

St Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy

We grow and learn as a family in the footsteps of Jesus

Newsletter

13th September 2019

Farewell to Father Simon



Father Simon's last day in school will be **Wednesday 18th September at 2.30pm**, where the school will hold a simple liturgy for him and present a gift. All parents and families are invited to join us in the school hall and wish Father Simon well as he leaves Stamford to begin his new role as Episcopal Vicar for the Diocese of Nottingham. He has supported St. Augustine's for 7 years, not only as our parish priest and Chair of Governors but as a true friend to everyone in the St. Augustine's community through all the trials and tribulations of school life.

We shall all miss him very much. Luckily, we will have the perfect excuse to invite Fr Simon back to St. Augustine's next year when we celebrate the 150th birthday of the school in 2020. Here are some of the children's thoughts;

Father Simon describes bible stories to us so they're easier to understand.
Abigail

He helped me when I made my first Holy Communion in year 3. **Miya**

Father Simon helped us learn about Jesus and that God made the world. **Oscar**

He helped me and my bother Leonardo when we made our first Holy Communion.
Rocco

Open Classrooms

All parents are invited to our first Open Classroom of the year on **Friday 27th September from 2.30pm**. Do come along to meet your child's teacher, visit the classroom and chat to the children about their learning.

Lunchtime Staff

Well done to our lunchtime staff who have all undertaken training and passed their Food Safety and Hygiene Course this week.





www.parentpay.com

We are pleased to announce that we will shortly be accepting payments online for items such as dinner money, school visits, swimming and Little Stars breakfast and after school club via Parentpay. We will also be using Parentpay for school communications and so this will mean you will be able to have quick and easy access to school news in one place. Parentpay can be saved as a bookmark to your phone or tablet. Activation letters will be sent out next week with full instructions on how Parentpay will work for everyone at St Augustine's and how to get started. You may already be using Parentpay if you have a child in secondary school. When you receive the activation letter, you will simply be able to add another child to your account.

Mrs Rudkin will be running some information and support sessions on Thursday 26th September at 9am, 3.15pm and 5.30pm in the school hall. She will also be available each day to assist any parent who would like a helping hand getting started.

From the first day back after October half term we will be a cashless school (with the exception of donations for charity events, FOSA events and some miscellaneous extra-curricular clubs which are chargeable eg. Lego Club). This will improve security and efficiency for both parents and the school office. Please therefore ensure you activate your account as soon as possible. You will be able to start using it for payments straight away. We will continue to accept cash and cheques in school until the 18th October and credit this to the Parentpay balance. Parents who still wish to pay for school items with cash after this date will need to pay via a local PayPoint.



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St Augustine's

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Diary Dates

Celebration Assembly: Every Friday at 2.45pm (unless otherwise notified) there will be a Celebration Assembly in the School Hall (enter via main reception) which all families are welcome to attend.

13 th September	Year 4/5 start swimming lessons on Fridays until 22 Nov.
18 th September (am)	Year 5/6 to visit Stamford Library
18 th September	Stamford Mercury in school to photograph EYFS
18 th September 2.30pm	Liturgy to say farewell to Father Simon (all welcome)
25 th September (am)	Year 1/2 to visit Stamford Library
26 th September	Years 5 and 6 - Wilds Lodge Festival of Music and Arts
26 th September	Parentpay sessions for parents in school 9am, 3.15pm, 5.30pm
27 th September	Year 5/6 Bridge Taster Session
27 th September 2.30pm	Whole School Open Classrooms
2 nd October	Year 2/3 to visit Stamford Library
7 th October	Parent/Teacher meetings 3.15-5.15pm
8 th October	Parent/Teacher meetings 5.00-7.00pm
9 th October	Book Bus in School
15 th October	School Open Morning for prospective families
18 th October	Last day of term
21 st to 25 th October	HALF TERM
28 th October	First day back to School
1 st November	Mass in Church at 10am (whole school)
20 th November	Flu Vaccinations (Reception to Year 5) – consent required.
29 th November	Year 5/6 start swimming lessons on Fridays until 14 th Feb.
19 th December	Whole School Christmas Lunch
20 th December	Last day of term
23 rd Dec to 3 rd January	School Holiday
6 th January	Training Day for Staff
7 th January	First day back at School
28 th February	Year 2/3 start swimming lessons on Fridays until 15 th May.
22 nd May	Year 1/2 start swimming lessons on Fridays until 17 th July.