



St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs J Foley



**We love and learn together by growing
in friendship with Jesus**

Tuesday 19th November 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

At St Augustine's, we have already held our first Smartphone Free Childhood campaign presentation and the repeated session is open to parents from a range of local primary schools within our MAC, this Friday, 22nd November at 2:45pm. If you are able to join us, we would welcome you to be part of the initial discussions, please sign up using the form link - <https://forms.office.com/e/RGWmHHb346>

The letter below has been composed to share with all families across Solihull, in support of the SFC campaign.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Foley
Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers

As a group of headteachers leading Solihull schools, we are concerned about the impact of smart phones on our children and young people. We have started to discuss how we can work together as a local community to share information with families and to make a change that means that children having smart phones is not the 'norm'.

There has been a lot in the press recently around the impact of smart phones, as well as proposals by politicians to introduce legislation that bans mobile phones from all schools and limits social media use by young people. As a group of headteachers, we want to encourage everyone to **PAUSE** and think about the impact of giving smart phones to young people, because:

- **P: Prevents Real Play** – Smartphone use can stop children from socialising and engaging in imaginative or active play
- **A: Attention Span** – Smartphones reduce focus and attention, hindering learning
- **U: Undermines Mental Health** – Overexposure to social media and screens can negatively affect children's emotional and mental well-being.
- **S: Safety Risks** – Smartphones expose children to safeguarding issues, including cyberbullying and inappropriate content.
- **E: Emotional Impact** – The addictive nature of smartphones can lead to mood swings, sleep disruption, and over-reliance on digital validation.



Our Lady and All Saints
Catholic Multi Academy Company
Strong in Faith

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Tel: 0121 705 4355
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Website: www.st-augustines.solihull.sch.uk



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We understand that most children who are towards the end of primary school or at secondary school already own a smart phone, and we are committed to educating these children about the safe use of smart phones. We also understand that many families rely on mobile technology for anything from an electronic bus pass to checking homework at the end of a school day. This is why we are committed to collectively looking at solutions that are appropriate for our own school, while also working with other agencies to address this issue.

There are a number of parent-led organisations that advocate collective action on this issue. You may be interested in their websites, each containing some excellent resources, as well as the opportunity to sign parent pledges on the use of smart phones:

- <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>
- <https://delaysmartphones.org.uk/>
- <https://www.papayaparents.com/>

We will be sharing more information in the coming weeks around how our school plans to continue to address the issue of smart phones, but in the meantime want to notify you of an evening event on **Tuesday 28th January 2025**, hosted by Alderbrook School, which will be open to all Solihull parents of primary and secondary age children. This event will give you an opportunity to hear from, and question, experts, parents and school leaders leading the wider response to this issue, and we hope can act as a launchpad for community-wide action on this issue. More information on this event will follow in the coming weeks, along with how to get your free ticket on a first come first serve basis.

We believe that only through collective action can the negative impact of smart phone use by children be addressed locally and nationally. We want to remove the pressure that children face to own and use a smart phone, and the pressure that parents/carers feel to buy them for their children.

Yours sincerely

Alderbrook School
Balsall Common Primary School Academy
Bentley Heath C E Primary School
Blossomfield Infant & Nursery School
Castle Bromwich Junior School
Cheswick Green Primary School
Coleshill Heath School
Cranmore Infant School
Dickens Heath Community Primary School
Fordbridge Community Primary School
Forest Oak, Merstone School
Greswold Primary School
Haslucks Green Junior School

Headteacher Tom Beveridge
Headteacher Mr Mitchell
Headteacher Hannah Cook
Headteacher Bernadette Farkas
Headteacher Mrs Hobden
Headteacher Mr Griffiths
Headteacher Miss Nicole Fowles
Headteacher Mrs Rebecca Ward
Headteacher Mrs J Nicholls
Headteacher Mrs H Simcox
Executive Headteacher Miss D Luck
Headteacher Mrs Scott
Headteacher Helen Street



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Hazeloak Special School
 Heart of England School
 John Henry Newman Catholic College
 Kingshurst Primary
 Knowle CE Primary Academy
 Langley Secondary School
 Light Hall School
 Marston Green Infant Academy
 Monkspath Junior & Infant School
 Oak Cottage Primary School
 Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Primary
 Peterbrook Primary School
 Reynalds Cross Special School
 Shirley Heath Junior School
 St Alphege CE Junior School
 St Andrew's Catholic Primary School
 St Anthony's Catholic Primary School
 St Augustine's Catholic Primary School
 St Margaret's CE Primary School
 St Patrick's CE Primary Academy
 St Peter's Catholic School
 Streetsbrook Infants
 Tidbury Green School
 Tudor Grange Primary Academy Hockley Heath
 Tudor Grange Academy Kingshurst
 Tudor Grange Academy Solihull
 Tudor Grange Primary Academy Langley
 Widney Junior School
 WMG Academy
 Woodlands Infant School

Headteacher Andy Simms
 Headteacher J Hughes-Williams
 Principal Kate Clarke
 Headteacher Miss Hunter
 Principal Mr Stonehill
 Headteacher Clare Thorpe
 Headteacher Mrs A Kimblin
 Headteacher Ms B Elliott
 Headteacher Dan Wild
 Headteacher Mr R Marshall
 Headteacher Mrs Debbie Enstone
 Headteacher Mrs L Thorne
 Headteacher Dawn Brettell
 Headteacher Kara Evans
 Executive Headteacher Sam Smith
 Executive Headteacher Mr Cieran Flaherty
 Executive Headteacher Mr Cieran Flaherty
 Headteacher Mrs Julie Foley
 Headteacher Anita Delaney
 Headteacher Mrs Caroline Glennon
 Headteacher Mr Shelton
 Headteacher Mrs L Minter
 Headteacher Mrs R Fitter
 Principal Louise Porter
 Executive Principal Darren Turner
 Principal Mrs C Smith
 Principal Simon Russell
 Headteacher Mrs Jo Bridges
 Associate Principal Mrs Claire Morris
 Headteacher Mr Anthony Waters



CRANMORE
INFANT SCHOOL



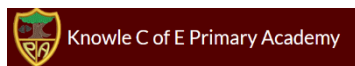
Tudor Grange Primary Academy
Hockley Heath



Tudor Grange Academy
Kingshurst
READY • RESPECTFUL • RESPONSIBLE



HEART OF ENGLAND
Creating Futures



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We love and learn together by growing
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Widney Junior School
Inspiring a community



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