

William Austin Infant School

Newsletter 22 September 2025

www.williamaustininfants.co.uk

Email: office@williamaustininfants.co.uk



WELCOME YEAR R!!

A big William Austin Infants welcome to our new Year R parents and children! It has been great to see all the children start school ready and eager to learn.

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

We have attached this half term's curriculum news to this email, so that you know what your child will be learning in school.

Mrs Kang, Headteacher



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

Our Value for September is Happiness

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.



Drop off and Collection Times for Autumn Term 2025

Classroom doors open at **8.45am** and close at **8.55am** promptly at the start of the school day, and at the end of the day the doors open at **3.20pm** and close at **3.30pm**. We feel that this 10 minute period will give parents more flexibility, particularly for those who are working or have children in different classes. We hope this will also help to stop congestion outside the school gates, on the playground and at the classroom doors.

Year R parents should use the Year R gate on Culverhouse Road that takes them directly on to the Year R 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 respect others by giving parents, children, and school staff the space they need to move safely around the school grounds. 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 9.00am for security reasons.

If you arrive late to drop off or pick up your child ALL parents should use the main entrance on Culverhouse Road, and report to the school office.



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 kept up to date in case of an emergency. Please speak to a member of the office staff if your details have changed.



DIARY DATES

Please add these dates to your diary.

National Poetry Day - Thursday 2 October

Parents Evening - Wednesday 15 October

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

Training day - Monday 3 November 2025

Children return to school - Tuesday 4 November

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

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



The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

While your child is in Reception they will follow the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) framework and will work towards the final assessment at the end of the Reception year, using the ELGs (Early Learning Goals). These goals are short statements that teachers assess your child against at the end of the year. These statements will be shared with you all at the first parent's evening. The 7 main areas of learning are;



The EYFS curriculum has little emphasis on recording paperwork, meaning we, as adults, can spend more time with your child getting to know them and having those quality interactions. It is also aligned with the Key Stage 1 curriculum, ensuring your child's educational journey from Reception to KS1 is building upon previous knowledge.

Reception Baseline

The Reception Baseline Assessment, or RBA, is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin in school. It will be undertaken with your child's class teacher and will measure your child's progress from Reception to Year 6. The school, the teachers and your information as parents will not be shared and the data will only be accessed by the DFE. The teacher will be able to spend quality 1-1 time with your child, getting to know them and if they need any further support in certain areas. When your child reaches Year 6, you will be able to see the progress your child has made throughout their school journey. If you wish to read further on the Reception Baseline, then you can find a useful parent booklet here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>

If you have any questions please feel free to speak to your child's class teacher.

Scooters and Bikes

Children can bring their scooters or bikes to school. There are Scooterpods 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.



Pets

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



Thank you

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.

The British Weather!

The weather at the moment is very changeable, so please make sure your child brings a coat to school each day. Even if rain isn't forecast, chances are it will rain at some point during the day, & Year R children do spend a lot of time outside!



Water Bottles

Children 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



Author of the Month

Reading has always been a big priority at our school, and we want to instill a real love of reading books for pleasure in our children, both at home and at school.

There are so many benefits and positives of reading; it improves how well the brain functions and increases vocabulary, it helps to sharpen memory and how much information is retained, and strengthens writing skills too!

In the school Library, to encourage the children to enjoy reading even more, we have an 'Author of the Month'. Each month a new author will be highlighted, with a bright, colourful and informative display board taking centre stage in the Library area!

This month's Author is Benji Davies, an artist and author who specialises in illustration. He creates stories that help children find a quiet confidence to navigate the real world. Emotion and the pursuit of joy are key themes in Benji's work.

The Storm Whale, Grandad's Island and The Grotlyn are just some of the books he has written.



Birthday Books and Party Bags

Last year we 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. 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.williammaustinininfants.co.uk/year-r-birthday-book-wish-lists/>

Book Fair

We are looking forward to having a travelling book fair visit our school in October. It will be open after school for parents to visit with their child and buy books and stationery items at reasonable prices. We value this opportunity to encourage children to choose and read books. The school receives commission on all sales made, which we then use to buy books for the school library, so this is a worthwhile event.. More information will follow soon.

Harvest 2025

Traditionally, Harvest is a time to be thankful for what we have, and to share with those who are less fortunate than ourselves. In light of this, we will be taking part in the Luton Foodbank's Harvest Challenge this October. More information on this will be sent home soon.



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 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 do not send peanuts, or any other nuts as part of a packed lunch. This includes any food that contains nuts and nut products. Please also watch out for hidden nuts in food, such as cereal bars and chocolate spreads (e.g Nutella).*

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 by calling the school office number on 01582 595198, and asking to speak to the kitchen.

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 by the kitchen to provide medical evidence of food allergies and intolerances. The school kitchen is defined as being nut-free, but we do expect and rely on parents of children having packed lunches to ensure there are no nuts present in the food brought in from home. We have some children with severe nut allergies, who can be affected just by sitting next to a child that has nuts in their packed lunch, and for this reason we must ask all parents to co-operate in keeping these children safe from risk of a reaction.



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 Education Welfare 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.

New statutory guidance regarding unauthorised leave, named 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' came into effect in August last year. You should make yourself aware of the changes surrounding penalty notices, which are available to view on the school website too. Please click on the link to take you to the relevant page: <https://www.williamaustininfants.co.uk/attendance/>

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, and to ensure your child attends school every day unless they are ill.

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; as they are 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@williamaustininfants.co.uk

Year R

Buttercup Class buttercup@williamaustininfants.co.uk

Daisy Class daisy@williamaustininfants.co.uk

Poppy Class poppy@williamaustininfants.co.uk

Snowdrop Class snowdrop@williamaustininfants.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 must 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.

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 (These are listed above).

If you wish to talk to 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@williamaustininfants.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 and other emails will be sent from notifications@primarysite.net** via our website platform, so 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.



Artemark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Values-Based Education
VBE Quality Mark



YEAR R WOW moments!!



Daisy Class have enjoyed looking at the books in our Reading Corner.

Buttercup enjoyed painting a picture from the story of 'Peace at Last' on one of their first days.



Snowdrop Class have enjoyed practising their communication skills when exploring the talking phones.



Poppy Class have enjoyed climbing the apparatus outside.

