

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

Lent. What does Lent mean to us? We often associate it with the 'big headlines' of the liturgical season, like pancake day, ashes on our foreheads and looking forward to the coming together of Easter celebrations – and all of the chocolate and new life that comes with it. Some of you might give things up for Lent, an opportunity to stop eating something you've been meaning to cut out, or maybe make other sacrifices of time or energy in helping others. Or you may not think about Lent at all, as it's not something that you feel any need to mark, especially if you don't follow a Christian faith.

And yet, I'd wager we all 'do Lent' a little in our own way, even without realising it. The three main words that Christians focus on are prayer, fasting and almsgiving, so let's look at each in turn.

Fasting - We often talk to the children in school about fasting as following in Jesus' footsteps, during his 40 days and nights spent in the desert, as a way of avoiding temptation. A way of reminding ourselves of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross – but can we really liken avoiding sweets to dying for others? Probably not. That said, when the 'yummy cupboard' is calling with your cuppa in front of the TV, that moment when we stop ourselves from leaping up can make us focus on the thoughts and feelings we encounter when we don't give in so quickly to what we really want. This physical 'detox' can also lead to a spiritual one too, bringing about a sense of self-control and for some of us, make us think a little deeper about what sacrifice means, which helps us to participate in a small way, in the cross and burden of Christ's sacrifice.

Almsgiving – charitable giving is an ancient practice that was around long before Jesus; I'd argue it's human nature to help others as we all try to live in community with one another. We certainly teach our children to be charitable through our virtues and 'Faith in Action' projects throughout the year. However, this Lenten call to almsgiving means making the needs of other people our own. One of the central lessons of the cross is compassion; I bet each and every one of us carries someone else's burden, worrying about them, finding ways to help them, not just with material objects but often with our time and emotional support. All of these things, done for others at the sacrifice of yourselves, help to purify your body, mind and spirit and bring you closer to Christ's image.

Prayer – our amazing Director of Chaplaincy, Tom Baptist, led our headteacher community in prayer this week; he's a really inspirational man who can make some of the more unfathomable aspects of Catholicism feel relevant and achievable.



When talking about prayer, he said that it's important to give ourselves time and space for this, not to worry about any special words and that even if the words don't come at all, God knows what's in our hearts. So in times of difficulty, when we're upset, when our hearts leap with joy – God knows and accepts this as prayers, of asking, of healing, of thanks. Try to recognise the thoughts and feelings in our hearts throughout Lent, and offer them up to God in thanks of His ultimate love for us.

Finally, a big thank you to each and every one of our community for your constant almsgiving to our school – your kind words, time, energies, donations and the help you give to your children at home with their learning, all make such a difference to our daily lives in school. I hope you all know how much we appreciate our St. Augustine's community. Have a happy Lenten weekend; I hope that you recognise Jesus in all of the things you do for yourselves, your family and your community.

Mrs Cox

LET US PRAY

Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful,
Where your streams of abundance flow, blessed be
your name.

Every blessing you pour out may we turn back to
praise of you,

O God when the sun's shining down on us when
the world's 'all as it should be'

Blessed be your name.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Blessed be your name.

You give and take away our hearts will choose to
say Lord,

Blessed be your name.

Amen.



THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 25TH FEBRUARY 2024

Jesus took Peter, James, and John up onto a mountain to pray. The disciples watched in awe as Jesus transfigured (changed appearance) before them. His face shone radiantly like the sun and his clothes became as white as the bright light. Astoundingly, Jesus was joined by Moses and Elijah, who had both died long before. A cloud engulfed them all, and the voice of the Lord affirmed that this is his Son and they should listen to Him.

This image was far from anything that Peter, James, and John had ever witnessed before. It showed them that Jesus truly was from God. Prior to this transfiguration event, Peter had confessed that Jesus was the son of the Living God; the transfiguration proved this to be true in the most wondrous way. Moses and Elijah would have been two of the greatest Jews that had ever lived, and Jesus standing with them showed their importance. Moses received the Law and brought it to the people, and his face also glowed, after he had spent time with God.

Elijah is referred to as a messenger of the Lord preparing the way. Even before the Transfiguration occurred, Jesus said that John the Baptist was like Elijah. John prepared the way for the coming of Jesus by preaching repentance and softening the hearts of the people. His thoughts on Jesus, Jewish law, and the relationship between God and Jesus evolved into the foundation for the development of Christianity.

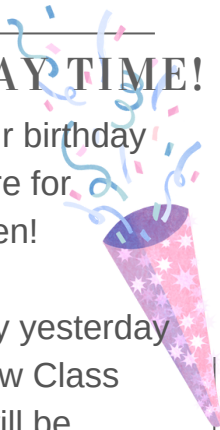
Peter never forgot this event, having witnessed the glory of Jesus and even hearing the voice of the Lord confirm his Son's words.

SCHOOL COUNCIL & GREEN TEAM

A reminder that Monday 26th February is our next School Council meeting, and Monday 4th March is our next Green Team meeting. Please collect your child at 4pm.

IT'S BIRTHDAY TIME!

Amazingly, all of our birthday wishes this week are for Willow Class children!



Lucy's 10th birthday yesterday started off the Willow Class celebrations, and will be followed by Luke's 10th birthday tomorrow...followed by Lola-Rose and Alicia who share their 10th birthday on Tuesday 27th February. Wow!

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



THE BRIARS YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6

The school has reserved two dates for the Briars Catholic Retreat Centre:

Current Year 6 pupils 19th- 21st June 2024

Current Year 5 pupils 25th – 27th September 2024

We will be holding an information meeting for the parents of both classes on Wednesday 28th February at 3:30pm in the Juniper classroom. During this meeting we will be able to give you more information about the Briars and some of the trips we have organised whilst we are there.

I look forward to meeting you all on the 28th.

- Mrs Oliver

ONLINE RECRUITMENT FAIR

Join us for an online
recruitment fair to find out
more about working at Our
Lady of Lourdes Catholic
Multi-Academy Trust

**27th February
6pm-7pm**



Find the right role for you!

Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Lunch
Time Supervisors, Office Administration
Technicians, Estates, HR, Finance,
Marketing, Leadership and more.

**Find out more and
book your space
[here](#)**

We look forward to meeting you



ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week
was 91.91%

Our attendance by class is as follows:

Cedar - 91.11%

Sycamore - 95.91%

Olive - 86.88%

Acacia - 91%

Willow - 93.06%

Juniper - 93.28%

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](#),

VIRTUES CERTIFICATES

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

Cedar Class - Remy - **Love of Learning &
Determination**

Sycamore Class - Liam - **Hope & Confidence**

Olive Class - Talitha - **Love of Neighbour & Self-
Control**

Acacia Class - Stanley - **Hope & Confidence**

Willow Class - Nazim - **Hope & Confidence**

Juniper Class - Bailey - **Hope & Confidence**



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 - Liam

Sycamore Y2 Class - Everleigh

Olive Y3 Class - Talitha

Acacia Y4 Class - Holly S

Willow Y5 Class - Mia

Juniper Y6 Class - Nikki and Luke



I'M HAVING

**TEA
WITH
MRS C!**

I'M A TOP VIRTUE POINT WINNER!



A VERY SPECIAL VISIT TO ST. AUGUSTINE'S

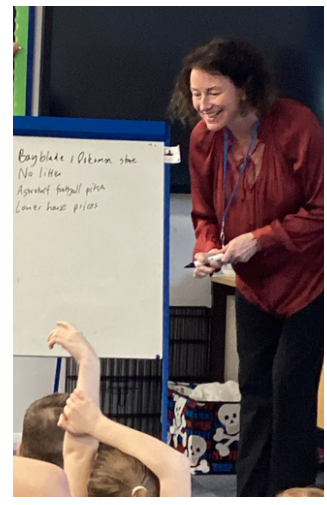
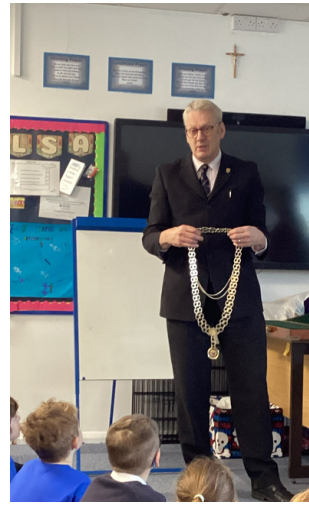
Acacia Class and Olive Class had a visit from the Mayor of Stamford, Andrew Croft, and Town Council members, Amanda Wheeler and Yvette Díaz-Muñoz.



Children were able to ask our special guests questions and also got to give their own ideas on how they think Stamford could be improved and developed.

The children also had a chance to try on the Mayoral robes and Chains of Office!

Thank you to Mayor Croft, Ms Wheeler and Ms Díaz-Muñoz for such an interesting visit, the children really enjoyed it.



ART POP-UP

This beautiful collaborative piece of art created by our St. Augustine's children is on display at Bath Row near the Meadows. Thank you to Rose at Art Pop-Up for coming in to school and sharing her creative vision, and supporting the children's love of art.



E-SAFETY WITH ALAN MACKENZIE

Parent engagement, particularly in regards to online safety, is one of the most important yet sometimes the most frustrating aspect for schools.

I was creating a very simple guide for delegates of a conference that I was speaking at, but that simple guide turned into a guide and strategy, so I thought I would share it with everyone.

It isn't a complete solution for everyone, but I hope that by following the steps in the strategy it will help you to significantly increase your parental engagement.

Below you will find two versions which you can download. Use the PDF version to read through and gather your own thoughts, use the Word version to tailor to your own needs.

[Click here for PDF version.](#)

[Click here for MS Word version.](#)



Courtesy of Alan Mackenzie www.esafety-adviser.com

CHILDREN'S COSTUME SWAP at STAMFORD LIBRARY

Looking for inspiration for World Book Day with sustainability in mind?



If you have old costumes your child no longer fits into just drop them into Stamford Library between Wednesday 21st February and Wednesday 6th March and use our clothes rail to swap one of your old costumes for one that's new to you!

For more information email stamford.library@gll.org
Follow us @lincslibraries



GREEN TEAM

Green Team have been litter picking on our school grounds, and have truly exemplified our 'Love & Respect' virtues with the time and care that they took to make our school look so neat and tidy. Thank you Green Team, and Mrs T!



Mass at St. Augustine's

Tue 27th Feb 1.30pm Lenten Mass at school with Father Paul

Tue 26th March 1.30pm Reconciliation Service at school with Canon Peter

Thurs 9th May 1.30pm Ascension Mass at school with Canon Peter

Thurs 18th July 1.30pm Year 6 Leavers Mass at school with Canon Peter

ST. AUGUSTINE'S FOOTBALL TEAM

Our school football team travelled to Malcolm Sargent school yesterday afternoon to play against the Malcolm Sargent A team. We weren't sure if the match would go ahead due to the dreadful weather conditions, but our amazing team were so determined to play despite the rain and mud, and made us all so proud; they really showed that our school virtues shine through in every aspect of our school life. Unfortunately, the game just didn't go our way and Malcolm Sargent won the match. Well done to all of our fabulous children for their grit and determination - and thank you to Mr Sinclair, as always, for his support and coaching.

- Miss B



Top L-R - Flynn, Tyler, Bryony, and Sylvie
Bottom L-R - Tommy, Jake, Jack and Mia

JUNIPER CLASS

Our Year 6 Juniper Class children had a wonderful visit to Stamford Town Hall before half-term!

They learnt about the history of the building and what all of the rooms have been used for over the years. They also saw lots of different pictures, furniture and artefacts. It's well worth a visit if you haven't been before; tours of the Town Hall are free of charge on a Friday.



Hello...

Please join us in welcoming Miss Catherine Suret, our new Acacia Class teacher, to St. Augustine's! Miss Suret will teach our Acacia Class on Mondays and Tuesdays, and Mrs Worrick will teach our Acacia children for the rest of the week:

"Hello! I'm absolutely delighted to be joining the wonderful team and children at St Augustine's as a teacher in Acacia class alongside Mrs Worrick. I've been a teacher for 10 years and think it's the best job in the world!"

When I'm at home I enjoy spending time with my lovely boys who keep me very busy going for walks, teaching me dinosaur facts and baking. I'm really looking forward to getting to know you and your children!"



...& Farewell!

We said farewell to Acacia Class teacher Miss Lee before our half-term break, as she leaves us to go and have her baby! Miss Lee has been with us at St. Augustine's for two years and will be very much missed by all of the children and the staff.

We presented Miss Lee with a hamper full of baby items on her last day with us, and we wish her, and dad-to-be Paul, all the very best for this new and exciting part of their life together...we will miss you very much, Miss Lee, and can't wait for you to come and visit us with your baby!



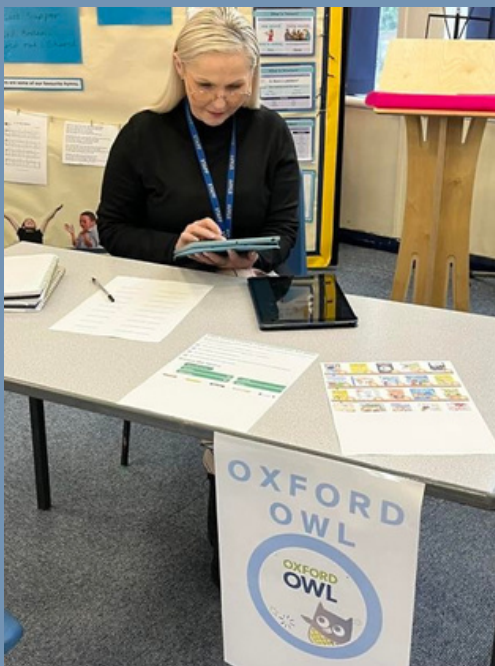
Parent Links

On Thursday afternoon, we welcomed our St. Augustine's parents to a workshop with our staff for one-on-one sessions on how to access the apps that we use at St. Augustine's and to troubleshoot any login issues. Our carefully selected apps support your child's learning at home, and provide a seamless link between school and home learning.

We wanted to make the process of navigating the apps much easier, and to help with any login issues. Thank you for coming along to see us; we hope that you found it useful!

If you couldn't make it to the session, [please click here](#) to access our handy guide to the apps that has the links to everything that you need.

Log in details for all of our apps are published inside your child's reading diary. If you are unable to log in, please contact your child's teacher via your Seesaw app or by telephoning the office.



People Who Help Us

Cedar Class had a very special visitor this week as part of their 'People Who Help Us' learning. Paramedic Ellie, from the East of England Ambulance Service, showed us around her ambulance and even put the sirens on for us!

Ellie also used her equipment to check our baby's heart and blood pressure! We had a super time and are very grateful to Ellie for coming to spend time with us.



The Big Lent Walk 2024

CAFOD and SCIAF are the official relief and development agencies of the Catholic Church for England and Wales (CAFOD) and for Scotland (SCIAF), and are both members of the global Caritas Internationalis family. CAFOD and SCIAF are teaming up this year because they know that working together means that they can make an ever bigger difference. Thousands of walkers from England, Wales, Scotland and beyond, will be tying up their purple laces and walking an incredible 200km this Lent to fight global poverty. A green and just world, free from poverty, is possible.

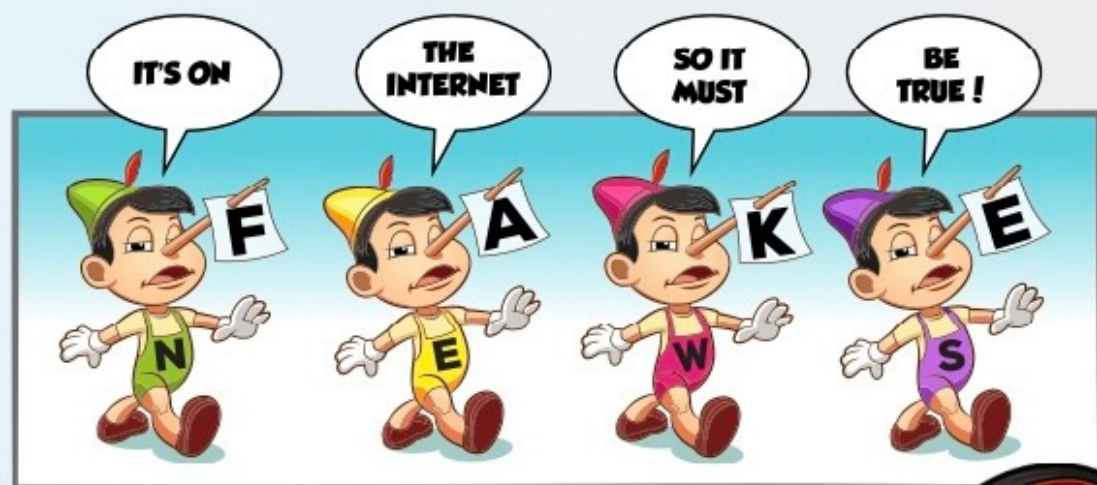
The goal: to get thousands of teams or individual walkers all going, getting fundraising in and raising awareness of inequality across the world. Together means big change can happen.

The money raised by taking part in the Big Lent Walk will enable us to continue fighting global poverty and working through expert local partners to bring real life change to communities overseas.

St. Augustine's will be taking part in the CAFOD Big Lent Walk 2024. More details will follow very soon!

THE BIG LENT WALK

A Parent's Guide to Fake News



scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guides on how to help keep your children safe online



Don't believe everything you see online!

Young people can very easily be dragged into things without parental guidance and support.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipsed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with

