

William Austin Infant School

Newsletter 5 September 2025

www.williamaustininfects.co.uk

Email: office@williamaustininfects.co.uk



WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to the new term. I hope you all had a lovely Summer break and feel well-rested and refreshed. It has been great to see all the children return to school ready and eager to learn.



It is lovely to see their happy smiling faces as they settle in to their new classes. They are adjusting well to their new Year group environments, and are getting used to the rules and routines of the new school term.

Mrs Kang, Headteacher

'Living the Values the William Austin Way...'

Our Value for September is Happiness

Happiness is a good feeling. When we feel happy we feel good.

We are not upset about wanting other things.

You can show happiness by:

- **Smiling at others and making them smile.**
- **Being kind to others.**
- **Playing nicely with our friends.**



A Reminder of Drop off and Collection Times for Autumn Term 2025

Classroom doors open at **8.45am**, and close 10 minutes later promptly at **8.55am** at the start of the school day. At the end of the day the doors open at **3.20pm** and close at **3.30pm**. The 10 minute period at the beginning and end of the school day gives parents some flexibility, particularly for those who are working or have children in different classes.



Year 2 parents should use the gate on Culverhouse Road that takes them directly on to the Year 2 playground. Parents with children in Willow and Oak Class in Year 1 should use the main school gates on Culverhouse Road, and those with children in Beech and Pine Class should use the Year R gate that takes them across the Year R playground to the Year 1 playground.

Please queue and line up outside classroom doors on the playgrounds. This is for safeguarding purposes, as it makes it easier for the class teachers to see the adult that is accompanying your child. **DO NOT** go right up to the classroom doors at either the start or the end of the school day. Please use the class email to discuss any concerns, rather than speaking to the class teacher at the door. If your concern is urgent, please telephone the school office. Once you have dropped your child off at their class please leave the premises as quickly as possible. Please do not stand, gather and chat to other parents, as all external gates will be locked promptly at 8.55am for security reasons.

VITAL INFORMATION

If your child has any prescribed medication, such as an inhaler, that may need to be taken while at school then please take the medicine to the Medical Room.

You will be asked to complete a Pupil Medication Permission and Record Form.

It is vital that you notify us of any changes to your contact details – home address and mobile phone numbers must be up to date in case of an emergency. Please speak to a member of the office staff if your details have changed, or complete the Data Collection Form which will be sent home via your child in due course.



DIARY DATES

Please add these dates to your diary.

Half-Term - Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October 2025

Training day - Monday 3 November 2025
End of term - Friday 19 December 2025

Start of Spring Term - Tuesday 6 January 2026

The full academic calendar for 2025/2026 can also be found on the school's website by clicking on the link here:

<https://www.williamaustininfects.co.uk/term-dates/>



Wet Weather!

The weather this week has been dreadful, and there have been some really heavy downpours of rain, even at the start and end of the school day! Yet, so many children are not bringing a coat to school! Please make sure your child has a coat with them every day, even if they do not want to bring one!!



School Lockdown Procedure

Your child has brought home a letter today about our lockdown procedures in the event of an emergency. During the course of the year we will be conducting a series of 'lockdown drills', which we wanted to make you aware of, so please take the time to read the letter to understand the aims of lockdown drills, and how the school would respond in a real-life emergency.



Water Bottles

Children still need their water bottles every day. They need to be **clear plastic with a sports cap**, and must only contain plain water. We have bottles for sale from the school office for £1.50. Please make sure your child brings their water bottle home each day so water can be changed. Please make sure their water bottle is named.



Book Bags

Children will need their school book bag in school every day. You can buy a purple book bag from the school office for £5.00



Please do not send your child to school with a rucksack or any other type of bag. These are too large and bulky to store in the classrooms. Thank you

Scooters and Bikes

Children can bring their scooters or bikes to school. There are Scooter-bikes available near the main entrance, and you are welcome to use these to park and lock bikes and scooters during the day. Please do not allow your child to ride their bike or scooter anywhere within the school grounds. The School Office sell bike locks for £3.00 each. The school will not accept responsibility for bikes and scooters left on the school premises.



Reminder

No smoking or vaping on the school grounds or premises.



Mobile Phones

Mobile phones should not be used anywhere in the school grounds.

Thank you for your co-operation in safeguarding our children.



Curriculum News

Information about the curriculum your child will be following this half term will be sent out soon.

Please look out for updates throughout the year on our school website too.



Pets

Please do not bring dogs or any other pets onto the school grounds when dropping off or picking up your child.



Passports

Please do not ask any member of school staff, including Mrs Kang, to sign official documents such as passport applications, as we are unable to do this. If you require a supporting letter to confirm your child attends our school, please ask at the School Office.

Year 2 WOW Day

On Monday 8 September, as part of this half-term's topic - 'People Who Make a Difference - Nurses' Year 2 children are invited to dress up as a healthcare professional (for example: Nurse, Doctor, Surgeon, Dentist, Paramedic).

Please **do not** go to the expense of buying a ready-made costume: children can come wearing a hat that they have made, wear blue trousers or a blue t-shirt, green trousers and a green top, or transform an old white shirt into a doctor or dentist's coat. **Please note, this is only for Year 2 children.** Year 1 children should wear their normal school uniform.

Thank you.

Parking outside school

Please remember :



- Don't park or drive on the pavement
- Don't park on the yellow zig-zag lines
- Don't park in a disabled space if you don't have a 'blue badge'
- Don't block local residents' driveways

If you have any concerns about parking please phone **Parking Enforcement** on 01582 548523, and not the school, as we are powerless to intervene. Thank you.

The council have implemented traffic calming measures on Culverhouse Road, installing speed tables and speed cushions.

Please keep our children and their parents safe by driving slowly along the roads around school where there are an increased amount of pedestrians crossing the roads to access the school.

Birthday Books and Party Bags

We have had an increasing number of parents wanting to bring in party bags or fruit, for their child's class, to celebrate special events such as Birthdays and Eid over recent years. While this is a lovely gesture and very kind, it does sometimes put pressure on other parents who may not be able to afford to do the same for their child, which concerns us a great deal. **Therefore, we have decided that we will no longer accept party bags or fruit in school.**

If you wanted to celebrate your child's birthday with their school friends, you could purchase a book for their classroom's Birthday Book corner. The book you purchase can be enjoyed by your child and their classmates all year round. We will even put a special Birthday Book label in the book to mark your child's birthday, and the gift you have bought for the class!

For more details on Birthday Books, and for information on your child's class Birthday Book wish list on Amazon, please click below...

<https://www.williamaustininfants.co.uk/year-1-birthday-book-wish-lists/>
<https://www.williamaustininfants.co.uk/year-2-birthday-book-wish-lists/>

School Uniform

The children looked very smart in their purple uniform when they came to school, we hope all their clothes are named! We want to encourage the children to take pride in their appearance and to avoid wearing sportswear with brand logos or fashion clothes to school, so please do not give in if your child pesters you for non-uniform clothes.

Please be aware that only the school jumpers and cardigans purchased from school are allowed to be worn in school. Girls are welcome to wear headscarves and these must be made of plain material, fitted and in black, white or purple. Watches should not be worn, and nor should any jewellery apart from small stud earrings. Ties are not worn in the Infant School; these form part of the Junior School uniform only. A full list of school uniform requirements can be found on our school website.

P.E Days

P.E lessons for Year 1 and Year 2 children will start from next week, Monday 8 September. Children should come into school wearing their P.E kit on the day their class has P.E. They will remain in their P.E kit all day, and there is no need to send their normal uniform for them to change into.

Children will need to wear black tracksuit bottoms with elasticated ankles or leggings, a white t-shirt, their school jumper and trainers or plimsolls.

Children will have P.E on the following days:

- Monday - Kingfisher Class,
- Tuesday - Beech Class, Puffin Class
- Wednesday - Pine Class, Owl Class
- Thursday - Oak Class,
- Friday - Willow Class, Lark Class

School Meals

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free meal in school every day. If you have any questions about school meal arrangements please ask at the office, or call us on 01582 595198 and ask to speak to the kitchen manager



Packed Lunches

Children are welcome to bring packed lunches if you prefer, but we expect them to be as healthy as school meals. **Children should not bring sweets, bars of chocolate, fizzy drinks, glass bottles or cans in their lunchboxes. Please make sure your child has their packed lunch with them when they arrive at school. Please note, we are an allergy aware school; please do not send any nuts or nut products in as part of your child's lunch. Please also watch out for hidden nuts in foods, such as chocolate spreads (e.g. Nutella) and cereal bars.**

Changing Your Child's Lunch Arrangements

The school kitchen needs a full week's notice for any changes. It is not possible to have school meals on some days and packed lunch on others. You can contact the school kitchen directly on the phone number above.

Food Allergy and Intolerance Information

It is extremely important that we know of any allergies your child may have, and that we have the appropriate medication in school to treat them if they should have a reaction. You will be asked to provide medical evidence of food allergies and intolerances, as this is required by our school meal provider, abm Catering.

Contact email Addresses

Please see the list below for the email address for your child's class. You can use this to contact your child's teacher. Please be advised that although the teachers do check their emails daily, due to them being in class teaching, they may be unable to reply at length until after school. If your query is urgent, please phone the school office on 01582 595198, or email us at office@williamaustinininfants.co.uk

Year 1

Beech Class	beech@williamaustinininfants.co.uk
Oak Class	oak@williamaustinininfants.co.uk
Pine Class	pine@williamaustinininfants.co.uk
Willow Class	willow@williamaustinininfants.co.uk
Kingfisher Class	kingfisher@williamaustinininfants.co.uk
Lark Class	lark@williamaustinininfants.co.uk
Owl Class	owl@williamaustinininfants.co.uk
Puffin Class	puffin@williamaustinininfants.co.uk

Playground Equipment

Please do not allow any of your children to play on any of the apparatus on our playgrounds either before or after school. We know it is very tempting to let them run off and play, but for health and safety purposes we request that you stop them from climbing on or playing with the equipment installed within the school grounds. This also includes the mud kitchen and water wall on the Year R playground.

Our pupils have plenty of opportunity to enjoy supervised play during the school day, and we would hate for one of our students, or a younger sibling, to have an accident before or after school when our staff are not there to supervise.

Attendance

If your child is ill or absent you must telephone the school on the first day of their absence to let us know exactly what is wrong with them. If we don't get a message from you we will telephone you or send a text message, and repeated absences may cause our Family Worker or the Local Authority's Attendance Support Officer to visit you at home. This is part of our duty of care towards your child.

Keeping your child off school due to illness can be a difficult judgement call to make, especially first thing in the morning. Sometimes it's obvious that a child needs to be at home in bed but very often it's not so clear. If they have diarrhoea, vomiting, high temperature or a contagious illness such as chickenpox we do not expect them to attend school.

Statutory guidance regarding unauthorised leave, named 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' came into effect on 19 August last year. You should make yourself aware of the changes surrounding penalty notices, these are listed below:

Per Parent/Per Child Penalty Notices

Penalty Notices for unauthorised absences are issued per child, per parent. This means that if multiple siblings are absent during term time and the absences are unauthorised by the school each parent will receive a separate fine for each child's absence. Penalty Notices are issued by the local authority, and the payment will be made directly to them. This is dealt with by the local authority's Attendance Support Team (previously known as Education Welfare Service).

First Offence Penalties

The first penalty notice issued to each parent in respect of a particular pupil will be charged at:

- £160.00 if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at:

- A flat rate of £160.00 if paid within 28 days.

Third Offence and any further offences (within 3 years)

A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, alternative action will be taken instead. This will often include considering prosecution but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions.

10 Sessions (5 days) of Unauthorised Absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions (which is the same as 5 days) of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

PLEASE NOTE:

Requests for leave of absence will not be granted during term time unless there are very exceptional circumstances. Requests for leave of absence will not be granted for the purposes of a holiday.

We hope we can count on your support and co-operation to be respectful of the procedures that we have in place.

FINALLY, if you have any concerns

Joining a new class, or a new school, can be a confusing time for parents as well as children. You know your child better than anyone else, and if you are concerned about any aspect of their life in school, please contact their class teacher in the first instance via their class email address.



If you wish to talk to the Headteacher, Mrs Kang, please contact the school office by telephone or email. If your concern is urgent, and cannot be resolved over the phone, you may be invited in for an appointment to meet with Mrs Kang, or a senior member of staff.

You can call the school office on 01582 595198, or by email - office@williammaustininfrants.co.uk. Alternatively call into the office, and we will do our best to answer any queries you may have. We can only help if we know there's a problem, so please get in touch.

In line with most schools we send home our newsletters via email. **These newsletters and other information will be sent via email from notifications@primarysite.net** via our website platform, so please check both your inbox and spam folder. Please ensure we have the correct email address for you. You can also view all our newsletters on the school website, or pick up a paper copy from the stand in the reception area at the office.