherishing the gifts of his creation.



Keeping EVERYONE safe

When collecting and dropping off your child, please remember:

FACE SPACE PACE



Wear a mask or face visor



Keep your distance and give others space to pass



Leave the area quickly as soon as you drop off / collect your child – give others space



THANK YOU

Thank you to the parents who are remembering to wear a face mask when collecting their children at the end of the school day. We continue to ask ALL parents to wear one when on site.

Remote Learning

In last week's newsletter we said that we would be sharing our plans for remote learning with you. Representatives from schools across our Academy Trust are working on a BKCAT Remote Learning Policy. Once this is complete we will share this along with our school Remote Learning Plan. Between now and half-term our current arrangements remain in place. We will provide work for any individual children absent from school due to having to isolate in the form of either a paper pack or work on Google Classrooms. In the event we have to close a bubble, parents will be sent specific details of how remote learning will operate.

Parent and Teacher Consultations

With the increasing need to maintain social distancing, we have been establishing plans for our forthcoming parent's evenings. We aim to continue to keep you all updated on your child's progress, strengths and areas for improvement. This term we will be delivering parents evening remotely. These will all take place during the first week back after the half-term holiday via telephone calls. There will be more information coming very shortly, so please look out for this in your e-mails.

Staffing News

Mrs. Velayudhan will be leaving St. Austin's at the end of December. Mrs. Velayudhan joined us in September 2016 and has worked tirelessly to support the school in its continued efforts to raise standards and provide the best possible opportunities for all children. She has been our Key Stage 1 Leader, Y2 Teacher and more recently, one of our Interim Assistant Headteachers. I know that she will be greatly missed by staff, parents and children.

We have begun the recruitment process and it is our intention to ensure we have a teacher in place from the beginning of January to teach our Y2V class. We will keep parents informed of developments in due course.

School Photographs (6th November)

Our School Photographs company (Braiswick) will be in school on Friday 6th November. All children will have an individual photograph taken on this day. Please make sure your child is dressed smartly wearing their full school uniform (winter uniform) on this day.

Remembering those gone before us – November, the month of remembrance

Before we know it, November will be upon us. November is traditionally the month when the church remembers all those who have died. It is a time for remembering friends and family who we have many happy memories of. We would like to celebrate the memory of people who have been close to our school family community.

This year we are inviting all families to celebrate and mark the memories of these special people. At school the children will be planting tulips bulbs in our prayer garden and outside spaces. A separate letter providing more details about this was sent out earlier in the week. Thank you to those families who have already made a contribution to this.

Contacting School

Unfortunately, we are still unable to speak face to face with parents at the end of the school day and cannot invite parents in to meet with us. However, communicating with you is still really important to us. If a class teacher needs to speak with a parent, they will contact them by telephone at the end of the school day.

In the summer term we set up key phase email addresses for parents to use a means of communication with staff whilst school was closed to the majority of pupils. These email addresses do remain operational but we cannot guarantee that they will be checked on a daily basis as all staff are teaching full time and currently involved in training after school to ensure we are ready to provide remote learning when required.

For UFS parents, please contact us via the dedicated email address, which is UFS2020@sa.bkcat.co.uk

For all other year groups, please contact us via the school email address, which is admin@sa.bkcat.co.uk

Half-Term Holiday

Just a reminder that school will be closed to all pupils on Friday 23rd October. We re-open after the half-term break on Monday 2nd November. **For the time being, we will continue with the current start and end of day timings – 8.40am start and 3.00pm finish.**

Holiday requests during term time

You will be aware that the law states that parents do not have a right to take their child out of school for a holiday during term time. Any absence from school will have an impact on a child's education. The Trust and St. Austin's firmly believe that good attendance should be encouraged and promoted. We adhere to Government legislation and will therefore not authorise any holidays in term time. There is no right time to have a holiday during term time, as your child is missing out on learning time. Only in exceptional circumstances will leave be granted. Our key priority is to ensure all children are as successful as possible, are able to reach their full potential and gain maximum benefits from their educational experience.

School Calendar for 2020-2021

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Open	Wed. 2 nd Sept	Mon. 2 nd Nov	Tues. 5 th Jan	Mon. 22 nd Feb	Mon. 12 th April	Mon. 14 th June
Close	Thurs. 22 nd Oct	Fri. 18 th Dec	Fri. 12 th Feb	Fri. 26 th March	Friday 28 th May	Fri. 23 rd July

St. Austin's Safeguarding Team

If you or your children have any safeguarding concerns, please remember that our Designated Safeguarding Leads in school are: **Mr. Molyneux, Mrs. Velayudhan, Mrs. Chernenko and Mrs Kendrew.**

Wishing all our families a safe and relaxing weekend.