

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

Thanks again for your support regarding the ongoing difficulties we've had with our heating system – National Grid are working over the weekend to try and ensure things are powered up and warm by the end of play on Tuesday. The added complication of a cold snap hasn't helped and I'm grateful to everyone – staff, pupils and parents – for the lengths you have gone to in helping this week to run as smoothly as possible!

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify some of our staffing in school. For a small school, we have lots of staff – far over and above what we are funded for by the DfE. This is in part due to support from our Trust – we have a very experienced team of teachers, which has been essential in doing work to develop the curriculum, as many of our staff lead at least two subjects and often more, which is no easy task! Teachers and teaching assistants wear lots of hats, and we all work together to ensure our children have the best education - all decisions are made through extensive team discussions and utilise staff strengths and expertise, based in current evidence and guidance.

Teacher release time:

Every teacher is entitled to PPA – Planning, Preparation and Assessment – which is non-contact time away from the classroom. Schools are able to decide the best way to facilitate this provision and at St. Augustine's classes are covered by subject specialists.

As part of extra responsibilities such as the Deputy Headteacher (DHT) role or subject leader, teachers are given extra time away from class to undertake management responsibilities including work on school development priorities and activities such as monitoring.

Juniper Class – Mrs Oliver is an acting DHT this year and is released every Wednesday by class teacher, Mrs Hamlin who has been providing cover and release in school for the last 3 years.

Sycamore Class – Mrs Donington is an acting DHT this year and is released every Wednesday by class teacher, Miss S who teaches in Acacia class on Mondays and Tuesdays. After Christmas, Miss Lee will return from maternity leave and provide this release day for Mrs Donington for the rest of the year.

Specialist teaching:

Every week, the children have lessons delivered by specialist members of staff, overseen and quality assured by myself, my subject leaders and in some cases, external agencies. These are:

Modern Foreign Languages – Miss Hawkins, one of our teaching assistants delivers French each week to Key Stage 2 classes. Miss Hawkins is French herself and has
(cont'd on next page...)



lots of experience of delivering French lessons and clubs, having also taught English in French schools. Miss S is the subject leader for French and they work together to ensure we follow the 'Kapow' curriculum scheme, that the subject is well delivered and that the pupils are making good progress. Miss Hawkins is extremely enthusiastic about this role in school and has lots of plans for developing French further across the whole school in the future – this is also great preparation for secondary school!

PE and Games – Miss Bush has been with us for the last 3 years as a sports apprentice and is about to finish her Level 4 sports coaching apprenticeship. Miss Bush has been mentored and monitored by Inspire+ who provide sporting provision throughout Lincolnshire, and as PE lead myself, I work closely with Miss Bush to ensure our PE and sporting offer is top notch! Miss Bush delivers two PE lessons a week (other than those who are receiving Woodland School sessions) to every class in school and also leads all sports teams and attends fixtures.

Computing – Mrs Taylor delivers computing lessons each week and manages the technology in school. Mrs Taylor is a highly experienced cover supervisor, with years of experience teaching whole classes across the school. Miss S oversees Computing as subject leader, but Mrs Taylor has been delivering our curriculum in computing for the last 3 years and has an excellent grasp of the planning, software, knowledge and skills throughout school.

Music – As part of the Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT, I spend several thousand pounds a year buying into the OLoL music scheme, which affords us a day a week of specialist music teaching from Mrs Pattison. In line with DfE requirements, all classes have access to an hour of curriculum music, delivered by Mrs Pattison, with additional opportunities through singing assemblies, visiting performers, concerts, trips and choir. Mrs Pattison also provides peripatetic music lessons privately, again through OLoL music, on a range of different instruments – contact the school office for more information if you are interested in booking.

Shared teaching:

Some of our subjects are taught by a range of teachers and teaching assistants beyond their normal classroom as a streamed or split-year group model. All of our staff are well-prepared, trained and overseen by the class teacher and subject leader to ensure high quality input, outcomes and relationships for all pupils.

These are:

Phonics – Miss Darby is the phonics lead and trains a large team of phonics specialists, both teachers and teaching assistants, in line with the Read Write Inc. phonics model, as approved by the DfE. Children are regularly assessed and split into small teaching groups, which change every 6 weeks. This allows for extremely tailored and targeted teaching every day, in small groups, which ensures rapid progress for all and excellent results year on year. Miss Darby liaises with, trains, prepares and monitors phonics every week to ensure it is delivered to a very high standard.

Maths – All class teachers are in charge of maths for the children they teach and are accountable for their progress; Mrs Worrick oversees the whole school picture as maths lead. In many classrooms, the input is delivered by the class teacher and then often, teaching assistants are used to support small groups, both in and out of the classroom, with targeted learning. In classrooms with two year groups (Sycamore and Acacia), we feel that single year group planning and teaching provides a better curriculum for children rather than following mixed-age planning in the same class. In this instance, Mrs Taylor (Years 1 and 2), Mrs Garland and Mrs Kaczmarek (Years 3 and 4) support the class teachers with delivery. The class teachers rotate regularly to ensure they are closely involved and know their pupils' progress and needs at all times.

As ever, as the professionals in charge of your children's education, both personal and academic, every decision made in school has the children's best interests at heart and make the best use of the staff and resources available. If you have any further questions about our approach, please see your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Have a lovely weekend – wishing you safe travels as the weather and Black Friday continue to hit our roads (and pockets)!

Mrs Cox

LET US PRAY

Heavenly Father, guide us each day to be loving in all we do and say.

Help us to be gentle, to forgive and be good friends.

Teach us how to listen with a love that never ends.

Father, help us to be children who always have in mind the importance of being someone who tries hard to be kind.

Amen.



Mission Together



THE FOUR LAST THINGS – HELL

In last week's parish newsletter, Canon Peter wrote:

"From his heart of love, God the Holy Trinity seeks 'to communicate the glory of the blessed life' (Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 257). Out of the perfection of his love, God creates, redeems and heals what is fallen away, and sanctifies, purifying all that he is drawing to himself to share in his life. We must always remember that, as made clear in the First Letter of St. Paul to Timothy, 'God our Saviour desires all men to be saved' (1 Tim 2:3). God's only desire is for our salvation.

Hell is the ultimate self-exclusion from this drawing motion of Love, the final refusal of 'communion with God and the blessed' (CCC 1033).

God, in whose image we have been created in, is the fullness of Being and calls us back to communion in Him. Hell is therefore a self-destructive choice—to be less than one might be, to find a parody of life in the small world of one's own making, a world from which God, our Creator, is excluded and, because of this, the person is demeaned, spiritual joy is denied, and selfless love is replaced by selfishness and abuse. Rather than participate in the reality of God's creation, hell is the state where one continues to seek to 'be like God', but 'without God, before God, and not in accordance with God (CCC 398, quoting St. Maximus the Confessor). It is the eternal loss of the vision of God and final alienation from Him.

As with heaven, we are reminded of the life here on earth which can lead to such a final destiny and of the need for a radical conversion of life each time we become aware of the seeds and shoots beginning to grow in that destructive direction.

Hell exists for those whose wilful choices mean they freely persist in sin and lack repentance before the end of their lives leading to their damnation.

The teaching of Christ and His Church is therefore a reminder of the incredible gift of freedom and of the importance of using our freedom wisely, well, and one with God's grace."



THANK YOU!

We would like to say a **huge** thank you to all of our St. Augustine's parents for supporting and accommodating our home learning this week at short notice.

The children have produced some outstanding work and have truly impressed our teaching staff - well done, everyone!

Please [click here](#) to read more newsletters from our Catholic Parish of Stamford, Saint Mary and Saint Augustine



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Many happy returns to Lilly-Rose in Acacia Class who is 8 on Tuesday, and to Clara in Acacia Class who is 9 on Wednesday!

Everyone at St. Augustine's wishes you a very happy birthday!



GREEN TEAM & SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next School Council meeting will be on Monday 2nd December.



WHOLE SCHOOL MASS & LITURGY DATES



We would like to welcome our school families to join us:

28th Nov: Advent Wreath Blessing - School - 2pm

12th Dec: EYFS/ KS1 Nativity - Church - 2pm

17th Dec: Christmas Carols - Church - 1.30pm

VIRTUES CERTIFICATES

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

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

Sycamore Class - **Eli** - **Friendship & Kindness**

Acacia Class - **Lucy** - **Love of Learning & Determination**

Willow Class - **Ellie-Mae** - **Love of Learning & Determination**

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



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

TEA WITH MRS C!

Cedar Class - **Woody**

Sycamore Class - **Frankie**

Acacia Class - **Talitha**

Willow Class - **Jacob G**

Juniper Class - **Alice**



As school is closed today,
we will have a double
celebration next Friday!

I'M HAVING

TEA
WITH
MRS C!



I'M A TOP VIRTUE POINT WINNER!

SCHOOL COUNCIL MOVIE NIGHT

What a brilliant time we all had at our movie night on Monday! Thank you so much to our School Council children and Mrs T for organising this for us and to staff helping out...and of course, to everyone who bought a ticket and came along!



PARENT COMMUNICATIONS

We would like to remind you that the front desk is not always staffed, as our office team is often occupied with various tasks such as delivering messages to teachers, registering students, assisting visitors, or on other calls.

If you're unable to reach us by phone, please leave a voicemail or email us at enquiries@st-augustine.lincs.sch.uk, ensuring your message is addressed to the appropriate person.

Voicemails are promptly checked, and we will forward your query to the relevant staff member for a response. Teachers will contact you as soon as possible, though they may need to fit this around classroom responsibilities.

As staff are often closer to their computers than to the phone, you may receive a quicker response via email.

Please remember that absences should be reported through the Arbor app, email, or telephone. For classroom-related concerns, we kindly ask that you reach out to your child's class teacher via the Enquiries email above before contacting other staff members. This ensures your queries are addressed promptly by the right person.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

E-SAFETY WITH ALAN MCKENZIE

Resource (9-13) - Group Chats

When I visit Primary/Prep schools, one of the biggest concerns I consistently hear is in relation to group chats, in particular group chats getting out of hand and causing disruption.

Childnet has a wonderful free resource which you can use which has some useful activities:

- Starting conversations, the positives and negatives.
- Digital wellbeing.
- Bullying and gossip.
- Inappropriate content.

This is a free PDF download with advice, screenshots which you can use etc. and you can find it [HERE](#).

Roblox Tightens Safety Measures

Roblox, one of the most popular games around the world, has been under a lot of fire lately for a whole host of reasons, such as highly inappropriate games accessible to young children, questionable moderation, significant grooming concerns and more.

At its most basic, Roblox is a platform where any user can create games and one of the biggest concerns is that none of these user-generated games have required an age rating system. That's about to change, from mid-December creators will have to content-rate their games. Whilst a positive step it still raises lots of questions, such as:

- Is anyone checking these ratings?
- What about games prior to mid-December?
- Will there be enhanced moderation?
- and more.

It's a positive step forward but much more needs to be done by Roblox and other platforms to help parents with keeping their children safe. You can read more about the concerns and the steps which Roblox are taking [HERE](#).



ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week was xxxx%

Our attendance by class is as follows:

Cedar - 95.29%

Sycamore - 96.3%

Acacia - 94.44%

Willow - 94.74%

Juniper - 95.73%

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](#).



"From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child.
#AttendanceCounts"



EXTRA-ORDO-NARY 'WORD OF THE WEEK'

Next week's word is 'Kingdom'

The Kingdom of God is a place of peace, justice, and love. It is a place where everyone is welcome and everyone is loved. The Kingdom of God is not a place that we will find on a map, but it is a way of life that we can work towards building in our own lives and in the world around us.

Think of one thing you can do to make your community more like the kingdom of heaven.



Coffee mornings at St. Augustine's C.V.A

We would like to invite you to join us in the Shiloh room on Fridays after the morning drop off!

Come and chat to other school parents and enjoy a warm drink with new friends.

Mrs Garland and Mrs Reeves will be available to support and give advice on SEND, emotions, mental health and wellbeing, finances and any other questions that you might have.

Every Friday from 8.45am to 9.30am in the Shiloh room - no need to book!

Pip from Mindspace will be joining us at our coffee morning on Friday 29th November to chat with you about what's on offer at Mindspace, from daytime activities to chat groups to evening activities. It would be lovely to see you there!

WAJIR MUSICAL AFTERNOON

From the Catholic Parish of Stamford Saint Mary and Saint Augustine newsletter of 16th/ 17th November:

"Grateful thanks to all those who attended our musical afternoon on Saturday 9th November. It was such a wonderful occasion and showed St Augustine's School at its best.

Firstly thanks to Tina Cox for hosting it at the school and for performing. Thanks to parishioners Thomas, Rebecca and Nicholas for performing too - what a treat! We also had music from the U3A Ukulele group and Archie MacLennan performed some wonderful pieces on the piano in memory of his late grandmother Maggie, who had the idea for the concert. Many thanks to Liz and Maria who made tea and coffee for everyone in the audience. We are still receiving more donations but the total raised for Wajir is already £1500.

The next Wajir fundraising event will be a pub quiz in February, more details to follow."

- Pat Gallagher and Wendy Mitchell

To read more about Pat's phenomenal fundraising over the last 50 years, please [click here](#) to read the lovely article in the Stamford Mercury. We are so very proud to have Pat as a friend of our school.



LITTLE STARS WRAPAROUND CARE

We have had so much fun in Little Stars this week! We played with cars, built some super-tall towers, created art work...and we ate lots of toast!



- Miss Fiona



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2024

Miss Bush and Miss B have been at St. John's Church this week, putting up our beautiful St. Augustine's Christmas tree!

This lovely event is organised every year by the **Stamford Lions**, and this year's chosen charity is the Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance Charity. This year's festival is running for an extra week, so if you're in town, do pop in to St. John's before the 15th December to see this stunning spectacle and support this great cause. The Cards for Good Causes Christmas Shop will also be open as usual alongside the tree festival.

Huge thanks to Miss Bush and Miss B for organising and decorating our gorgeous tree - it really is beginning to look a lot like Christmas!



Calendar of Events



2024 November

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 -Year 5 All Saints Mass & library visit -EYFS Diwali visitors | 2 |
| 3 | 4 -Year 6 Substance Awareness | 5 -PHSE/ RSE information event for parents - 3.30pm | 6 | 7 -Youth Council 4pm at Town Hall | 8 -Bring in a toy to play with! 50p donation for the Wajir school | 9 -A Musical Extravaganza for the Wajir Mission - 2pm - St. A's school hall |
| 10 | 11 -Remembrance Liturgy 10.45am at school -Y1&2 War Memorial visit 11am | 12 -Odd Socks Day for Anti- Bullying Week -EYFS Open Morning 11am-12pm -Open Evening 5pm-6pm | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 -School Council Film Night - Shrek - 3.30pm -F.O.S.A Bingo Night - 3.30pm | 19 -EYFS library visit | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 -Judaism visitor -F.O.S.A meeting 6.30pm | 28 -Blessing of Advent Wreaths: Canon Peter- school hall 2pm -Book Bistro - 2.45pm | 29 -F.O.S.A Non-Uniform Day | 30 |



2024 December

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---|-----------|---|--|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 -Y6 Roots to Food Gala Dinner for parents | 6 -Roots to Food workshop for whole school | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 -EYFS/ KS1 Nativity at Church - 1.30pm | 13 -Christmas jumper/ party outfits -Whole school panto -Whole school Christmas lunch -F.O.S.A Christmas Fayre -Christmas Disco | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 -Christmas Carols at Church - 1.30pm | 18 | 19 | 20 INSET DAY | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

Christmas Tree Festival



St John's Church, Stamford

Friday 22nd November – Sunday 15th December

Free to View

Donations to Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance

Visit our website: www.stamfordlions.org

Facebook Page: Stamford and District Lions

Instagram Page: stamfordanddistrictlions



Stamford & District Lions Club



CHRISTMAS EVENTS WITH THE CHEER CLUB!

FROM NOV 8TH - DEC 9TH

Nov 8th - Festive Decoration making
@ Stamford Library - 2-3.30pm

Nov 14th - Festive Sing Along!
@ Stamford Welland Academy - 1.30 - 3pm

Nov 21st - Festive Sing Along!
@ Alltech, Ryhall Rd - 1.30-3pm

Nov 24th - Let's sing together!
@ Stamford Christmas Market - time TBC

Nov 29th - Carolling & Tea
@ Whitefriars Care Home - 2-3pm

Cheer Club Christmas Party
- with a visit from Santa, Panto performance,
Festive Games + Refreshments!
@ Alltech, Ryhall Road - 2-4pm

WHAT IS THE CHEER CLUB?

We're a vibrant group of people from all over Stamford, coming together for a year-round program packed with exciting events & activities, forging new friendships & sharing laughter & support.



REGISTER FOR CHEER CLUB HERE
OR EMAIL FOR MORE INFO COMMUNITY@ARTPOPUP.CO.UK

Funded through the Mental Health & Wellbeing Community Investment Fund

PLACES ARE FREE BUT YOU MUST BOOK A PLACE VIA EVENTBRITE OR BY EMAILING

LOVE SINGING BUT NEVER GET THE CHANCE?

Art Pop-Up are excited to invite you to

COME SING CAROLS WITH THE CHEER CLUB



Sing-a-Long fun workshops with Darren

**THURS 14 NOV 1.30-3PM HOSTED AT
STAMFORD WELLAND SCHOOL**

**THURS 21 NOV 1.30-3PM HOSTED AT
ALLTECH RYHALL RD**

+ come spread a little joy, sing with us on:

**SUN 24 NOV (TIME TBC) @ STAMFORD
CHRISTMAS MARKET**

**FRI 29 NOV 2-3PM @ WHITEFRIARS CARE
HOME**

Come & join us for a sing-a-long at ANY OR ALL of the sessions!
You don't have to be super-musical, just come & have fun!

Book your places by emailing community@artpopup.co.uk
or booking a place via eventbrite

This event is part of the Art Pop-Up Cheer Club's free programme - bringing people together for friendship and fun. Funded through the Mental Health & Wellbeing Community Investment Fund

ST. AUGUSTINE'S BOOK BISTRO

**THURSDAY
28TH NOVEMBER**

**JOIN US AT 2.45PM FOLLOWING
THE BLESSING OF THE ADVENT
WREATHS AT 2PM**

Choose from a small selection
of books from a special menu
and our 'waiting staff' will
bring the book to you!

MULTIPLE FAMILY MEMBERS WILL BE OFFERED A SHARED SPACE TO HAVE ALL OF THEIR CHILDREN.

The Mayor of Stamford, Councillor Keiham Cooke,
invites you to a concert at the Town Hall in aid of his
Mayoral Charities: Mindspace and Magpas Air Ambulance.

An Advent Calendar Concert

St. Martin's SINGERS

A December treat of fine songs and instrumental pieces,
celebrating the time of year, and looking forward to the
season. Fergus Black is at the piano.

A refreshing glass of wine or a soft drink is included.

Sunday 1st December at 4pm

Concert ends about 5.30

**The Court Room, Stamford Town Hall,
St Mary's Street, STAMFORD**

Nearby parking is at Bath Row Car Park, PE9 2QY, then walk
towards the road bridge and cut left through St Mary's Passage.

Please scan the QR code to book
tickets online. Adults £12;
school-age children £6. →

PayPal stripe

£15 (children £7.50) on
the door (cash only)



MindSpace
Stamford Mindspace

**Magpas
AIR AMBULANCE**