

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

As we step into the beautiful season of Advent, we are reminded that this is a time of waiting, hope, and preparation. Advent invites us to reflect on the promise of light in darkness and the joy that comes with the arrival of Christmas. In this special period, we also turn our hearts to the upcoming Catholic Jubilee Year of Hope. Let us embrace this theme of hope as a guiding light for the months ahead - a reminder of God's endless love and the bright possibilities that await when we journey together in faith and kindness.

A heartfelt thank you to Canon Peter for joining us in school yesterday to bless our Advent wreaths. It was a beautiful moment that brought our school community together, and we are so grateful for his time and blessings. The children did a fantastic job with their Advent readings, sharing the true meaning of the season with confidence and reverence - well done to all involved! It was equally wonderful to see so many family members join us for this special occasion; your presence made the event even more meaningful for the children.

We would also like to say thank you to all the families who joined us for our Book Bistro event yesterday afternoon. It was fantastic to see the children's excitement as they shared their love of reading. Special thanks go to Mrs. Oliver, Mrs. Ellis, and Mrs. Jones for their hard work in organising such a lovely event, and to Mrs Frisby for organising the refreshments.

As we light the first candles of Advent this week, let us all remember that hope shines brightest when shared. Whether in acts of kindness, words of encouragement, or quiet moments of prayer, may this season bring joy and peace to your homes.

With warmest wishes and prayers,

Mrs Cox



LET US PRAY

Loving Father, the Bible tells us that you love those who give cheerfully. Your Son, Jesus, showed us how to be generous. Bless me with a generous and cheerful spirit, too, so that I happily share what I have to help others. Happy to share my faith, to share my time, to share my things, to share my talents, to share mercy and welcome and kindness with everyone. We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Mission Together



THE FOUR LAST THINGS – JUDGEMENT

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

"While on earth there is an 'unseen building' that is taking place in and through our lives, with the help of God's grace. It is this unseen reality of what we are making of our lives, that is to be revealed at the Last Judgement, when the whole of that unseen reality shines forth for eternity. Our lives in this world are, through the work of grace with which we are called to co-operate, preparing for this new life.

In this life our choices and loves are expressed in bodily form, but they can remain hidden and produce hidden fruits. Who knows the depth of the love a mother feels for her child and which she expresses through often unnoticed acts of simple renunciation? But the loving choice made is real and endures. Nothing is lost. It is destined to find expression in the glory of the everlasting Kingdom of Love: 'when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory' (Col 3:4). Then 'this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality' (1 Cor 15:53).

Until that time, God has placed on the earth all that we need for the making of this 'heavenly dwelling' (2 Cor 5:1-2). The Catechism of the Catholic Church emphasises the utter seriousness of our choices and actions (CCC 1041). As we are to be judged by God, to give an account of our lives as St Paul notes (Romans 14:12), we should ask for his mercy and grace to put our lives in order and bear fruit that will last.

Through St. Augustine, the Church offers us the image of a treasury: the poor whom serve take our good works and place them in the heavenly treasury (CCC 1039). If we are without love and offer nothing, then at the Last Judgement we will find nothing in heaven. Only what is given lasts. Only the life of love endures for eternal life with God. As St John of the Cross put it: 'In the evening of life, we will be judged on love alone.'

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Many happy returns to Ronan in Juniper Class who is 11 today, to Jacob P in Willow Class who will be 10 on Wednesday, and to Ella and Romeo in Willow who will be 10 on Thursday!



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

GREEN TEAM & SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next Green Team meeting will be on Monday 2nd December, and our next School Council meeting will be on Monday 9th December.



PAACT VISITOR

We are having a visitor in on Monday 9th December at 9am from Parents and Autistic Children Together (PAACT) to chat about what they do and the support that they can offer to families: PAACT provides whole family support through training programmes, conferences, workshops, activities, and support group meetings. Please do come and join us if you feel it would be beneficial.



WHOLE SCHOOL MASS & LITURGY DATES

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

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 - **Bella- Friendship & Kindness**

Sycamore Class - **Renzo -Hope & Confidence**

Acacia Class - **Oscar - Hope & Confidence**

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

Juniper Class - **Rainie - Hope & Confidence**



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

TEA WITH ~~MRS C...~~ MRS D!

Cedar Class - **Elsie**

Sycamore Class - **Tobias**

Acacia Class - **Ada**

Willow Class - **Elsbeth**

Juniper Class - **Tommy**



We celebrated with last week's children this week! We enjoyed some delicious hot chocolate and marshmallows!



SCHOOL ADMISSIONS TO CATHOLIC PRIMARY ACADEMIES (RECEPTION YEAR)

Please share this information with friends and family with a child due to start school in September 2025:

Parents of children born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021, the deadline for school place applications is 15th January 2025. Application forms can be found on the Local Authority (LA) website; click on the 'Apply Now' image to visit the Lincolnshire County Council Admissions website.

If you are applying to Catholic schools and wish your child to be considered under a faith-based criterion, you must also complete a supplementary information form. This form should be submitted directly to the school by the deadline. The forms are available from both the Local Authority and the school.

When submitting the supplementary form, you must include the required supporting evidence, such as a baptism certificate (photocopies are acceptable). If you do not have this evidence, please contact the parish where your child was baptised to request a copy certificate well in advance. Failure to provide the necessary supporting evidence will result in your child being placed in a lower admissions category, which could impact their chances of securing a place.

St. Augustine's News | Issue 96 | 29.11.24

APPLY NOW

FAITH IN ACTION

Volunteers in our Year 6 Juniper class have planned an exciting Christmas-themed event for local care residents and parishioners, to celebrate Christmas!

We will welcome residents from Braceborough Care Home on 16th December and have invited parishioners and residents of Whitefriars Care Home, along with Vision Day Support.

All of Year 6 will have the chance to join in on the day with Christmas bingo, tree decoration colouring, sing-a-longs and some festive snacks.

Thank you to Mrs Wright, our Lay Chaplain, for organising the event and for helping the children plan what we hope will be a lovely event.



E-SAFETY WITH ALAN MCKENZIE

For Parents - Roblox Major Safety Updates.

Last week Roblox, the game used by 90 million people daily, announced some major updates which are available to users and parents. The rollout has already started and will be fully implemented by March 2025. These safety updates include:

- Limits to how children under 13 can communicate.
- Parental controls accessible from the parents phone rather from the child's device (remote management).

There's too much detail to include within an email so to see an explanation of all the new features visit the Roblox website [HERE](#).

You can also see the full guide to Roblox parental controls on the Internet Matters website [HERE](#).

For Parents - Second-Hand Devices Guide

Often when children get their first or subsequent devices, particularly mobile phones, it's a hand-me-down, for example when a parent gets a new device on contract. This can be a real positive, mobile devices are very expensive and the latest/greatest devices often have very limited additional functionality over older devices.

But it's really important these devices are configured correctly for younger users. thankfully Internet Matters have a full guide to help parents navigate all the different features and settings, plus how to choose the right second-hand device, safety concerns and much more.

All information and guidance can be found [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"



ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week was 97.13%

Our attendance by class is as follows:

Cedar - 100%

Sycamore - 96.79%

Acacia - 98.29%

Willow - 99.42%

Juniper - 89%

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](#).

EXTRA-ORDO-NARY 'WORD OF THE WEEK'

Next week's word is 'Hope'

Hope is an expectation and desire for the things that are to come in the future. It is a powerful virtue that can help us to persevere through difficult times. In the season of Advent, we hope for the coming of Jesus and that he will bring peace, joy and love to the world.

Think of a reason that you have to be hopeful. Share that hope with someone this week.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION UPDATE



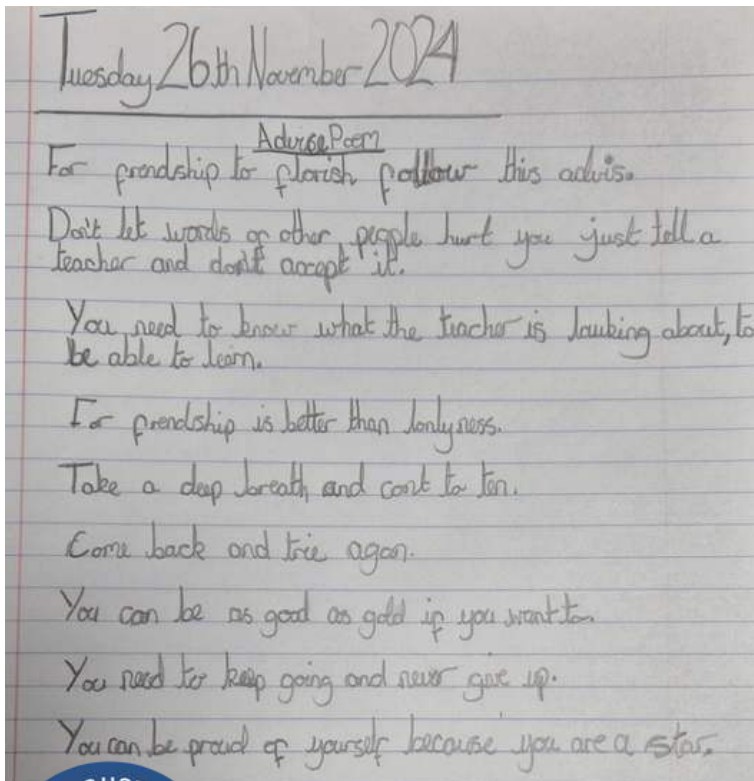
Writer of THE WEEK

Congratulations to Joseph in our Year 4 Acacia Class for being chosen as our Writer of the Week!

Joseph wowed Mrs Worrick with his thoughtful and inspiring poem, Advice, offering wise and encouraging words for schoolchildren everywhere.

His creative use of language and heartfelt message left a lasting impression.

Well done, Joseph – we can't wait to read more of your wonderful work!



**J O S E P H
K O S I N S K I - H O L M E S**

ST. AUGUSTINE'S ADVENT CALENDAR

Mrs Wright, our school Lay Chaplain, has created a beautiful Advent calendar for our St. Augustine's children! Thank you, Mrs Wright!

Advent, the lead up to Christmas, is a special time to spend with people that we love, and an important time to help other people.

This calendar has lots of lovely ideas for children to do on each day of Advent. If you would like a paper copy to be sent home with your child, please email enquiries@st-augustine.lincs.sch.uk



Getting Ready for Christmas

Advent is a time of preparation when we spend time with people we love and we try to help those in need. How many of these activities can you complete throughout Advent to help you prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas?

1 Make and decorate an Advent promise. 	2 Do an act of kindness for somebody at home. 	3 Write out the alphabet and then try to think of a Christmas related word starting with each letter. 	4 Say a prayer before bed to ask God to open your heart in preparation for Jesus' birth at Christmas. 	5 Research Christmas traditions in another country. 	6 Today is the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas - find out more about him. 
7 Make paper snowflakes and ask an adult if you can decorate a window in your house. 	8 Sing or listen to the favourite Christmas song/carol of each member of your family. 	9 Surprise an adult at home by doing (or helping them do) a job around the house that they would normally do. 	10 Today is World Human Rights Day. <small>Say a prayer for those people who work hard to protect our Human Rights and for people who are suffering.</small> 	11 Pray for peace in your local community and throughout the world. 	12 With an adult, choose one item from your kitchen cupboard and donate it to a local food bank. 
13 Have a cosy Christmas film night with loved ones. 	14 With an adult, choose one item of clothing, a toy or a book that you could give to charity. 	15 Today is Gaudete (Joy) Sunday. <small>Sometimes the greatest joy that we can give to others is through gifts that only we ourselves can give. Share some of your time with somebody today.</small> 	16 Do something to help the Earth. <small>e.g. Put rubbish into the correct bins or walk to school if you can.</small> 	17 Read a Christmas story with an adult at home. 	18 Talk to an adult about purchasing a CAFOD world gift. <small>e.g. £5 for Emergency Water or a Vegetable Garden. worldgifts.cafod.org.uk</small> 
19 Say 'Merry Christmas' to somebody you don't normally talk to at school before you break up for the holiday. 	20 Go for a walk or a drive to see the Christmas lights in your local area. <small>Can you spot any that remind you of the Christmas Story?</small> 	21 Make an angel decoration to add to your Christmas tree or to put on display in your house. 	22 Listen to or sing a song about the Annunciation. <small>e.g. The Angel Gabriel, Mary, Did you Know? or the Magnificat</small> 	23 Create a religious Christmas card celebrating the birth of Jesus. Can you include a scripture quote on it? <small>Gift it to a neighbour or parishioner.</small> 	24 Try to go to Mass to celebrate the birth of Jesus or tell the Nativity Story together at home.  <small>The Jubilee Year is launched today in Rome</small>

FAMILY FIRST MAGAZINE

Here's your free copy of the UK's largest parenting title - click on the picture to read the the online version!

Family First magazine is published quarterly and focuses on promoting the health and well-being of families living in the UK.

If you are tired of preparing the same monotonous meals and wish to ensure that your children not only eat healthier but also enjoy nutritious food, Family First is here to assist you. The 'Get Cooking' section is filled with delicious and nutritious recipes, ideas to involve your children in the kitchen and informative articles from nutrition experts who delve into the psychology behind our eating habits.



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				

UNISON HIDDEN HERO!

We are thrilled to congratulate Miss Fiona, our dedicated Little Stars Wraparound Care manager, class teaching assistant, and senior midday supervisor, on being presented with a prestigious Hidden Hero Nominee award from Unison! This recognition is a true testament to her hard work, commitment, and the positive impact she has on the entire St. Augustine's community.

Miss Fiona, your tireless efforts and unwavering dedication help our school run smoothly every day. From supporting the children in the classroom to ensuring their care and wellbeing in Little Stars and during lunchtimes, you go above and beyond in everything you do.

Thank you for being such a shining example of kindness, efficiency, and devotion to our school's mission. We are so proud of you and grateful for all that you do!



STAMFORD CYBERWISE CAMPAIGN

"We are thrilled that we have over 100 local households already signed up to the Stamford Cyberwise campaign. If you are a parent or carer committed to improving smartphone use with the children in your care, why don't you add your name too? Head over to our website by clicking on the images on the right. Thank you for your support".

-Gemma Holbird and Sarah Jane Sauntson (The Conversation Stamford)

STAMFORD CYBERWISE PARENT PLEDGE

1. No smartphones for primary aged children
2. No social media until (at least) 13
3. Parental controls until 16

STAMFORD CYBERWISE CAMPAIGN



STAMFORD PRIMARY SCHOOLS SINGING DAY 2024

FUNDRAISER

Children's performance will help to save lives at sea

Young singers from six primary schools performed in a fundraising concert to help those who save lives at sea.

Stamford Diversity Group organised the Stamford Primary Schools Singing Day in support of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute.

Children from St George's, St Gilbert's, St Augustine's, Malcolm Sargent, Stamford Junior School and Uffington Primary School took part.

They spent several weeks practising at school before coming together on Friday last week for group rehearsals and the final performance.

The children performed Eternal Father, And You Rescue Me, Beyond the Sea, The Mermaid, Tongo, Drunken Sailor, The Bay of Biscay and Rule Britannia while former Stamford poet laureate Darren Rawnsley recited six of his own poems throughout the concert.

It raised £733 for the RNLI

which celebrates its 200th anniversary this year. Since its launch the charity has saved more than 142,000 lives.

Chairperson of Stamford Diversity Group, Yvette Diaz-Munoz, said "The children sang their hearts out. Those who attended were in raptures and a phenomenal amount was raised for such a worthy charity."

"The concert epitomised how our local community can come together to make positive change. Well done to all involved."

The singers were supported by musical director Fergus Black. Stamford School hosted the concert which was funded by the St Michael's and Exeter Schools Charity.

Donations can still be made online at www.justgiving.com/page/stamforddiversitygroupnli

A spokesperson for the RNLI said: "All our lifesavers say a big thanks for helping us to keep people safe at sea."



Children from six primary schools performed in a fundraising concert for the RNLI. Photo: Alan Walters - Rutland Photographer



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!



Carols for Good Causes

Come and sing festive favourites with Stamford Choral in amongst the trees of Stamford's Christmas Tree Festival!

Supporting Churches Conservation Trust, Cards for Good Causes and Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance Charity






Donations welcome, cards and other gifts will be on sale.

11.00am - 12.00 noon,
Saturday 7th Dec 2024
St. John's Church,
Red Lion Square, Stamford, PE9 2DB

ALL SAINTS' STAMFORD

Christingle Service

3pm
 Sunday
 8th December






COME AND BE A CHORISTER!

All children who love singing (aged 7+) are invited to come and join the choirs of All Saints' Church and St Gilbert's school to sing at our Christingle service this year!

- Open singing workshop rehearsal, starting at 2pm (Parents must remain in All Saints' with their children, please)
- Hot Chocolate and Festive Refreshments with the choirs at 2.40pm
- Sing with the choirs for the service! Including *Christ be our light* by contemporary composer Bernadette Farrell

FREE TO ALL - Register your child/children with dom@stamfordallsaints.org.uk, or in church on arrival.



Art Pop-Up

You are invited to

THE CHEER CLUB

Christmas Party

DECEMBER **09** 2 - 4 PM

Come and celebrate with us for our Christmas Party! With Pantomime, festive Games & lots of mince pies!

**Venue: Alltech, Ryhall Road
 Stamford, PE9 1TZ**



RSVP Essential
 book via email - community@artpopup.co.uk

Funded by the Lincolnshire Mental Health & Wellbeing Community Investment Fund

STAMFORD CHORAL

Tickets £15/£12
 Under 16s £5
 Available from
www.stamfordchoral.co.uk
 or on the door

St. Nicolas

Benjamin Britten

Missa Sancti Nicolai

Joseph Haydn

Matthew Spillet - Tenor
Jeremy Jepson - Conductor
Guy Turner - Conductor
Chameleon Arts Orchestra

7.30pm, Tues 17th Dec 2024
Oswald Elliott Hall,
Stamford School, Stamford

Registered Charity No. 527618

SNAP STREAK

97

DAYS

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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