



Head Teacher's Update 26th March 2021

As we approach Palm Sunday and then Holy Week I wanted to share this quote from Pope Francis:



As always, we are here to support in any way we can, especially in this “time of difficulty”.

Please find an update on different aspects of our learning community.

Easter Term

School will stop for Easter holidays on **Thursday 1st April at 3:30pm**. The plan is for all learners to return to the building on **Tuesday 20th April at 08:40am**. Please note that the Scottish Government will make an announcement to confirm this on 6th April. If this plan changes, we will contact you.

Attendance

A huge well done to all the learners that attended and engaged with in school learning. Here are the attendance figures for this week:

S1	91.13%
S2	95.26%
S3	86.98%
S4	83.83%
S5/6	91.78%

We welcome all learners and are keen to have as close as to 100% attendance as possible. If there are any issues or barriers to your child attending St. Augustine's, then please let us know.

Here is a picture that shows the importance of attendance and how every day in school can have a positive impact:



Uniform

We welcome learners back to the building and appreciate your support in having your child in school uniform. We understand the difficulty that this may cause some households and thank you for your support to ensure your child attends and is dressed appropriately.

Remote Learning

We continue to deliver remote learning for all our learners. We encourage our young people to engage with the material as much as possible and seek support if they need it. Please find support in using "Teams" [here](#). This week, Monday 29th March – Thursday 1st April is **Week B**.

Formal Assessments for Seniors

We are finalising our assessment calendar so that learners will be notified from **Monday 29th March** of when their assessment will take place. These assessments will be undertaken during normal class time with any additional arrangements catered for.

We, as a school, have ensured that no learner has more than two assessments in one day. A timetable of these assessments for every individual will be collated and sent to parents/carers next week.

Please note that there is **no** “study leave” and learners need to attend all lessons to ensure they have the best chance of achieving success in their subjects.

These formal assessments will be a significant piece of evidence for the professional judgement of staff in determining learners’ grades. Please remember that all work undertaken by learners will feed into the professional judgement of staff.

Targeted Study Sessions

To support learners, some staff have volunteered to facilitate targeted sessions on their subject during the Easter break. We are making the final arrangements and will share the details early next week. Please note that these sessions are voluntary for learners and do not mean that if attended no further revision is necessary!


Health & Well Being – Building Resilience Focus



In welcoming the learners back to the building, we will focus on building resilience over these next weeks till Easter. We’ll be referring the learners back to the ‘cups’ analogy we used in tutor time before Christmas:

Learners all start the day with 10 cups of ‘energy’. They lose these over the day through effort/stress/interactions. They can rebuild these with food/sleep/mindful activities. They need to learn to plan ahead to make sure their cups don’t run out and they don’t “snap” or “crumble.”




The work we did relating to this is available on the Well Being Teams page: **“STA Auggies Wellbeing 2020”**, so all learners can refer back to it in case they need a reminder.

What we focussed on this week:

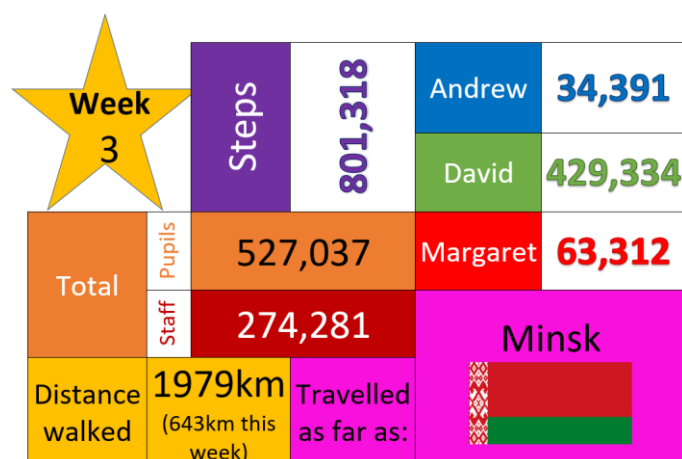
WEEK 2	
General gist:	<p>It’s week 2. The excitement of seeing friends again has worn off a bit and we may be struggling a little with combining in-school and online learning – our cups may be running on empty.</p> <p>We need to be kind to ourselves, be aware of when we may feel stressed and have strategies to help us feel more positive</p>
 Get Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We all experience a range of emotions every day

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes we feel stressed • We will all have ways to help us cope
 Have a Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The way you think can affect the way you feel • There are different ways of looking at the same thing • Focusing on what you are grateful for can help
 Respect yourself	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who we are and what we are good at is not fixed • The way we think, feel or learn shapes our brain • We can change through the choices we make
Make a Difference?	<p>All emotions are perfectly normal, and we regulate changes in these every day.</p> <p>Sometimes though, if we have too many things affecting our emotions all at once, these can become harder to regulate (ie you're out of cups).</p> <p>We need to know how to refill our cups, so we are better able to manage overwhelming emotions and remain positive.</p> <p>Focussing on our future and the impact that things we do now can have on it is important. Your future is not prewritten – you can change it and make it positive.</p>

This coming week's focus is:

WEEK 3	
General gist:	For week 3 it's the run up/down to the Easter break and the change (again) of the rules about interaction so we want to encourage the kids to be more active (be aware: some of the kids submitting figures to March to Tokyo are only taking 2/300 steps a day – some have not actually left the house during this lockdown). We want to promote positivity through action – setting goals, actively pursuing these (academic or otherwise!) and doing this safely.
 Get Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being active is not only good for the body but also for the mind. • Have a range of hobbies, interests and activities that you enjoy doing. • Doing anything new helps us develop an understanding of how to safely take and manage risks.
 Have a Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting a realistic goal helps to motivate us • Sometimes we fail or make mistakes – that's ok! • It's important to celebrate our achievements
 Respect yourself	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are unique – there's no one else like you • Everyone has different strengths • Your body/thoughts/digital space are yours to control. Make sure you respect them and ensure you respects others also.
Make a Difference?	Kids will hopefully have improved their communication skills, remembered how to be kind to themselves and others and developed a more positive attitude. We can but hope!

March to Tokyo – update



As you can see, St. David's House is dominating the competition!

If you wish to be involved, please just note your steps for the week and let Mrs. Macdonald know!

Morning Check-ins (repeat notice)

Mrs Macdonald, our Health and Wellbeing Development Officer, has set up a daily "check-in" for all learners! Every morning from 0845 – 0915.

Please access the **"STA Auggies Wellbeing 2020"** team which has all these activities and resources to support learners across a variety of different themes. In addition, you can follow **@StahsWellbeing** on Twitter.

If you have any concerns/issues or would like to talk to someone about your wellbeing, please contact Mrs. Macdonald:

Julie.Macdonald@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk

Dates for your diary (repeat notice)

Please find below key dates from this week until the last day of the Summer term. The additional inset days for staff have been agreed by the authority and are shown below (please note that learners will not be in school for these days):

S3 Reports to Parents/Carers	Tues 30 th March
Easter Holidays	2 nd – 19 th April (inclusive)
Bank Holiday	Mon 3 rd May
Inset day – Staff only	Tues 4 th May
S2 Report to Parents/Carers	Fri 14 th May
Bank Holiday	Mon 24 th May
INSET DAY – Staff Only	Tues 25th May
Parent Council Meeting	Thurs 3 rd June 6pm (tbc)
INSET DAY – Staff Only	Wed 9th June
S1 Report to Parents/Carers	Fri 18 th June
End of Term	Fri 25 th June

E-Sgoil Easter study support (repeat notice)

This is a Scottish Government funded scheme. Pupils need a Glow account and SCN. If learners are unsure about how to access their GLOW account, they can contact **Mr Boothroyd** or **Mrs Fyfe**. The lessons may well continue until end of May, so it is well worth pupils registering. They will also have access to resources from many sources about many different subjects:

<http://www.e-sgoil.com/easterstudysupportsessions2021/>

Support from the Authority (repeat notice)

Please note this message from the council about support:

Free School Meals payments and the Spring Hardship

Payment <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolgrants>

Other payments

If you meet the [conditions for free school meals](#) you may be entitled to other payments to help with meals during school holidays, closures or if your child has to self-isolate.

You don't need to apply separately. We will pay these to the bank account we hold for your clothing grant.

Holiday payments

A payment of £2.25 was made for every day during school holidays, closures or where remote or learning is in place up to 29 January 2021.

From 01 February 2021, the payment increased to £2.50 per day.

Free School Meals payments have been made for all pupils up to 12 March 2021.

On 15 March 2021, a Free School Meals payment of £35.00 per child will be made for secondary pupils only as they are returning to school on blended learning. This payment is for the period 15 March 2021 to 01 April 2021.

Free School Meals payments will be made to all pupils for the Easter holidays.

Spring Hardship Payment

The Scottish Government's Spring Hardship Payment

(<https://www.gov.scot/news/funding-to-tackle-poverty-and-inequality/>)

includes a one-off payment of £100 per child for all children in receipt of Free School Meals before the Easter holiday.

This payment will be included with the Easter holiday Free School Meal payment.

The date for the Spring Hardship Payment and the Easter holidays Free School Meal payment has not yet been confirmed but the payment will be made in advance of the Easter holiday. Once the date is confirmed we will update our web page.

Parents of children already in receipt of Free School Meals DO NOT need to complete an application in order to receive the Spring Hardship Payment, it will be paid automatically using the bank/payment details we already hold.

Term Session Dates for 2022/23 and beyond (repeat notice)

The authority has prepared a survey about the timing of school holidays over the next three years. Parents and staff groups have contributed to the wording of the questions. The survey should only take a few minutes to complete.

The link to the survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/schsd2022>

A message from St. Margaret's Parent Council (one of our Cluster Primary Schools) (repeat notice):

A poster for a Quiz Night event. The background is dark purple with red and white abstract brushstrokes. The text is white and red. It says 'LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO ON A SATURDAY NIGHT?' in white, followed by 'St Margaret's Parent Council' in white, and 'QUIZ NIGHT' in large red letters. Below that, 'Saturday 27 March 8pm' is in red. The main text describes the event: 'Join us for a lockdown Quiz Night. It's free to join (although any donations are welcome) and The Little Parlour have donated a delicious prize of a tub of ice-cream and toppings delivered to the winner's door. To enter just email your team name to' followed by the email address 'events@stmargaretparentcouncil.co.uk' in red. At the bottom, it says 'Scottish Charity Number : SC046403' in white.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO
ON A SATURDAY NIGHT?

St Margaret's Parent Council

QUIZ NIGHT

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events@stmargaretparentcouncil.co.uk

Scottish Charity Number : SC046403

A moment of reflection –
(courtesy of the RE faculty)

*“Have patience with all things,
but first of all with yourself.”*
St Francis de Sales

May God keep you and your loved ones healthy and safe.