



Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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A MESSAGE FROM MRS COX

FLOURISH IN LOVE... This week, I presented our new behaviour curriculum and behaviour policy to the Local Governing Body and a representative from the CMAT in order for them to be approved and ratified. Both parties were very impressed, and these documents are now available on our school website.

Soon after I started as headteacher, back in September 2021, I launched a 'virtues project' and all stakeholders voted on our 12 virtues; we have since also consulted and rewritten our mission statement which is now 'Let all that you do be done in love'. Over the years, our school virtues and mission statement have become the foundation of all we do in school and reflect our approach to most, if not all things. The behaviour curriculum and policy are not different – the base premise is that by teaching our children the ways in which they can practice the virtues each day, rewarding them for doing it and supporting them when they make mistakes, they will 'Flourish in Love' to be the best person they can be. We launched the new systems with the children earlier this month, which are going really well in school – the children particularly love the virtue points and the fact that they choose their own class rewards, and that every point earned in class across the week benefits the whole class.

We place huge importance on the children's positive mental health and have changed our daily routine accordingly. The children come in to a calm classroom each morning with music playing and a mindful activity, they then quickly join together in the hall for a joint Celebration of the Word, to set goals for the day.

The day then concludes with a 10 minute reflection on how we've all practiced the virtues, whilst also thinking about British Values, Catholic Social Teaching Principles and the NHS 5 Ways to Wellbeing, all of which help us to connect successfully, give our help and time to others and be brilliant citizens, serving in Jesus' image.

[Here's a link](#) to a slide show, with videos to explain the Flourish in Love approach which can be found on our website; [please click here](#) to read through the new policy which references the new systems.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Mrs Cox



VIRTUES CERTIFICATES

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

Cedar Class - Emma - Love of Learning & Determination

Sycamore Class - Nevaeh - Hope & Confidence

Olive Class - David - Love of Neighbour & Self Control

Acacia Class - Molly-Rose - Love & Respect

Willow Class - Lucy - Love of Neighbour & Self Control

Juniper Class - Oscar - Love of Learning & Determination



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



TEA WITH MRS C!

Our top virtue points winners for this week are:

Cedar Class - Frankie
Sycamore Y1 Class - Molly
Sycamore Y2 Class - Ben
Olive Y3 Class - Logan
Acacia Y4 Class - Isobel
Willow Y5 Class - Alicia and Luke
Juniper Y6 Class - Evie

**Well done,
everyone -
enjoy your tea
with Mrs Cox!**

I'M HAVING
**TEA
WITH
MRS C!**



I'M A TOP VIRTUE POINT WINNER!

LET US PRAY

Lord, thank You for friends
 Who warm my life with their smiles
 Who make life worthwhile
 Who carry me when courage fails
 And comfort me when I am sad.
 I pause to look back –
 At parties made more enjoyable
 Loneliness more bearable
 Because of their companionship.
 Thank You for their honesty
 When I cannot be honest with myself
 For letting me grow in my own time
 For respecting my feelings.
 In a world where love seems lost
 My friends love me.
 Thank You Lord for all of them.
 Amen.



SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD JANUARY 21ST 2024

On September 30, 2019, on the liturgical memorial of St. Jerome, Pope Francis announced that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time would be celebrated as the Sunday of the Word of God. This year it will fall on Sunday, January 21, 2024.

In the Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass, we are reminded of the role of the Word of God in the life of the Church: In the hearing of God's word the Church is built up and grows, and in the signs of the liturgical celebration God's wonderful, past works in the history of salvation are presented anew as mysterious realities.

God in turn makes use of the congregation of the faithful that celebrates the Liturgy in order that his word may speed on and be glorified and that his name be exalted among the nations. Whenever, therefore, the Church, gathered by the Holy Spirit for liturgical celebration, announces and proclaims the word of God, she is aware of being a new people in whom the covenant made in the past is perfected and fulfilled.

Baptism and confirmation in the Spirit have made all Christ's faithful into messengers of God's word because of the grace of hearing they have received. They must therefore be the bearers of the same word in the Church and in the world, at least by the witness of their lives.

The word of God proclaimed in the celebration of God's mysteries does not only address present conditions but looks back to past events and forward to what is yet to come.

Thus God's word shows us what we should hope for with such a longing that in this changing world our hearts will be set on the place where our true joys lie.

SCHOOL COUNCIL & GREEN TEAM

A reminder that Monday 22nd January is our next Green Team meeting, and Monday 29th January is our next School Council meeting. Please collect your child at 4pm.

COMING SOON...

...ST. A's GOT TALENT!

After the roaring success of St. A's Got Talent 2023, we are delighted to tell you that we will soon be releasing details for this year's show. Watch this space for further info!

- Mrs T

CEDAR CLASS

Cedar Class have a new special friend called Ed the Ted!

Ed will go home with a different Cedar Class child every night to visit their home and promote communication and language skills. The children will share their experiences with their class each day.

Here's Ed having lots of fun at Ferry Meadows with Austin... he even had a smart hair cut and a delicious breakfast!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



A very happy birthday to Alice in Willow Class who turned 10 yesterday, Leo in Acacia Class who will be 9 on the 20th January, Delilah in Sycamore Class who turns 6 on 23rd January, and Harry in Sycamore Class who will be 6 on 25th January!

We all wish you a wonderful time celebrating your special day!



A MESSAGE FROM CANON PETER

In his church newsletter last week, Canon Peter wrote about 'Defending the Papacy from Scripture':

Two key passages of Scripture help us understand the place of the papacy as part of the Church that Christ founded:



In Matthew 16:13-19 we find Peter's confession of faith and Jesus' installation of him as head of the Church: 'So, I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven'.

Jesus renames Simon by giving him the new name 'Peter' (Greek 'petros', 'rock'), signifying his new role. Sometimes Protestants try to argue that Jesus is referring not to Peter himself but to his confession of faith when He says 'on this rock'. They will note that, in Greek, Simon's new name— 'petros'—and the word Jesus uses for 'rock'—'petra'—are different and therefore cannot be referring to the same thing. However, this is simply a grammatical adjustment made when translating into Greek, which has both masculine and feminine nouns: 'petra' happens to be feminine, so it's adjusted to 'petros' when applied to a man. In the language Jesus was actually speaking—Aramaic—there is no gender distinction among nouns: the word in Aramaic—and the new name Jesus gave Simon—are both 'kepha'.

An Old Testament verse that provides the foundation for Matthew 16 is Isaiah 22, which Jesus is directly mirroring when He speaks of keys and binding/loosing. Here the Lord speaks to the king's prime minister, whose role was to rule in place of the king during his absence. The Lord foretells a future leader who will hold this authority: 'I will place the key of the House of David on his shoulder: should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open' (Isaiah 22:22).

So, in Matthew 16, Jesus is giving Peter (and his successors for the Church He founded) the authority to rule in His place as His 'prime minister'—as the Vicar of Christ, we know the Pope to be today."



ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week was 93.17%

Our attendance by class is as follows:

Cedar - 94.74%

Sycamore - 92.27%

Olive - 94.44%

Acacia - 98.14%

Willow - 92.99%

Juniper - 85.47%

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](https://www.gov.uk) website [here](#),

E-SAFETY UPDATE WITH ALAN MACKENZIE

Report - Children's Views on Video Gaming

Last week the Children's Commissioner released her latest report, this time looking at the views on video gaming by children. It's a fairly short, but very interesting report with some key takeaways, for example:

- Around two thirds of children say that games are beneficial to mental health and wellbeing. I'm surprised at this one, I thought it would be more.
- There is pressure to have better gaming equipment.
- Concerns over paid loot boxes.
- Frustrations at adults not recognising the positives of gaming.



That last one is really interesting, it's a very common concern I hear from children. This fits in with my talks with parents who say they don't understand their children's gaming, in turn this leads many parents into concentrating on the negatives, rather than balancing the positives.

It's worth having a read through the report which you can download [HERE](#).

Social Media Influencers

The things social media influencers do and say online can be quite impactful. Around a third of children and young people think that, because the influencer is a 'celebrity', what they share is always good. But we know that isn't the case, sometimes it can be advice based on pseudo-science, selling something because they've been paid to and much more.

Internet Matters have a great article where various specialists offer advice and guidance to parents/carers to help them to to their children thing critically about social media influencers. You can find the article [HERE](#).

DIOCESE PODCAST

Our diocese is producing a monthly podcast for the Year of Prayer called 'Encounter Prayer'. Each month a different type of prayer will be showcased; this first episode is given by Bishop Patrick who introduces the Year of Prayer, his hopes for it, and shares insights from his own prayer life.

You can find these podcasts on Apple, Spotify, Google, Amazon Music and Audible by searching Diocese of Nottingham.

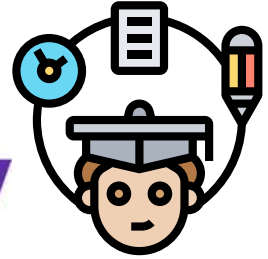
These podcasts will also be available on the diocesan website - please [click here](#) to listen .

CURRICULUM BY CLASS

Our newly updated curriculum offers for the Lent Term 1 are now live and available to view on Seesaw and on our website. You can access the curriculum plans on our website by clicking [here](#).

Accessing Seesaw will take you to a slide deck, which shares the timetable, knowledge organisers for the different subjects and videos of the class teachers sharing exciting news about the term ahead.

Seesaw



CONGRATULATIONS, BONNIE!

Our nurture dog, Bonnie, gave birth to two little puppies last weekend! What lovely news to start the new year with - congratulations and a huge 'well done' to Bonnie and Mrs Garland.



We would like to welcome two new governors to our school. Sean Edwards is one of our Cedar Class parents, and John Grant is a parishioner. Thank you very much to Sean and John for volunteering to give your time to help with our vision for our lovely school.

We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to our outgoing governor, Ms Vicky Brown. Vicky has been a tremendous support for us during her tenure as governor and we are very grateful for all of the hours that she dedicated to us.

NEW GOVERNORS AT ST. AUGUSTINE'S

CARPET!

Mrs Cox's Dad has a huge amount of carpet off-cuts which he will be delivering to school over the coming weeks for people to take for free. Whilst they are not big enough for a large room, they could easily be pieced together with a bit of know-how.

The carpet is a neutral colour and of a good quality. Please contact the school office if you would be interested



SMART WATCHES IN SCHOOL

Please ensure that your child does not wear a smart watch to school. Smart watches are not permitted for use in school. If your child wears one to school, the smart watch must be handed in to the class teacher as with handing in mobile phones each morning. Thank you for your understanding.



PLAYGROUND GATES

A polite reminder that our playground gates are closed and locked at 3.30pm - if you are visiting George's Food Hub at this time, please leave our school grounds via the main entrance gate at the front of the school.

CLUBS AT ST. A'S

We have a new clubs list, with some new additions including a lunchtime table tennis club, after school country dancing and after school French club coming very soon.

If you haven't already, please do check the clubs section of your Arbor parent app to book a place.





The bread and butter thing.

Introducing The Bread and Butter Thing



- * **Save over £20 a week on your shopping**
- * **New hub opening: 2pm, Thursday 23 November**
At Christ Church,
Green Lane, Stamford, PE9 1HE



The Bread and Butter Thing offers weekly groceries at a fraction of high street prices. We're opening our new Stamford Hub on Thursday 23 November.

For £8.50 we offer roughly £35 worth of food each week including fresh fruit and veg, chilled food for the fridge and cupboard staples such as pasta and cereal. We get our supplies from the stuff that you hear about in the news going to waste: it comes from supermarkets, factories and farms.

The food changes daily meaning your bags will change from week to week. Most members tell us that they collect food from TBBT and then 'top up' from the supermarket once they have seen what we provide.

As the bags vary from day to day, some weeks the savings will be greater than others. However, you will always be paying much less than in the shops and have new foods to try. Very occasionally, if food supplies that day are low, we will not have enough for the 3 bags. In this case, we will lower the price. We want you to feel we are making a difference to your weekly food bills.

Why not give us a try? There is no commitment and its free to join. If you want an order just reply to the weekly text you receive on the day you get it. It's really easy to signup to TBBT...

Step 1 - Text [07860 063304](tel:07860063304) with your full name, postcode, and the name of the hub you will be collecting from: STAMFORD

**Step 2 - Select the size of order you want to receive: Family - £8.50 (this is our top seller).
We also offer Individual - £5, or Large Family - £17.
There is a Vegetarian option available too.**

Step 3 - We'll send you a text every Tuesday to see if you want an order. Just reply "YES" by 10:00AM the next day. We'll deliver your order to the Stamford Hub on Thursday at 2pm.

**Step 4 -Collect and pay for your goods from Christ Church, Stamford
(Don't forget - someone can collect on your behalf if you can't make it
and we also accept Healthy Start Vouchers).**

Everyone who signs up before 26 February 2024 will get their first order free.



**No joining
criteria**



**Cash or
card on
collection**