



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>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Holy Father, thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, your greatest gift of love to your people. Fill my heart with such love, opening my heart to accept your great love for me. Overflow my heart with your love, so I may pour it out into the world. Help me to love others as you've loved me - even those who aren't so easy to love. For following you means loving others as you love me. Lord, thank you for your great gift of Jesus as we celebrate Christmas. May I ever walk in your love and show the world I am your disciple by the love I show to others, keeping Jesus, your Son, close in my heart. Amen.



OUR NEW WEBSITE!

Our brand new website launches today! Our web address remains the same, but the website has been given a huge makeover to better align with all of the other schools within the Our Lady of Lourdes Trust.

We hope that you will find the new website to be much more user-friendly on both mobile and desktop devices.

Please do visit and let us know what you think - we'd love to hear your feedback!

www.st-augustine.lincs.sch.uk

WWW

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM MRS COX, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

This morning I led a short Liturgy with all staff, to celebrate all of the ways in which we have walked in the footsteps of Jesus since September, serving Christ through our community and reflecting His face in our daily lives and work to others. What is clear is that although working here at St. Augustine's is a profession, it is so much more - I see true vocation in all of my staff, serving God each day in the heart and soul that they put into everything they do for the benefit of your children.

I also asked staff to reflect - are you more Mary, Joseph or donkey?! Mary, in her whole-hearted acceptance of what God asked of her, despite the challenges and heartache she would face, seeking only to love and honour Jesus with her whole heart, mind and soul; Joseph in his quiet compassion, care, thoughtfulness and kindness, which we feel throughout the New Testament despite never hearing him speak; the donkey, with its ultimate patience, humility, quiet gentleness and tenacious work ethic as it carried the most precious load over 90 miles to Bethlehem.

Which do you see yourself in this Christmas?

Colossians 3:15 says "Let the Peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." As members of the one body of St. Augustine's CVA, we closed with this prayer of Peace: Lord, we invite your peace to rule in our hearts. As we end the year, we reflect on the many gifts you have given us; let our hearts be truly encouraged with the truth that you are a good God. We thank you for the peace we have through you. May our words and actions be ones that glorify you, today and always. Amen.

Through the excitement and hype of glitter, songs and stage lights this term, I have seen the true meaning of Christmas shining through in the hope, love, joy and peace that I have felt around school. I very much hope that your wonderful children sprinkle their unique festive sparkle on all of your homes this Christmas - they are truly a joy to serve.

Wishing you all peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 4th January 2023.

Mrs Cox



INSPIRE+ CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY AND FOOD CAMP!

Grantham, Spalding & Stamford

Dates: Christmas holidays - various dates

Timings: 09:30 - 15:30 Ages: 5 to 16

Price: FREE! This provision is free to access for children in receipt of free school meals or who meet other eligibility criteria. There will also be limited paid places available to book for £18 per child per day, or £24 per child per day including lunch and snacks.

Come and join us for lots of fully inclusive festive fun including games, music, cooking, arts, crafts, challenges & sporting activities!

Each day there will be a hot, nutritious meal at lunch time and healthy snacks.

All you need to bring is a drink, warm clothing and wear suitable clothing for being active!

To book please go to:

<https://inspireplus.magicbooking.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login>

If you have any questions, please do get in contact with inspire+ by calling 01476 578137 or emailing emma.sharpe@inspireplus.org.uk



ST MARYS AND ST AUGUSTINE CHURCH - CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sat 24th Dec: 6pm - Vigil Mass beginning with Nativity Story

Sat 24th Dec: 11.30pm - Office of Readings followed by Midnight Mass

Sun 25th Dec: 9am - Dawn Mass of Christmas

Sun 25th Dec: 11am - Day Mass of Christmas



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Charlie L. in Y6 who will be 11 on 18th December
Sylvie in Y5 who will be 10 on 19th December
Elsbeth in Y3 who turns 8 on 19th December
Jack and Rocky in EYFS who will both be 5 on 21st December
Harmony in Y6 who will be 11 on 22nd December
Holly in Y3 who turns 8 on 23rd December

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

CAN YOU HELP AT GEORGE'S FOOD HUB?

Do you have any spare time to volunteer at George's Food Hub on our school grounds?

This amazing initiative from George Hetherington ensures that surplus food from local shops and businesses does not go to waste, and is instead donated to George's Food Hub and then made available for the community to benefit from on a 'pay as you feel' basis.

George needs someone to help out on a Saturday morning from 9-11am, and also from 4-6pm on a Monday. If you would like to volunteer to help please email George; george@georgesfoodhub.co.uk or call him on 07891 437914. Alternatively, pop into the food hub and have a chat in there!

ATTENDANCE



Our whole school attendance this week was 88.66%. Our attendance by class is as follows:

Cedar - 83.84%
Sycamore - 96.9%
Acacia - 91.24%
Willow - 79.67%
Juniper - 94.8%

70 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.

CAROL SINGING AT MORRISONS - WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER

On Wednesday 14th December, children from our Acacia, Willow and Juniper classes walked to Morrisons in Stamford to sing carols for the shoppers and some of our families. It was a very cold morning and the children sang a mixture of traditional carols and some songs from our Christmas production. The shoppers were very impressed and we had some lovely comments, and we also raised £. for F.O.S.A!

All of the children showed great resilience in the weather conditions, and made it a very festive occasion for all - well done, everyone! Thanks to F.O.S.A for the refreshments for the children before the walk back to school.



A WARM PLACE, AND SOME HOT SOUP

The doors of the Stamford Free Church, in Kesteven Rd, were opened at 12.30 on Tuesday 13th Dec to create a warm space for those struggling with heating bills in these trying economic conditions. Partnered by George's Food Hub, normally based at St Augustine's School, also in Kesteven Rd, the team of volunteers provided a warm welcome, a hot soup, and a tasty snack. Volunteers braved the cold to stand outside telling passers-by what was available and inviting them into the church. The result was that 48 people enjoyed their soup, the snack, and each other's company. Vegetables, brought from the Food Hub were also made available for all.

The 48 visitors now takes the total number of people served by the Hub to just under 2,000 serving the need, in these hard times, of the people in this part of Stamford.

Organiser George Hetherington said "I am excited by this expansion of the work being achieved at George's Food Hub. Supported by the school and the Free Church we are serving the community and saving surplus food. I have a great team of volunteers and the extension of this work has created a need for more volunteers. Anyone interested can talk to me on 07891 437914 or email me at george@georgesfoodhub.co.uk"

