

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

I've not been around much this week as myself, Mrs Oliver and Mrs Jones have taken the Year 6 Juniper children on residential to The Briars in Crich. Each year, as part of our diocesan links, our young people come to this very special place in Derbyshire on retreat, completing the 'Agents of Love' programme which gets them ready to move on to Secondary school in the best frame of mind to go and serve, being the very best young people they can be. It has been wonderful to watch our Y6 pupils mixing happily with a group of lovely children from St. Patrick's Catholic Primary in Wilford, Nottingham, who greeted us on the games field with huge smiles and immediate invites to join in their games. The children have mixed and made friends, both in their team-led retreat groups and free time, which has been a joy to see – high fives in the corridors, cheers on the footy pitch, jostling and comradery during rounders and killer dance moves in the disco are just a few free time highlights. We also enjoyed a lovely walk with our new friends, taking in the local countryside and stunning views!

In their small group activities our children have been gently encouraged them to reflect on their strengths and gifts, the virtues we practise in life to constantly do our best and ways to work together and serve God and the Kingdom. Today ends with a gorgeous 'affirmations' sessions, where they write great things about each other on a big sheet of paper, which each child gets to keep – I still have mine from when I visited in Year 8, a memory I still hold dear today. The children have also taken part in planning Liturgies and Mass, attended Morning Prayers of The Church (which are said around the world) and night prayer, in cosy, softly lit dens around the retreat centre, allowing them to be thoughtful and thankful each day. As ever, we have been immensely proud of the kind, polite, friendly and helpful young people that we have had the pleasure of spending three days with, watching them grow, flourish and enjoy spending time together in these last few weeks of their time with us at St. Augustine's.

Having visited The Tramway Village in Crich on the way here, we will end our residential today in cable cars and caves at The Heights of Abraham in Matlock. Also, Mrs Jones has been running her own tuck shop, which has been a particular highlight for some each day – there really has been something for everyone! As we learned in Mass last night, Mother Theresa said, 'every act of love is a work of peace, no matter how small'; our children are leaving The Briars as 'Agents of Love', ready to go out into the world and bring about change. They've learned that whatever their beliefs, the Kingdom of God isn't a far off, unreachable place with no bearing on them or their lives, it's the here and now, the world they live in, and whilst we can't do great things every day, **'we can do small things with great love'** – and that's what truly matters.

Wishing you a peaceful and restful weekend – myself, Mrs Jones and Mrs Oliver will be sleeping!

Mrs Cox

P.S for more information about The Briars and their retreats, [click here](#).



LET US PRAY

This week, our special prayer has been written by one of our St. Augustine's children in our 'Honesty & Forgiveness' Prayer Space:

Dear God,
Give me forgiveness wherever I go,
when I meet others who have had a
hard time.
Amen



THE SIGN OF THE CROSS AND 'THE LORD BE WITH YOU'

In his parish newsletter this week, Canon Peter wrote:

"For the early Christians, they understood the Sign of the Cross to be foreshadowed by a mysterious Old Testament sign. In the vision of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 8:9-18) the Lord gives the prophet a vision of the sins being committed by God's people in Jerusalem. Ezekiel tells how, as a result of these, God's presence will leave the Temple. Babylon will destroy Jerusalem and the sanctuary, taking many of the people into exile – but not all will suffer this fate.

Those marked with the tahv are the righteous people who remain faithful to God in the midst of all this: they are deeply grieved over the way God is being rejected by the rest of the people. This sign by which people are marked is represented by the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet (tahv), which had the shape of a cross, and being marked with this sign ensured protection. Given the biblical background of the mark in Ezekiel, we see that the Sign of the Cross sets us apart. By making it we express our desire to be faithful to God, not to live according to the standards of this world, but to have our whole lives marked by Christ's cross.

The tahv was a sign of protection and likewise with the Sign of the Cross we call on God to protect us from all harm and evil – most of all, from sin. In the Sign of the Cross, we call on God's name: 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit', a powerful biblical practice (Philippians 2:9-11; John 14:13), and we confess him as Lord and invoke his very presence (Matthew 18:20) as we prepare to encounter Him in Word and Sacrament.

The Sign of the Cross is followed by the Christian greeting, 'The Lord be with you' and is used three times in the Mass and several times throughout the Bible.

In fact, it is used by God or his angels to address someone who is being called to an important mission (e.g. Moses (Exodus 3:10-12); Gideon (Judges 6:14-18); Joshua (Numbers 13:32-33)).

The greeting offers encouragement, as it did for the above, reminding us that we do not face trials, obstacles, life alone – that God is with us.

Most of all, these words remind us of God's presence with us as we enter into the sacred mysteries of the liturgy."

GREEN TEAM & SCHOOL COUNCIL

Mon 24 June - School Council

Mon 1 July - Green Team - this will be a visit to the Mindspace Garden - more information will follow soon on Arbor.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Wow! We have lots of birthdays to celebrate!



Happy birthday to Mia in Willow Class, who celebrates her tenth birthday on 22 June, and to Arlo in Willow Class who turns 10 on 23 June!

In KS1, Rakshith from Sycamore Class is 6 on 23 June, and Ash from Cedar Class will be 5 on 24 June.

Everyone at St. Augustine's wishes you all a super day and lots of fun celebrating!

SPORTS DAY!

Thursday 27th June – Sports Day

Wednesday 3rd July – Reserve Sports Day in case of inclement weather.

Parents to arrive from 12.45pm ready for a 1.00pm start!

We look forward to seeing you all!

MUSIC LESSONS!

Details were sent out this week about OLoL music lessons at St. Augustine's from September 2024. If you would like to register your child for music lessons, please complete this form [here](#) by the closing date of **Friday 28 June**.



FoSA 'BAG2SCHOOL' BAGS

We have sent 'Bag2School' bags home with your child on behalf of our FoSA team as part of their fundraising efforts for our school. If you have any clothing, soft toys, paired shoes, handbags, hats, scarves, or household bedding/linens that you can donate, please bring them to school by the 17 July for collection on 18 July.

A full list of suitable items is available [here](#), and we have a few spare bags in the front office.



VIRTUES CERTIFICATES

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

Cedar Class - **Kiyan** - **Friendship & Kindness**

Sycamore Class - **Ripley** - **Love of Learning & Determination**

Olive Class - **Ezra** - **Friendship & Kindness**

Acacia Class - **Leo** - **Love & Respect**

Willow Class - **Lila** - **Hope & Confidence**



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

*There are no Juniper Class nominations this week due to their residential trip.

~~TEA WITH MRS C!~~

ICE CREAM WITH MRS O!

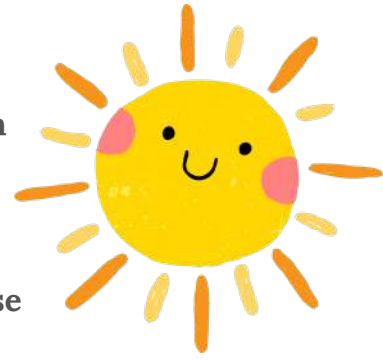
Cedar Class - **Emma**

Sycamore Class - **Delilah**

Olive Class - **Oscar**

Acacia Class - **Molly-Rose**

Willow Class - **Lilly-Mae**



I'M HAVING
TEA WITH MRS C!



I'M A TOP VIRTUE POINT WINNER!

*There are no Juniper Class nominations this week due to their residential trip.

JUNIPER CLASS - THE BRIARS RESIDENTIAL TRIP

Our Year 6 Juniper Class headed off to Crich for their residential trip on Wednesday! They have had so much fun and there will be some sleepy children heading home this afternoon! Thank you to Mrs Cox, Mrs Oliver and Mrs Jones for giving the children such a wonderful experience. There have been lots of updates on our Facebook page, and here's a few special moments:



School Trip



E-SAFETY WITH ALAN MCKENZIE

Childnet - Updated Resources

Childnet have got quite a few free resources for schools and recently they have updated two of those, specifically Screen Time and Healthy Balance (for 7-11 year olds) and To Stream or Not to Stream (for 11+).

You can access both of these resources [HERE](#).

For Parents - WhatsApp Safety Guide

Given that WhatsApp is one of the most popular messaging apps in the world it's no surprise I find children from Year 3 upwards using it with very little understanding of what safety features are available. Internet Matters has a great guide for parents about privacy settings, where to get support and more.

You can find the guide [HERE](#).

ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week was 92.9%

Our attendance by class is as follows:

- Cedar** - 95.36%
- Sycamore** - 94.81%
- Olive** - 89.51%
- Acacia** - 95.86%
- Willow** - 91.26%
- Juniper** - 88.54%*

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](#),

*Statistics representative of the Juniper Class residential trip.



MUSIC FESTIVAL!

COME & JOIN US FOR SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE'S
6TH DISABILITIES MUSIC FESTIVAL!
SATURDAY 27TH JULY 2024
 SOUTH VIEW COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
 POSTLAND ROAD, CROWLAND, PE6 0JA • GATES OPEN 11AM - 7PM

CROSSFIRE ONE HOUR

GOING FORWARD
 MUSIC FESTIVAL

BENJIO THE VARIETY DUO LAUREN PORTER

STALLS • OTHER ENTERTAINMENT • FOOD VENDORS
 EARLY BIRD TICKETS AVAILABLE 1ST - 31ST MAY £12 EACH WITH 1 FREE CARER PER TICKET
 FROM 1ST JUNE - TICKETS £15 EACH WITH 1 FREE CARER PER TICKET
 CALL: 07056 853723 EMAIL: GOINGFORWARDSOCIALGROUP@OUTLOOK.COM
 OR SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE - 'GOING FORWARD MUSIC FESTIVAL 2024'
 FOR MORE DETAILS

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MOBILE PHONE SURVEY

We are partnering with 'The Conversation Stamford' to launch a campaign to support parents in their decision making regarding their primary aged children and mobile phones.

Please click on the link below to complete a short anonymous survey. Your responses will help 'The Conversation' know how best to support our school community.

[Smartphone Survey Questionnaire](#)



Little Stars Wraparound Care

Our Little Stars have had another exciting week! Cooking, baking, arts & crafts, darts, dancing, ducklings...and more!

