

St. Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy



Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



Phone: 01780 762094

Website: www.st-augustine.lincs.sch.uk

Address: Kesteven Road, Stamford, Lincs PE9 1SR

A MESSAGE FROM MRS COX

This week has been nothing short of amazing in school – we have had so many important things happening, with lots of visitors. Everyone in school has been feeling pretty tired today. But that hasn't stopped us! We have also welcomed in Spring with some lovely sunny days.

On Monday and Tuesday we had local and national news crews around school, recording interviews and footage to support the Benedict Blythe Foundation's newly released report on allergies. The absolute superstar was Holly from Acacia class who, without warning or preparation, spoke confidently and eloquently about her allergy to 'everything under the sea' and how we all help her to stay safe. Well done, Holly! If you haven't yet seen the Five News report, please click on the link at the bottom of page 4.

On Monday, we were also notified of our Catholic Schools Inspection. We had 48h notice before two inspectors arrived on Wednesday for a two day inspection into our Catholic Life and Mission, RE and Collective Worship Provision. We were very pleased to be able to showcase all the wonderful things we do in school that make us so special and I'd like to send my sincere thanks for everyone's amazing support, positivity, questionnaires, comments and interviews. We will give you more information once the report is finalised, but for now, it was such a joy to see our whole community pull together – parents, pupils, governors and staff – to show the inspectors what a great Catholic school and community we really are!

If that wasn't enough for one week, we've also held an Inspire+ 'Legacy Tour' assembly, welcoming Bluecoat School pupils into school to pass on the Olympic torch, then taking it to Malcolm Sargent School to pass onto them. On Thursday, Miss Bush and Mr Sinclair took 7 girls to play in the Stamford Junior School girls netball tournament. After only a couple of training sessions together, we finished fourth overall out of seven schools, and the girls had great fun. The thing I'm most proud of though, is that I was contacted by a parent of another school after the event, who sent the following message:

'More compliments for St. Augustine's...out of all the teams, they were the team that showed the best sportsmanship and [my daughter] loved playing against them. They clapped when [our team] scored and complimented them for intercepts. How lovely.'

Today, Mrs Donington held an amazing 'CAFOD BIG LENT WALK' event in school, which was a roaring success! Our 'Future Saints' chaplaincy team didn't want to 'just walk' to raise money, so they planned a walk that involved a quiz, a treasure hunt, an obstacle course and a cake sale. Final donations are yet to be totalled, but we were so delighted with how many families came along to join us – thank you all for your support, as ever. If anyone didn't make it and would still like to donate, you can do so on our CAFOD donations page [here](#). Please see photos on page 7!

Finally, I'd like to say a big thank you for two further donations this week: The Little Book Snug with Usborne Books ran a community pledge event, which meant that we received a whopping £350 from Alison Homes with which to purchase a range of new books for our library. My mum has made and donated a lovely Easter hamper to be raffled off to raise money for our 'trips and visits' fund in school. If anyone would like to buy a ticket before next Thursday, please do so in the 'School Shop' section of your Arbor app, or pop into school for details!

Wishing you a lovely sunny weekend – we hope to see you tomorrow morning from 10.30am, for our Community Garden Day event. Bring gardening tools or a wheelbarrow if you can!

Mrs Cox

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LET US PRAY

For Seasons on Life:

For seasons on life
When fall turns to winter
and winter to spring
let me embrace
the seasons of life.
From highs and lows
From joy to sorrow
and back again
From birth to breath
and life to death.
God, make yourself known.

Amen



- Author unknown

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

COMMUNITY GARDEN DAY

If you're able to join us tomorrow
for our Community Garden Day,
please bring your own secateurs
and gardening equipment.
Thank you - we look
forward to seeing you
tomorrow from 10.30am
- Mrs T



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.



FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

MONDAY 25 MARCH

On the Feast of the Annunciation, we celebrate the day that the Angel Gabriel visited the Virgin Mary, announcing that she was going to be the mother of Jesus. Mary did not understand completely, but she trusted God's plan for her life, and she said yes to becoming the mother of God and our mother.

The words of the "Hail Mary" come from the Angel's greeting: "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you." God's grace lives in each one of us, but Mary was full of grace because she was born without any original sin. We know that can turn to Mary, our mother, whenever we need help making difficult decisions or if we are scared to say yes to God. She loves us very much, and she is always praying that we will have the courage to listen to and obey her son.



GREEN TEAM & SCHOOL COUNCIL

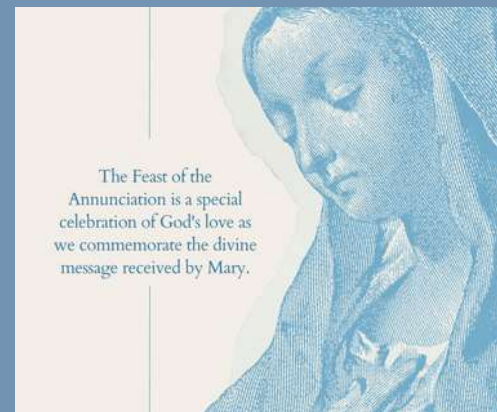
A reminder that Monday
25th March is our next School Council
meeting, and Monday 15th April is our
next Green Team meeting. Please collect your
child at 4pm.

SCHOOL GATES

Please be reminded that our school gates are closed and locked at 8.45am so please arrive in plenty of time to ensure that you're not locked in the playground. Apologies for any forgotten gates last week - Mr Baker was poorly and we had lots of staff absence - thank you for your patience.

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Our last day at school is Thursday 28th March before our two week Easter holiday. We return to school on Monday 15th April.



VIRTUES CERTIFICATES

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

Cedar Class - Kenny - **Love of Learning & Determination** - "Super letter formation & working hard to persevere"

Sycamore Class - Delilah - **Hope & Confidence**

Olive Class - Logan - **Friendship & Kindness**

Acacia Class - Jake S - **Friendship & Kindness**

Willow Class - Alice - **Love of Learning & Determination**

Juniper Class - Conor - **Love of Learning & Determination**



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

TEA WITH MRS C... (and a very special guest today!)

Our top virtue points winners for this week are:

Cedar Class - **Maisie**

Sycamore Class - **Layla-Mae**

Olive Y3 Class - **Logan**

Acacia Y4 Class - **Toby**

Willow Y5 Class - **Oliver**

Juniper Y6 Class - **Oscar**



LENT - FASTING

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and trust in God.
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words and be silent – so you can listen.

—attributed to Pope Francis from "Do you want to fast this Lent?"

E-SAFETY WITH ALAN MCKENZIE

Supporting Children with SEND

Internet Matters have a great range of guides and advice hubs available for parents of neurodivergent children including connecting and sharing online, online gaming and more.

You can access all the guides [HERE](#)

AI - Virtual Girlfriends and Boyfriends

The US Cyberbullying Research Centre have put out a really interesting article related to AI chatbots as girl/boyfriends. These chatbots are apps, freely available for download where you can interact with messages, voice messages and in some cases, image exchanges. Given the curiosity of young people in particular there is a likelihood that some young people are interacting with these chatbots so it's important to be aware of what they are and the risks they pose.

You can see the full article [HERE](#)

Courtesy of Alan Mackenzie www.esafety-adviser.com



ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week was 91.56%

Our attendance by class is as follows:

Cedar - 91.36%

Sycamore - 94.18%

Olive - 82.64%

Acacia - 95.91%

Willow - 91.2%

Juniper - 94.39%

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](#),

BENEDICT BLYTHE FOUNDATION

On Monday, we had the great privilege of meeting Helen Blythe, mother of Benedict Blythe, as she was interviewed by the BBC at our school.

Benedict died in 2021 during a very normal day at the school he attended. Benedict collapsed with anaphylaxis; he was just five years old. Benedict was allergic to milk, along with many other foods including soy, sesame, eggs and nuts.

Helen and her husband, Pete, have created a foundation in memory of their beautiful boy, Benedict, and the joy that he brought to them and his sister, Etta.

Mrs Cox was interviewed earlier in the week for local and national news channels about the importance of high quality allergy management in schools.

To watch the Channel 5 News piece, please click [here](#).



BENEDICT BLYTHE
FOUNDATION



Mrs Cox's mum has very generously made and donated this gorgeous Easter hamper to be raffled off to raise funds for our 'trips and visits' fund in school. Tickets are just £1 and are available to purchase in the 'School Shop' section of your Arbor app. Good luck!

Evie, Conor and Sylvie proudly showing the wonderful donation from Alison Homes. The Little Book Snug with Usborne Books ran a community pledge event, which meant that we received a whopping £350 with which to purchase a range of new books for our library. We are so grateful.





HOLY WEEK & EASTER

AT ST. MARY & ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC
CHURCH, BROAD STREET, STAMFORD

Holy Week is a time to reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Remembering Jesus' actions, reflecting on his messages and recommitting to living as his disciples in the world today.

We hope this schedule helps you plan to observe these important days, both on your own and with others. May you have a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

Holy Thursday, 28 March, 2024

7:30pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper with
Solemn Adoration until Midnight

Good Friday, 29 March, 2024

3:00pm - Commemoration of the Lord's
Passion

7:00pm - Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, 30 March, 2024

8:00pm - Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, 31 March, 2024

9:00am - Easter Mass

11:00am - Easter Mass



*'We adore you, O Lord Jesus Christ, in this church and
all the churches of the world, and we bless you, because
by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

Amen'

- St. Frances of Assisi

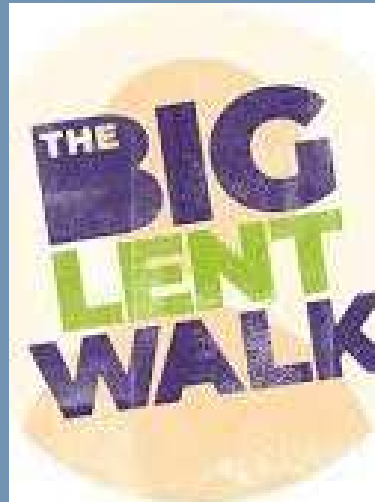
Forest School

Our Acacia Forest School children had such a fun time outside this morning in the beautiful Spring sunshine!



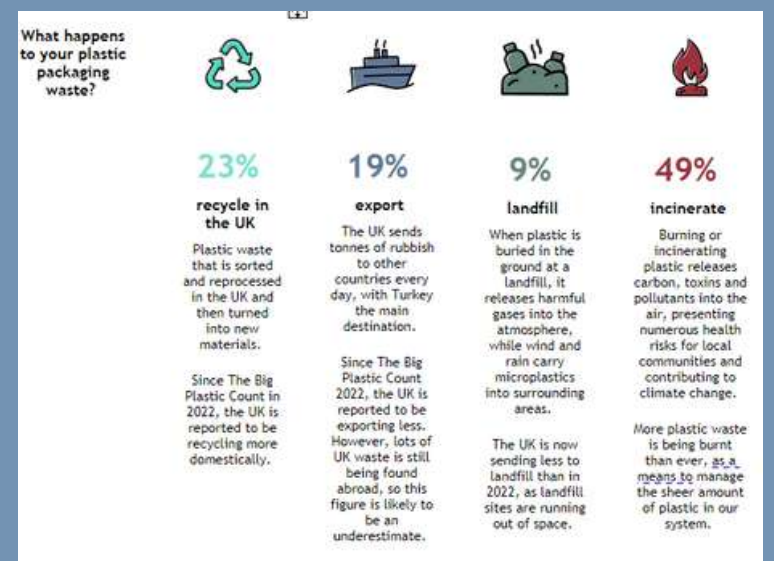
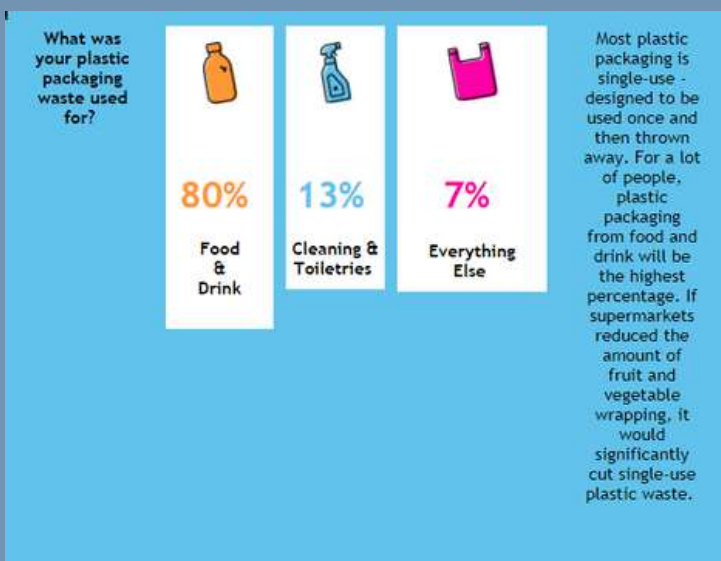
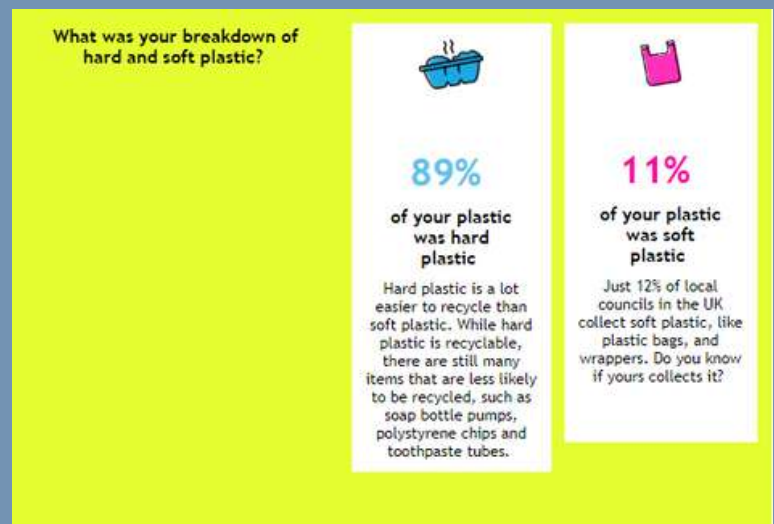
Big Lent Walk!

How lovely to see so many of you at our Big Lent Walk today! Thank you so much for coming to walk with us, and for all of your **extremely** generous donations of delicious cakes and donations for CAFOD. The money raised will help CAFOD to help fight global poverty. Thank you for joining us in helping to make a change, and thank you to Mrs Donington for organising this lovely event.



Green Team

Last week, our Green Team children took part in The Big Plastic Count, an initiative founded by Greenpeace and Everyday Plastic. Our Green Team children counted plastic over the course of seven days, and submitted their findings to the national survey for analysis. This information will be collated along with all data received nationally to show the government they need to get serious about tackling the plastic waste crisis.



**THE BIG
PLASTIC
COUNT
11-17 MARCH**





Following our Trust Synod, we pledge to help our parents and families to feel more welcome and confident at special events and acts of worship in school. Bringing a baby or young child to such events can sometimes feel daunting, so we are going to set up a play corner in our school hall so that they know everyone is welcome!

Watch us talk more about our pledge by scanning this QR code.



If you're reading on a mobile device, please click here to watch Mia and Arlo talk about our pledge!

ST. AUGUSTINE'S C.V.A COMMUNITY GARDEN DAY



Can you help our Green Team?! They have been working so hard on their own but as you can see, they really need your help!

If you are free on Saturday 23rd March for a couple of hours, please could you come and help us in our mission to tidy up our beautiful school grounds, plant some hedging, and get our raised planter filled and ready for Spring?!

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH - 10.30AM

If you are able to donate any materials, we are happy to accept them before the 23rd March so that we can get going on the day.

- Rubble
- Greenery
- Logs/ branches
- Compost/ top soil

**TEA AND BACON BUTTIES
SERVED DURING THE
MORNING!**



ST. AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY, KESTEVEN ROAD, STAMFORD PE9 1SR



FOSA
EASTER

DISCO

MUSIC / FOOD / FUN

26th March

4.30 to 6pm



£3

Pay on the door