

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

This week I would like to spend some time talking about our amazing FoSA team! For those of you who don't know, FoSA stands for Friends of St. Augustine's and is similar to what you may know as a PTA, or Parent Teacher Association. FoSA work hard all year round putting on events to raise money, which they then use to support the school in a range of different ways. Things such as the virtue benches in the playground, the space 'wonderdome' and the visiting theatre show of The Secret Garden are just a few of the things that FoSA have funded to enhance school life for our pupils.

However, I also have sad news – our dedicated Chairperson, Wendy McDonald, has decided to step down from the position with immediate effect, for personal reasons. Wendy has headed up FoSA for over 15 years and has dedicated so much time and energy to organising events, in particular the summer fayres, often spending months preparing. I would like to send huge thanks, on behalf of the whole school community, past and present, for everything you have done for us Wendy, you have been amazing and we are so grateful. We understand that it was a hard decision to hand over the reins and hope you enjoy your 'retirement' from FoSA, having a well-earned rest in the summer months without having to think about hook-a-duck or raffle prizes for the first time in a very long time!

Since I joined St. Augustine's in 2021, Wendy, Lara and Tanya have been the central FoSA team, holding regular meetings, organising events and supporting the school. All three ladies have jobs and we are very grateful to them for coordinating things so brilliantly, with so few permanent members.

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Wendy McDonald

However, we very much feel that it is essential to grow FoSA now and ensure that these ladies have more support in all they do – and the first thing to think about is the school summer fayre!

I will be holding a Summer Fayre FoSA Team meeting in school on Monday 20th May 2024 at 5.30pm, and would like as many people as possible to join us to volunteer time or ideas to help coordinate the fayre. We have set the date for the summer fayre for Sunday 7th July 12-3pm and would very much welcome either help during the meeting on 20th May to plan and prepare for the fayre, and also to help set up in the morning of the fayre, man the stalls and clear up at the end. Even if you can't come to the meeting, please email into the school with the subject line **SUMMER FAYRE HELP** to let us know that you can help in some way – even if it's just an hour it makes all the difference!

Moving forwards, we will hold an AGM (Annual General Meeting) in September, to look at electing a new chair for FoSA and we hope to fill some of the other roles, growing our FoSA members to a much larger team than we've had for a long time. We hope that we give everyone a warm welcome at our meeting in May and that anyone who comes along to help with the fayre, in any way, will consider continuing to support FoSA next year....and possibly beyond. At the meeting in September, we will schedule half-termly meetings and FoSA events for the year ahead so that everyone has lots of notice; meetings are generally held at around 5.30pm and could be a hybrid of in-person and on Teams. More information will follow nearer the time on how to nominate yourself or someone else to be our new chairperson but until then, we hope to see you at the meeting in May.

I know that we are all busy people with busy lives, but I cannot stress enough just how important FoSA are to us; everything raised comes directly back into school, for the benefit of the children to make their environment and their learning even more fabulous. I very much hope that you will consider giving up just a little of your time to come along and help – as Tesco say (other supermarkets are available), ***every little helps!***

I hope you have a lovely bank holiday weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

Mrs Cox
Head Teacher



LET US PRAY

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among 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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Bailey in Juniper Class is 11 on 7th May!

Layla-May in Sycamore Class will be 6 on 9th May!

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



ST. MARY & ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH CHURCH

Did you know that Canon Peter and Carrie Ann at our parish church create a wonderful weekly newsletter for our parish?



Please [click here](#) to read the newsletters, which are full of Mass dates and upcoming events within our Diocese.



MAY - THE MONTH OF OUR LADY

We have now entered the month of May, known liturgically as the month of Mary.

This is a time for us as Catholics to show our devotion to her. Mary is held as a glorious example of full and unquestioning commitment to the will of God. Mary is not a deity that we worship, but as our mother, we ask that she prays for us to her son Jesus. Many people ask her for help in the most difficult moments of life, as any child does with their mother, and after bidding prayers in Church, the congregation will always ask for her help through the Hail Mary.

Pope Paul VI declared, "The month of May is almost here, a month which the piety of the faithful has long dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. Our heart rejoices at the thought of the moving tribute of faith and love which will soon be paid to the Queen of Heaven in every corner of the earth. For this is the month during which Christians, in their churches and their homes, offer the Virgin Mother more fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration; and it is the month in which a greater abundance of God's merciful gifts comes down to us from our Mother's throne.

Mary is even sometimes known as the 'Queen of May', and images or statues of Mary are crowned, sometimes with flowers, in a 'May Crowning'. There are also 'May altars' in church and some homes; the May altar is usually a table covered in a blue or white cloth, with pictures or statues of Mary, candles, flowers, and rosary beads.

"It is fitting that we should dedicate to Mary, the most beautiful month of the year, for she is the most beautiful of God's creatures."
- Antonio Cardinal Bacci

GREEN TEAM & SCHOOL COUNCIL

Mon 13 May - Green Team

Mon 20 May - School Council

MAIN SCHOOL GATES

A reminder that our main front gates will be locked between 8.30am and 9.30am in order to reduce congestion in our car park and front reception area at our busiest time.

The front pedestrian gate will remain open as usual during this time; if you are arriving at school after 8.45am, please park outside the school grounds and walk to the front reception.

SPORTS DAY 2024!

Thursday 27th June – Sports Day

Wednesday 3rd July – Reserve Sports Day in case of inclement weather. We look forward to seeing you all!

VIRTUES CERTIFICATES

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

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

Sycamore Class - **Layla** - **Love of Neighbour & Self Control**

Olive Class - **Lucy** - **Love & Respect**

Acacia Class - **Nolan** - **Hope & Confidence**

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

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



Well done to you all!

We are all very proud of you.

~~TEA WITH MRS C!~~

ICE CREAM WITH MRS M!

Cedar Class - **Eli**

Sycamore Class - **Ada**

Olive Class - **Talitha & Emilia**

Acacia Class - **Tobias**

Juniper Class - **Bailey**



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



I'M A TOP VIRTUE POINT WINNER!

Y6 JUNIPER CLASS - SATs

Our Year 6 children have been working extremely hard to get ready for their SATs which start on Monday 13 May. Pupils will be coming in each day at 8:30am for breakfast, followed by a rapid revision session before starting the test.

We have had a low-key approach to these tests to try and reduce any stress or nerves that the children might be feeling. Please try and reassure your child that they have done the necessary work and this is simply their chance to showcase all of their knowledge.

YEAR 3/4 TAG RUGBY

Our Year 3/4 Tag Rugby team went to Stamford School this week to practice drills with other primary school children from the area. Our team demonstrated all of our school virtues beautifully, and showed great sportsmanship with the other teams. Well done, everyone!



E-SAFETY WITH ALAN MCKENZIE

Snapchat MyAI - A Guide for Parents

As we all know Snapchat is one of the main social apps used by children from approx. Y3 upwards. Snapchat introduced MyAI as a new feature which can't be removed within Snapchat and this is why, over the last few months, I've been speaking to lots of children who are experimenting with this chatbot.

Wayne Denner, a fellow online safety consultant, has put together a really handy article explaining all about MyAI, the features, issues and some tips for parents.

You can find the article [HERE](#) (it was written and shared a few months ago but has since been updated).

Roblox - How to Report

Most users of Roblox will probably know how to report content or other players on Roblox, but it's possible some (including their parents) won't. There is a 1-minute video on YouTube showing users how to report on Roblox [HERE](#).



Courtesy of Alan Mackenzie www.esafety-adviser.com



ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week was 93.47%

Our attendance by class is as follows:

Cedar - 98.77%

Sycamore - 91.41%

Olive - 86.81%

Acacia - 99.42%

Willow - 89.81%

Juniper - 97.2%

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](#),



INSPIRE+ ASPIRE TO INSPIRE

Last term a group of children took part in Aspire to Inspire Mentoring. The sessions allowed the children to share their strengths in school and at home.

They set goals and worked hard to understand how they could achieve them.

This mentoring has positively impacted their confidence and self-esteem. Well done everyone!

- Ellie Atter | Community & Schools Team Officer



SCARECROW FESTIVAL!

Mrs Ellis and the Acacia Class children have made another amazing entry for the Uffington Scarecrow Festival!

Basil Brush is looking resplendent in his tweeds, and his teeth are freshly polished and ready to be admired on Sunday 5 and Monday 6 May, 11am-4pm! Basil will be located in the church gardens...why not pop along to the festival and take some selfies with Basil to show us?! Thank you to everyone involved in making Basil!

BOOM!
BOOM!



HA HA
HA!

Our Lady: Liturgy

Our whole school joined together on Wednesday for a very special liturgy celebrating Mary, Our Lady.



We love reading!

We have been busy linking our reading books to our virtues. The children will link books they have read to our school virtues. Each of our prayer areas link to one of our virtues and within each area there are linked books. The collections of books will grow and children can choose to read the books linking to specific virtues. How exciting!



Woodland School

Willow Class had the pleasure of the sun shining for their Woodland School session with Miss Gamble this week! The children enjoyed an afternoon of climbing trees, making mud pies, creating pictures and making beads out of elder bark which they will turn into bracelets and necklaces.



PHOTOCARDS.AI