

St. Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy



Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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A MESSAGE FROM MRS COX

Last week, I visited the parishes of Bourne and Deeping, attending all three weekend Masses, in order to promote St. Augustine's as their closest Catholic school. It was a real joy to be able to speak with such passion about the successes of the last 'two and a bit' years, and many parishioners spoke to me afterwards to say how great our school sounds – one said it made her want to go back to school!

I thought I would share with you some of the great things I shared with them:

- A totally rewritten curriculum, with all knowledge and skills mapped from EYFS to Y6
- Implementing the Read Write Inc. Phonics programme, which has led to 100% pass rate in Year 2 and only one child who missed the pass mark in Year 1 – who had made 24 points progress in only 6 weeks!
- Our brilliant Woodland School; Miss Gamble is working hard to learn about and grow this provision
- Great Y6 SATS results in line with National figures – and in the top 10% of schools for writing!
- Lots of Faith in Action projects, links with the community – not least George's Food Hub on school site
- Strong pastoral support including a wellbeing room with nurture dogs, Bonnie and Baxter
- Specialist sports and music teaching, including extra-curricular opportunities and successful sports teams
- A Pearson Certificate of Excellence for the EYFS team
- Lots of regeneration projects including the sensory garden, EYFS and KS1 outdoor area, virtue benches and classroom redecoration

I could go on and on. But most importantly, I spoke about our skilled and caring staff team, the great school community that support us and of course – our amazing pupils. That every day they work hard to 'live out' our school virtues and do everything in love, representing what St. Augustine's is all about – growing and nurturing loving, caring children who are fulfilling their potential and being the very best version of themselves. I was so very proud to be able share our ongoing success and thank you all for the part you play in our school family and for being with us on this fabulous journey.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,
Mrs Cox



VIRTUES CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to all of the recipients of this week's Virtue Certificates:

Cedar Class - Ivy - Love of Learning & Determination

Sycamore Class - Nevaeh - Love of Learning & Determination

Olive Class - Rupert - Love of Neighbour & Self-Control

Acacia Class - Jake - Hope & Confidence

Willow Class - Lola-Rose - Hope & Confidence

Juniper Class - Archie - Love of Learning & Determination

Well done to you all! We are all very proud of you.

LET US PRAY

Lord, on this Advent day and at this Advent time, we pray with longing and waiting for your coming; our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word.

Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth.

Amen



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



All of this week's birthday wishes are for children in our Year 4 Acacia Class, and they are all celebrating their 9th birthday!

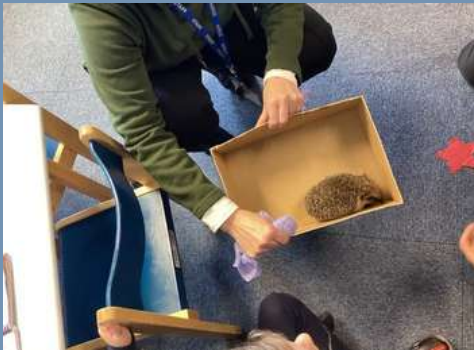
Happy Birthday to Dante for today, Jacob P for Monday 4th Dec, and Ella and Romeo for Tuesday 5th December - we all wish you all a wonderful time celebrating your special days!

CEDAR CLASS - A NEW FRIEND!

Last Friday, our EYFS Cedar Class rescued a little hedgehog from our playground.

The children took the hedgehog to the bushes in our outdoor classroom and gave him some water.

Miss Darby said that it was a real treat for everyone to see a hedgehog up close!



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY - THURS 14TH DEC

We are having our St. Augustine's Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 14th December! This is going to be a wonderful day at St. Augustine's as we are going to see the pantomime at the Stamford Corn Exchange in the morning, and then we will come back to school for our whole school Christmas lunch...and then we have the FoSA Christmas Fair!

Children can come to school in their Christmas jumper with their school uniform but there is no pressure for you to go out and buy a Christmas jumper. We will have a donation box in the front reception area if you are able to donate any pre-loved Christmas jumpers, and a box for any pre-loved baubles and tinsel etc that the children could use to jazz up their school jumpers on the day.



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER

At the start of the Church's year, we enter the wonderful season of Advent with an exhortation to 'stay awake'. We begin a time of preparation and anticipation as we look forward to welcoming the Christ Child into the world at Christmas. Jesus calls each of us today to be awake to his presence in every moment, so that we may stand ready to greet him when he comes again in glory.

The Advent wreath is a symbol of the beginning of the Church year; it is a circular evergreen wreath which reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. Candles symbolise the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. It also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others (Isa 42:6).

The four candles of Advent represent the four Sundays of Advent, and they respectively symbolise hope, peace, joy, and love. One candle is lit on each Sunday of Advent.

On Monday 4th December, Canon Peter will be with us for our Advent Liturgy and Wreath Blessing which will take place at 1.30pm in the school hall. Parents and family members are very welcome to join us for this lovely service.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION - EYFS & YEAR 1&2

A reminder that EYFS Cedar Class and KS1 Sycamore Class have their Christmas Celebration at our Parish Church, St Mary and St Augustine, next Tuesday, 5th December. Please do come along if you are able to make it to the church for 1.45pm.

Children can be taken home directly from the church; please just let the class teacher know if you'll be collecting from church by Monday 4th December so we can bring their things with us.

A MESSAGE FROM CANON PETER

In his church newsletter last week, Canon Peter said:

“Every Sunday we say in the Creed at Mass that we believe in ‘one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church’. These are the four marks of the Church. She is: ‘One’ – in the sense that there is a real communion and indissoluble union between her and Christ and between her members in Him. Christ is the Head; the Church is his body—inseparably united. ‘Holy’ – because she is founded by Christ and infused with the gift of the Holy Spirit, the very essence of the Church is holy. Of course, this aspect is often overshadowed by our own human weakness and sin as members of the Church. ‘Catholic’ – which means ‘universal’, ‘complete’, and ‘whole’. The Church is catholic in the sense that she is for the whole world, to the ends of the earth, as a sacrament of universal salvation in Christ Jesus her Lord. ‘Apostolic’ – founded on Peter and the Apostles. We believe that this close relationship between Jesus and the Apostles guarantees the accuracy and purity of their teaching. To be authentic, a church had to be founded by an apostle or one of their commissioned successors we call ‘Bishops’. It was vitally important to the early Christians that their local church could trace its origins to one of the Apostles. This guaranteed the teaching of that particular church had been passed on intact from Christ Himself; it wasn’t some subsequent invention. And it was also recognised from the very beginning that the Church of Rome was particularly important in determining what was and wasn’t authentic Christian teaching. For Catholics, the Pope and the Bishops in communion with him therefore are essential. They’re part of the plan of Jesus from the very beginning. They’re our guarantee that we’re getting authentic Christianity – not just someone else’s personal opinions.”



ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week was 89.54%

Our attendance by class is as follows:

Cedar - 91.67%

Sycamore - 85.71%

Olive - 88.75%

Acacia - 92.94%

Willow - 93.64%

Juniper - 82.86%

Being around teachers and friends in a school environment is the best way for pupils to learn and reach their potential. Time in school also keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care.

For more information, please visit the gov.uk website [here](#),

CATHOLIC YOUTH FUN DAY - SYCAMORE & WILLOW CLASS

Last Friday we all took part in the live streamed World Catholic Youth Fun Day; a chance to come together with school across the trust to mark the importance of young people within the faith.

In Lisbon this year, Pope Francis told young people that “Jesus never closes the door, never, but invites you to enter: Come and See.” This inspired the theme for this year’s World Youth Day celebrations.

We took time to pray, reflect and even dance and sing! Here’s Sycamore and Willow class taking part in all of the fun.

- Mrs Donington



EYFS AND KS1 THEATRE TRIP

The children in Cedar and Sycamore classes had a fabulous time at the Arts Centre on Wednesday. We were treated to a fantastic production of 'There's in Monster in Your Show'. With singing, puppets and dancing all eyes were glued to the stage. Lots of us joined in with the fun dancing too! What a great experience for our younger pupils.

- Mrs Donington



GREEN TEAM

Golden Boot Week 6th-10th November 2023

As a result of our survey, it was encouraging to find that most children walk or cycle/scoot to school. A good number of children park and walk but, we are looking at ways to encourage those who come by car to choose a more environmentally friendly option.



SANTA'S SLEIGH RIDE AROUND STAMFORD!

Don't forget that Santa Claus and his amazing team from the Stamford Kiwanis charity will start their annual journey to see all of the children in Stamford on Monday 4th December!

Santa's busy schedule, from 5pm on weekends and 5.30pm on weekdays, is available on the Stamford Mercury website - click [here](#) for full details.



SCHOOL COUNCIL & GREEN TEAM

A reminder that Mon 4th Dec is our next Green Team meeting, and Mon 11th Dec is our next School Council meeting. Please collect your child at 4pm.

FoSA NON-UNIFORM DAYS

Friday 8th December will be a FoSA non-uniform day in return for something for the Christmas Fair stalls - thank you!

CHRISTMAS CAROLS - YR 5 WILLOW AND YR 6 JUNIPER CLASS - WEDS 13TH DECEMBER

Our Year 5 Willow and Year 6 Juniper classes will be at Morrisons in Stamford at 10am on Weds 13th Dec to spread Christmas cheer to shoppers with carols.

All money collected on the day will benefit our FoSA team.

Please come and join us!

GOLDILOCKS & THE THREE BEARS

A reminder that we have a very exciting opportunity planned for the whole school to visit Stamford Corn Exchange during the morning of Thursday 14th December to see 'Christmas Adventure with Goldilocks and the Three Bears'.

Please make £5 payment and consent to the trip via your Arbor app by the end of today, Friday 1st December.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our School Council children and Mrs T will be selling hot dogs for just £1 at the FoSA Christmas Fair on Thursday 14th December.

CHRISTCHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR



FAMILY WARM WINTER SPACE

A reminder that Art Pop-Up, MindSpace Stamford and George's Food Hub have joined forces for a new initiative; Family Winter Warm Space.

Every Thursday evening until March 2024, they will be at the Free Church here on Kesteven Road to offer a free evening meal and creative corner for children and adults in a warm, cosy and friendly space.

Take a book, your homework or just go and hang out for a while.

Please book your place by clicking [here](#) and scrolling to 'Thursday' events.