



St Augustine's Academy Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome to the new Spring term. We hope you have had a lovely Christmas and New Year! We are aware of how strange things have been during the start of this term but are immensely proud of how the pupils have adapted to the home learning and school learning mix so far. We thank the parents for their support and for being flexible whilst we sorted the home learning challenges we faced with such short notice!

Parents are requested to wear face coverings on site, keep at a socially acceptable distance from each other and leave school quickly at pick up and drop off times. We will continue to follow strict hygiene measures in school.

We are currently in lockdown and are following the guidelines [here](#), school is open for vulnerable pupils & children whose parents are critical care workers. To find out more about the criteria for critical workers please click [here](#). Please ensure you have read our updated risk assessment [here](#).

Home Learning Packs for those who have requested them, will be available on a Friday from 9am. Please also bring any work you would like to hand in too.

Internet Safety

Just a quick reminder to ensure you and your child are safe when using the internet for the home learning. Please see the advice over the page for some useful tips.

The respective classes have Zoom/ Teams meetings planned for this half term as shown below.

Nursery & Reception:

Monday 9:15am Class Chat
Friday 9:30am Celebration Worship Whole School.

Years 1 & 2:

Tuesday 9:00am Class Chat (starting 19th January)
Wednesday 9:00am Class Chat
Thursday 9:00am Class Chat
Friday 9:30am Celebration Worship Whole School.

Years 3 & 4:

Tuesday 9:30am Class Chat (starting 19th January)
Wednesday 9:30am Class Chat
Thursday 9:30am Class Chat
Friday 9:30am Celebration Worship Whole School.

10 TOP TIPS

REMOTE LEARNING FOR PARENTS

Remote learning can be a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in difficult circumstances. For parents and carers, the idea of remote learning isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote learning experience.

1) Take an active interest in your child's learning

As a parent or carer, remote learning will be a new concept for your child and there are bound to be a few teething problems to start with. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.



2) Monitor your child's communication and online activity

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.



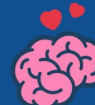
3) Establish a daily schedule and routine

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.



4) Encourage screen breaks away from devices

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teacher's will invariably advise on screen breaks however it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.



5) Ensure your learning device is in a public space in the home

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.



6) Implement safety controls and privacy restrictions on apps and software

Dependant on how your school implements remote learning, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.



7) Ensure your child only uses official school communication channels

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.



8) Familiarise yourself with relevant school policies

Schools should have a policy on remote learning and direction that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.



9) Maintain feedback with teachers

Engage in communication with teachers where possible and try to feed back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.



10) Monitor your child's wellbeing and mental health

Remote learning will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as you can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends everyday might take its toll.



PRIVACY NOTICES: ONLINE LEARNING AND LIVE CLASS CHAT

Data Use During the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, we want to ensure that pupils are able to access a variety of online learning including 'live class chats' which will include a mixture of class chat and instruction and also discussing pupils tasks to complete during the day.

These chats will be hosted via online video platforms such as Zoom or Microsoft teams. When accessing these platforms, pupils and/or parents will need to share some basic personal information in order to use the platform (i.e. name and agreed email address). It is very important that your personal information is kept safe and there are measures in place to ensure this happens. You can find details on the information required by individual video platforms and their security measures by viewing their privacy notices.

If you would prefer for your child not to access these systems, please let the teacher know and an alternative will be arranged. Safety and Security We have a number of measures in place to mitigate against the potential misuse of pupils'/ parents' personal data and to ensure the live lessons are accessed safely.

These include:

- Students/Parents/Carers may withdraw permission, in writing, at any time.
- All staff hosting 'live lessons' will use their academy email accounts.
- All students/pupils/parents will be required to use an agreed email account to access live lessons.
 - All lessons will be password protected with the access link sent separately from the password where possible.
- There will be no recording of video or chat.
- The 'waiting room' feature will be used by the staff member to allow for a controlled admittance of pupils by the host when ready.
- Users will be identified prior to admittance to the live session.
- Staff and students will not share files that could contain viruses or malware.
- Staff will not allow other users to control the screen.
- The live session link will be confidential and sent to invitees only.
- Students and staff will not be allowed to take screen shots of the live session.
- No 1:1 session will take place, groups only.
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example not in bedrooms; and where possible be against a neutral background.
- All language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Videos may be muted from both pupils and staff if other children in the household become unsettled or cause disruption.



Mental Health & Wellbeing

Please click on the image for this wonderful book It explains the Coronavirus to younger children and is a really lovely read!



There are some fabulous resources for you to access from Relax Kids. This week we have been enjoying sessions in school! Please click on the link below to access the resources for use at home!

<https://www.relaxkids.com/calm-pack>

relax Kids Message for Parents

We really are in very strange and scary times and it seems that everyone has gone into panic mode. Fear and panic is the worst thing as it weakens our nervous system and so makes us even more susceptible to both physical and mental illness.

It is so important to do everything we can to protect our mental and emotional health in these troubling times and so we have created a CALM PACK available for all families to help give you some time to touch moments of calm and breathe through the uncertainty.

Children need reassurance and calm right now to help them manage the changes and help them rest and relax their jangled nervous systems.

The CALM PACK has a meditation and set of cards with a variety of relaxation exercises to practise together. There are also affirmation cards and some activities.

We hope that you will be able to build some regular calm time into your new daily timetable at home and that these exercises will help you come closer together as a family.



Marneta
Founder, Relax Kids
www.relaxkids.com

How to be a Protector of CALM at this time.

Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh said: When the crowded Vietnamese refugee boats met with storms or pirates, if everyone panicked all would be lost. But if even one person on the boat remained calm and centered, it was enough. It showed the way for everyone to survive.

In these troubled times, it is so vital to be a protector of calm and model calm to your children and create an environment of safety where calm can thrive.

We encourage you to model calm and be a Protector of Calm so you can manage your own eco system and help your family be Protectors of Calm. This way, we can gently send ripples of calm out in this panicked world.

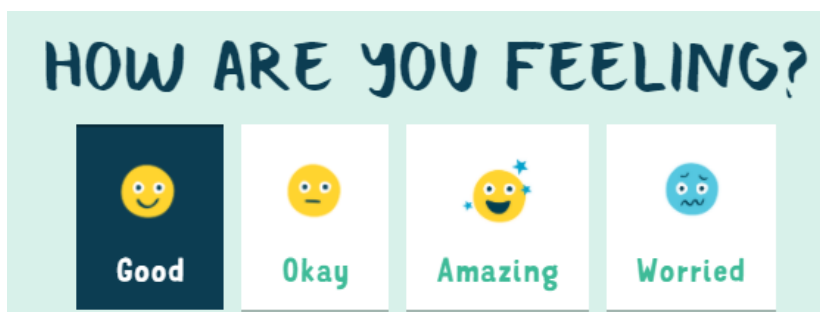
www.relaxkids.com

Please click on the Logos to access some useful information and help for both pupils & parents during lockdown.

YOUNG Mi MINDS



NSPCC



Class 1



Enjoying some relaxing yoga!

Class 2

Making gingerbread men to help with their story writing!



Class 3



Starting the day with some energetic dancing!