



St Augustine's

Catholic Voluntary Academy

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



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<https://www.facebook.com/staugustinescva>

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Father, I abandon myself into your hands.
Do with me whatever you will.
Whatever you may do, I thank you.
I am ready for all, I accept all.
Let only your will be done in me,
and in all your creatures.
Into your hands I commend my spirit.
I offer it to you with all the love that is in my heart.
For I love you, Lord, and so want to give myself,
to surrender myself into your hands,
without reserve and with boundless confidence,
for you are my Father.

Amen.

— Charles de Foucauld, 1858-1916



A NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM MRS COX, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

A very warm welcome back to the start of our new term, and a Happy New Year to you all. I hope that this newsletter finds you all well, and that your Christmas was enjoyable and restful, whatever it held. It has been really lovely to welcome the children back into school this week, excited by their new virtues and finding out what the term ahead holds. In my opening worship for the term, we looked at the VIRTUES of the term - 'Love of Neighbour' and 'Self-Control' - and talked about what they mean to us in our daily lives. We watched the Christmas Day speech from King Charles, who talked about how we can all 'cast our light' on people and communities around us through our actions, which really helped us to set our MISSION for the term, following in Jesus' footsteps.

Today we mark our Feast of Epiphany; it is twelve days since Christmas Day and is also known as Twelfth Night. This celebration in our Catholic calendar marks the end of the Christmas period. It is the day that the Three Wise Men, sometimes referred to as 'Magi', travelled to Bethlehem to see the newly born Jesus Christ, and is traditionally the day that Christmas decorations are taken down. Epiphany means 'manifestation' or 'an illuminating discovery, realisation, or disclosure' - what a discovery the Three Wise Men made when they saw the newborn baby Jesus, and recognised him as the Son of God! We know that the Three Wise Men took some very special and significant gifts to the new baby. Myrrh signifies death and mourning and was burned and used to prepare a body for burial; the Three Wise Men knew that one day, Jesus would die for us all. Frankincense symbolises holiness and righteousness and was burned during ceremonies to worship a deity. The inclusion of frankincense as a gift for Jesus confirms that the Three Wise Men understood that one day Jesus would save his people by dying for them. Gold was also given as a gift to the newborn king; gold is associated with royalty, and this was to acknowledge that Jesus was the King of Kings; born to die for us all.

We took our Year 4, 5 and 6 children to attend Mass along with other parishioners at our Catholic church of St Mary and St Augustine on Broad Street this morning to celebrate with a special Epiphany Mass with Canon Peter. All of the children were fantastic ambassadors for our school, and thank you to the children who took part in the readings for Mass. Thanks too, to Mrs Kazmarek, who has created a lovely Epiphany display in the entrance to the school.

There have been lots of exciting visitors in school this week. Tom Baptiste, the new Director of Chaplaincy for the OLOL trust came to see me to discuss some exciting plans for St. Augustine's. We talked about new prayer spaces in school, a whole school mission project led by our pupils, the possible rebranding of the school mission statement and logo this year and a community hub! We've also been visited by three of our school Governors, who have met with their link priority leaders to review progress in their subjects following our Ofsted inspection. It was lovely to welcome them in school - some of our pupils even recognised Tom from his Youth Diocese weekly videos and thought he was a famous superstar!

I hope that you have a great weekend,

Mrs Cox



CAN YOU HELP?!

If anyone has any spare spring bulbs to plant in our new KS1 wooded area, under the trees, we would be very grateful for donations.



WE REMEMBER POPE BENEDICT XVI: 1927 - 2022



*"The world offers you comfort.
But you were not made for comfort.
You were made for greatness."*

- Pope Benedict XVI

Pope Benedict XVI, born as Joseph Ratzinger in Germany in 1927, was one of the most influential Catholic theologians and leaders in the 20th and 21st centuries. In his youth he experienced the rise to power of Adolf Hitler that led to World War II. When the war was over, Joseph joined his brother Georg in the seminary and they were both ordained as priests in 1951. Ratzinger was an excellent theologian and earned a spot as a professor during the 1950s and 60s. He served as a theological consultant during the Second Vatican Council and grew in prominence as a theological expert within the Church in the years that followed. In 1977 he was appointed as an archbishop in Germany, and in 1981 the Pope assigned him to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome. Over the next 24 years he became one of the best-known and influential cardinals in the world. When Pope John Paul II died in 2005, Benedict XVI was elected as the pope at the age of 78. He took the name Benedict XVI in honor of the previous pope by that name and the monk Saint Benedict of Nursia. Pope Benedict XVI continued his teachings of the Catholic Church through his speeches and encyclicals during his tenure as pope. In February 2013, owing to his declining health due to old age, he shocked the world and made history by becoming the first pope to retire since 1294. All other popes in the modern age have held the position from election until death. Pope Francis was elected to take his place and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI retired in a monastery in Vatican City, becoming the longest-living person to be pope.

Pope Benedict XVI died on 31st December 2022 and was laid to rest in the underground chambers of the Vatican in a private ceremony on Thursday 5th January 2023. As many as 100,000 mourners gathered in St Peter's Square ahead of the burial for the two-hour Requiem Mass given by Pope Francis - a historic moment as it is the first time in 200 years that a pope has led the funeral of another. During the three days leading up to his funeral, almost 200,000 people paid their respects and filed past Benedict's body dressed in a mitre and red vestments, his hands wrapped in a rosary, which was placed on a bier in St. Peter's Basilica without any papal regalia.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

A very Happy Birthday to all of our children celebrating their special day during the coming week!

Aaron in Y6 who is 11 today, 6th January!

Skylla-Rae in Y5 who will be 10 on 8th January

Ezra in Y2 who turns 7 on 9th January

Bryony-Jane in Y5 who will be 10 on 10th January

Brogan in Y6 who will be 11 on 12th January

We wish you all a very happy birthday, and lots of fun celebrating on your special day!

SAINT AUGUSTINE'S VIRTUES

Our virtues this term are 'Love of Neighbour' and 'Self-Control'.

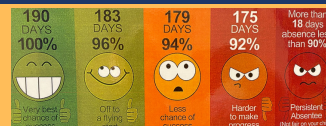
Your children may be talking about their Virtues Passport at home – each term, the children have to show how they are practising the virtues of the term.

The passports have three given things that the children have to demonstrate and three ways that the children can choose for themselves.

Please do ask your child and recognise how they are being kind and caring to those around them, and showing some self-control.



ATTENDANCE



Our whole school attendance this week was 93.84%. Our attendance by class is as follows:

Cedar - 80%
Sycamore - 100%
Acacia - 91.74%
Willow - 93.38%
Juniper - 100%

88 of our pupils had 100% attendance at school this week.

Please click here to link to the gov.uk website for more information on attendance and absence.

OUR NEW PLAYGROUND!

We are delighted with our brand new KS1 playground! It was amazing to see all the happy faces (and muddy feet!) on Wednesday morning as pupils saw and dived onto our fantastic new play areas.

The team at Venture Play are still adding some finishing touches, but we are so pleased with how great the new play areas look and know that the EYFS and KS1 pupils will have hours of learning and fun in these areas!

ART POP-UP SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY

A message from local artist, Sam Rodman: "Art Pop-Up is back and with the first of our FREE Make Space events for 2023 this Sunday 8 January at the URC Hall in Broad Street from 2.30 until 4.30pm. This Sunday we will be making collages with the amazing poet Charley Geever plus lots of other arts and craft activities including dream catchers, Chinese lanterns, learn to crochet, paper quilling and good luck charms, plus the usual painting and drawing - all materials provided. We hope to see you there, any queries or if you want to talk to us about accessibility please do get in touch community@artpopup.co.uk Everybody is welcome, most suitable for ages 3-99+"

EXCITING CURRICULUM OFFERS!

Please look out for our new curriculum offers for each class on Seesaw and our website. There have been lots of unusual happenings in school already this week – both Juniper and Sycamore classes have had their classrooms turned upside down while they were out, and have started to look for clues. I hear tell that there have even been alien sightings in our younger classrooms - watch this space! - Mrs Cox

INTRODUCING OUR NEW ACACIA CLASS TEACHER - MISS OLIVIA MENTZEL!

We have welcomed our new Year 4/5 Acacia class teacher this week! Miss Olivia Mentzel has been working within our Trust and Diocese for several years, having started her career as an NQT with Mrs Withers and Mrs Hibbert (our Deputy Headteacher) at St. Norbert's in Spalding. Miss Mentzel is currently completing the Exemplary Leader Programme; she will also start to lead Maths and Collective Worship for our school. We will learn more about Miss Mentzel in next week's newsletter!



ATTENDANCE AND OUR MORNING ROUTINE.

In line with our updated attendance and punctuality procedures, please be reminded that the children will need to be at school at 8.40am and ready to line up in the playground with their classes for their teachers to bring them in to school. The gates to the playground will be opened at 8.30am and locked at 8.45am; please ensure that you are offsite by this time for us to start the school day with all children ready to learn. As always, please contact your child's teacher via the SeeSaw app if you would like to get in touch with them.

OUR NEW WEBSITE!

In this time of new beginnings, we also have a new website! Please do hop on to have a look – lots of our children feature in some lovely pictures and moving images. You will find term dates, information about your child's class curriculum, staff information, policies and much more.

Do let us know if you think there's any information missing, or an aspect of our pages that you'd like to see included. [Click here to visit!](#)

