

St. Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy



Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14

International
WOMEN'S DAY
MARCH 8



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Today, Friday 8th March 2024, is International Women's Day, and provides us with an opportunity to pause and reflect on all the great inspirational female leaders we have around us, but most especially at St Augustine's Catholic School in Stamford.

Undoubtedly, as a school community you have so many brilliant, talented and capable female role models who inspire and encourage you daily. However, today allows us to pause momentarily in a busy and hectic term and thank our headteacher for all she does for our school. Mrs Tina Cox certainly is an inspirational, brilliant and talented leader, an awesome teacher, an inspirational leader, a loving and caring Mother, and a great friend to many, but thankfully for St Augustine's school she is our headteacher.

Mrs Cox's commitment, dedication and determination cannot be questioned; she has a real vision, drive and zeal to continually improve St Augustine's, and her achievements in the last two years are beyond comprehension. However, what inspires Mrs Cox? Without any shadow of doubt what lies at the heart of her mission is her Catholic faith. She is motivated by the theology behind service leadership, "one who serves" and "one who shares". For Mrs Cox, this is not a pompous, academic jargon concept but something that is practical, tangible and evident in all that she does as an inspirational leader following in the example of Jesus, with great humility, service and love. Hence, "*Let all that you do be done in love*". I am certain you will agree with me this is very evident at St Augustine's school; a great school, a happy school and a place where all can flourish in the shade of the Gospel values and virtues that are so evident in all that make up the community; this cannot happen without great leadership.

So, Mrs Cox, on International Women's Day 2024, we thank you for your guidance, inspirational leadership and service. You are a remarkable, talented and brilliant headteacher, and we are so lucky to have you steering and guiding us in our path of education and helping us to always remember that "*all that we do is done in love.*"

- Anon author



LET US PRAY

Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou amongst women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now and at the
hour of our death.

Amen.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY FRIDAY 8TH MARCH

Today is International Women's Day, and who better to celebrate today than Mary, Mother of God. Mary was an extraordinary woman who was not only a mother to Jesus, but is thought of as a mother to the rest of humanity.

Mary is also seen as the model of the Church. The belief is that she exemplifies the mission of the Church in all of her actions. She agreed to God's will to give birth to Jesus and supported and displayed her faith in her son throughout his ministry. She was with him at every stage of his work on Earth and fully supported and followed his teachings; she was also there by his side at the time of his death and resurrection.

As well as Mary, we celebrate all of the women in our staff team, our school families and the wider community that we are so proud to be a part of. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, blessed among all women, guide and protect you in your indispensable role in the family, society, Church and the entire world!
God bless you all.

"If you ever feel distressed during your day, call upon our Lady and just say this simple prayer:
'Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.'
I must admit, this prayer has never failed me."
- Blessed Mother Teresa

SCHOOL COUNCIL & GREEN TEAM

A reminder that Monday 11th March is our next School Council meeting, and Monday 18th March is our next Green Team meeting. Please collect your child at 4pm.

IT'S BIRTHDAY TIME!

Happy birthday to Logan in Year 3 Olive Class who celebrates his 8th birthday on 9th March, and to Raven in Year 4 Acacia Class who turns 9 on 12th March.

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



The dates for St. A's Got Talent have changed - auditions will now be held each lunchtime during the week of June 3rd, and the grand final will take place on Friday 14th June.

EYFS CEDAR CLASS

Last Friday, Cedar class won the most virtue points within their class for Friendship and Kindness. Well done Cedar class, you all show this virtue everyday and we are so proud of you all.

- Miss Darby



E-SAFETY WITH ALAN MCKENZIE

Article - A Social Media Ban for Children Would Solve Nothing

It's one of those discussions where there can be a huge range of subjective opinions and thoughts: will banning social media for children (perhaps under 16) actually achieve anything? Is it even possible? What does the real scientific evidence (rather than media clickbait) tell us?

Prof. Andrew Przybylski is, as far as I'm concerned, one of the leaders in relation to his studies. In this article in Science Focus magazine he gives a very balanced and informative opinion on whether social media should be banned.

You can see the article, a 3 minute read, [HERE](#).



For Parents - Second-Hand Devices

Parents will often hand down out of contract devices to their children. This is great, it can save a lot of money, but there needs to be consideration before handing older devices to children. You can find lots of useful information, things to consider and guides to second-hand devices from Internet Matters [HERE](#).

Courtesy of Alan Mackenzie www.esafety-adviser.com

ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week was 92.59%

Our attendance by class is as follows:

Cedar - 95.95%

Sycamore - 91%

Olive - 87.9%

Acacia - 98.9%

Willow - 88.56%

Juniper - 95.37%

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](#),



MOTHERING SUNDAY, FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

The fourth Sunday of Lent, or Refreshment Sunday, is historically a day in the Church's calendar where Christians are encouraged to return to the Church where they were Baptised and welcomed into God's family, whichever Christian Church that may be.

So this Sunday, think about your own faith journey, as it is still Lent, and perhaps think about your own spiritual journey. All are very welcome at St Augustine's Church; perhaps pop in and light a candle, say a prayer, make a visit or better still join us for Mass: Saturday 18.00, Sunday 09.00 or 11.00, **ALL ARE WELCOME**. Happy Mothering Sunday!



YOUTH COUNCIL

On Thursday evening, Sylvie (Year 6 Juniper Class), Mia (Year 5 Willow Class), Stan and Elspeth (Year 4 Acacia Class) represented our school at the Youth Council meeting at Stamford Town Hall. These meetings run every half term and are attended by a range of councillors and the secretary to the Mayor. Each meeting has a slightly different agenda, but gives our young people a voice in matters affecting their town. This week, the children of Stamford discussed climate and environmental issues and how we can improve them at our school.



LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE *in love*
1 CORINTHIANS 16:14

INSPIRE+ SHOOTING STARS

On Monday, some of our St. Augustine's children took part in the Inspire+ Shooting Stars Football Festival at Borderville Sports Centre, accompanied by Mrs Cox and Mr Sinclair. Our children represented the school beautifully, and worked so well together - well done everyone! Thank you to Mr Sinclair for his support and time.



inspire+

termtimes NEWS



Exceptional results at St Augustine's A school in Stamford has achieved top marks after an impressive turnaround.

St. Augustine's in Stamford is now riding high becoming one of the highest performing schools in Stamford for progress data in all three core subjects, and in the top 20% of schools nationally, for their exceptional progress in writing, according to gov.uk 'Get Information About Schools'. The data set for the 2023 SATS shows the school's outstanding progress from the last figures pre Covid which saw the school ranked as one of the lowest performing in Stamford.

Headteacher Tina Cox says the turnaround has been a whole school effort during a period of rapid growth and development since she was appointed in 2021. As head of Curriculum and Year 6, Mrs Oliver has led a team of hardworking teaching staff to rewrite the school's curriculum. Together with skilled teaching assistant, Mrs Jones, they also individually assessed the needs of each child and worked closely with them to make great progress in all three subjects.

Mrs Cox says: 'I am immensely proud of what we have all achieved as a school family. We are a member of the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi Academy Trust, who have supported recruitment and retention of an excellent team by investing in wellbeing and ongoing CPD, whilst we work hard in school to create a happy, friendly and nurturing environment in which each and every one of our pupils can flourish!'

St. Augustine's News | Issue 68 | 08.03.24

We are delighted to feature in the latest copy of 'Term Times' magazine!

Paper copies will be coming home with your children in the next few days, but in the meantime you can read the article (p20) online and see what's happening in our area on the Term Times website by clicking [here](#).



A very warm welcome to our new Acacia Teaching Assistant, Mr Goddard, who will be with us until Mrs Mason returns from long-term sickness absence.

BOOK WEEK

Wow, St. Augustine's children - you are just incredible! So many of you took so much time and effort making your entries for our Book Week 'Book in a Box' competition; you are all so imaginative! After all of the children cast their votes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, we are delighted to announce our winners! Well done to Jack (Willow Class), Elspeth (Acacia Class) and Harry (Sycamore Class)! Thank you to all of our school parents for supporting this creativity in the children, and to Charlie for collecting Jack's prize for him.



BOOK WEEK

On Monday, Mr Armitage came to read us all a story! Thank so much, Mr Armitage, for spending some time with us and telling us the exciting story of the Pope's Swiss Guards!



Mass at St. Augustine's

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

POSTCARDS FOR THE FRONT

Yvette Diaz-Munoz, Chair of the Stamford Diversity Group, has been in touch to let us know that our postcards for the Ukrainian soldiers got to them in time for Christmas - security clearances meant that Yvette couldn't share this information with us before now.

The picture with just one soldier is from 107 Brigade. The picture with two soldiers is from 14 Brigade. Both brigades are on the frontline in the Kupyansk region.



Can you help us support the people of Ukraine?

Mrs T is collecting tins of food to be sent with the next delivery of aid from Stamford to the Ukraine. Tins of food are needed and will be very gratefully received. If you are able to donate a tin or two, please bring them to the box in our school foyer by Wednesday 13th March. We don't have any donations yet and would love to be able to send some aid from our school.



Thank you so much..

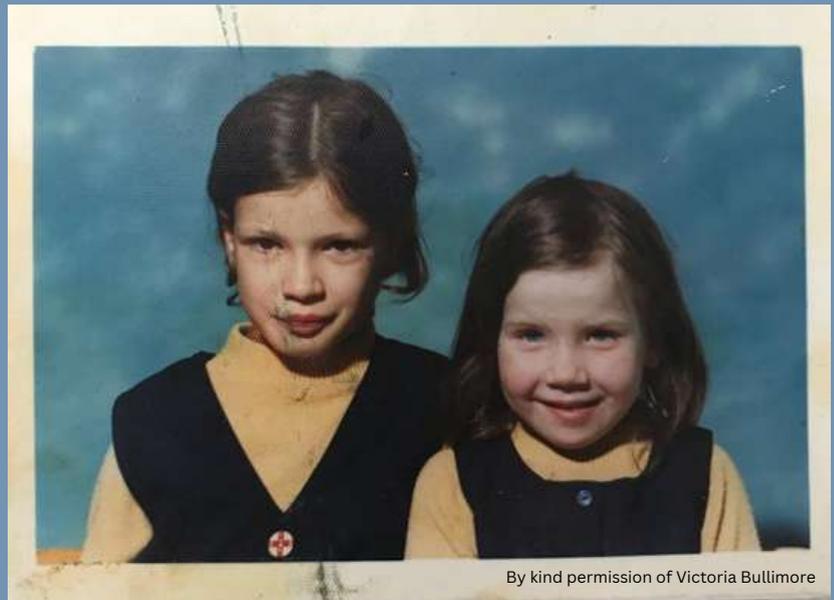
Before we broke up for our school summer holiday last year, a lady called Victoria Bullimore contacted Mrs Cox and made a very generous donation to our St. Augustine's sensory prayer garden.

Victoria gifted some very special statues that were hugely sentimental for her family.

These statues belonged to Victoria's mother, Fay Butcher. Fay and her husband, Donald, were devout parishioners at St Augustine's Church for many years, and Fay was also in the church choir. Fay died in March 2014, aged 83, and had been a widow since Donald passed away in 2000.

Victoria herself was a pupil at St Augustine's school from 1973-1976, along with her younger sister, Katherine. Victoria has kindly sent us a copy of one of their school photos, published below. As you can see, the school colours are the same as we have today! Victoria fondly remembers the headteacher at the time, Mr Cooper, along with his wife who was also a teacher at St. Augustine's.

Victoria is so pleased that her mother's much loved statues are going to be appreciated in our prayer and sensory garden, and we are so very grateful to Victoria for her kindness. We will remember Fay during our quiet moments in our beautiful, tranquil area.



By kind permission of Victoria Bullimore

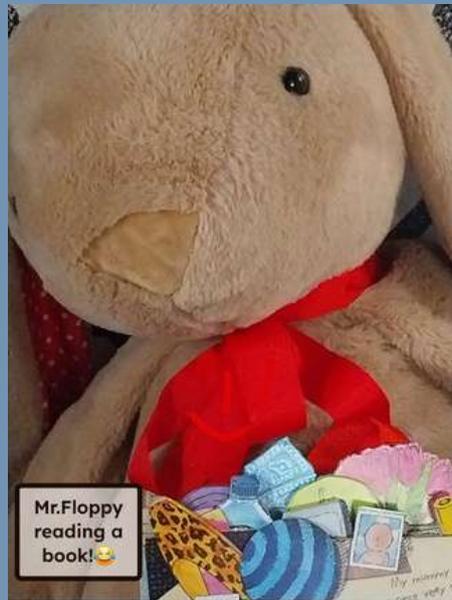
Forest School

Last week our Forest School children stayed dry inside and made some fantastic necklaces from elder!



Willow Class

For Book Week, Willow Class children were set a Secret Surprise Seesaw Challenge! The challenge was to upload a picture of their favourite teddy or toy reading a book, to see how much they could make their Willow friends laugh! Look at these amazing readers...



Book Week Human Library!

On Wednesday we welcomed some very special guests to St. Augustine's for our very first Human Library! Every child got a chance to spend time with their chosen guest and listened to some very exciting and special life stories.

We are so grateful that our visitors took time out of their day to spend time with us; you all made this event such a great success and so special for the children, thank you all so very much.



Top L-R: Dr Jessica Randall-Carrick, Ms Sam Roddan, Mr George Hetherington
Bottom L-R: Mr Nicholas Armitage, Mrs Aileen Frisby, Mr John Jones and Mr Dan Wade



Book Week Dress Up Day!

Yesterday we all came to school dressed as any word we chose! We had a wonderful array of very creative people being 'cosy', 'tired', 'sparkly', 'artist', 'music' and much more!

Here we all are in a rare whole-school photo...well done, everyone!



**NEVER
STOP
READING**