

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 have been so immensely proud of our school and pupils this week as the children have engaged in the amazing annual opportunity provided by Darren from Roots to Food. Each year, we prioritise funding for Darren to come into school on two days in the Advent Term and work with all children to prepare and cook a healthy, delicious meal!

Firstly, our Year 6 pupils worked with Darren all day yesterday to prepare a three course meal for 52 of their parents - myself and Mrs Callow, one of our Governors, also benefitted from an invitation! The children peeled, chopped and cooked soup, a chicken dish, ratatouille and Eton mess throughout the morning; in the afternoon the children learned how to lay the table, fold the napkins, create place names and hand-wrote the menus. They were then taught silver service techniques, with waiting, chef and sommelier teams selected and led by head-waiter Jonah, head-chef Alicia and head-sommelier Tyler.

Our sports hall was transformed into a beautiful, atmospheric festive space with a crackling fire and jazzy Christmas tunes; all of the parents enjoyed themselves hugely and beamed with pride as their children worked their socks off. They all left shattered, having experienced a full day of hard graft – Jonah reported that it was the best day of his life to date! A big thank you to Mrs. Oliver, Mrs. Jones, and Mrs. Worrick for their fantastic support.

Today, Darren came back and the smells through school have been delicious! Every child in school has taken part in workshops with Darren to learn how to cook Szechuan chicken and rice. Seeing the children wearing aprons and chef hats, using knives, chopping correctly and cooking at their group wok stations was such a joy. The children were all so engaged, interested and beaming with pride as they tasted the fruits of their labour. Thank you, Darren, for an unforgettable experience for all of our St. Augustine's children.

As a school, we work very hard to provide additional enrichment experiences alongside the curriculum which enhance our pupils' life skills and cultural capital - this is one of our favourites. We feel very privileged to work with Darren and Roots to Food each year; the skills the children learn are invaluable and we have already booked for December 2025. I hope that your children come home this week keen to get into the kitchen and try new things – please encourage their new skills and enjoy what they make for you!

Wishing you a lovely weekend as we get ever closer to Christmas. Please take note of all of the forthcoming dates and events, along with payment for panto on Arbor – it's a busy couple of weeks!

Mrs Cox



LET US PRAY

Loving God, you want the whole world to welcome Jesus. Help us to prepare for his coming by changing our lives for the better. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord,

Amen.



REFLECTION

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

"Every Advent, the Liturgy of the Word gives our sense of time a reorientation. There's a deliberate tension in the next four weeks' readings—between promise and fulfilment, expectation and deliverance, between looking forward and looking back.

In this weekend's First Reading, the prophet Jeremiah focuses our gaze on the promise God made to David, some 1,000 years before Christ. God says through the prophet that He will fulfil this promise by raising up a "righteous Branch," a righteous offspring of David, who will rule Israel in justice. The Psalm, too, sounds the theme of Israel's ancient expectation: "Guide me in your truth and teach me; for you are the God of my salvation." We look back on Israel's desire and anticipation, knowing that God has already made good on those promises by sending His only Son into the world. Jesus is the "righteous Branch," the God and Saviour for whom Israel was waiting

Knowing that He is a God who keeps His promises lends grave urgency to the words of Jesus in the Gospel then. Urging us to keep watch for His return in glory, He draws on Old Testament images of chaos and instability—turmoil in the heavens; roaring seas; distress among the nations and terrified people. He evokes the prophet Daniel's image of the Son of Man coming on a cloud of glory to describe His return as a "theophany," a manifestation of God (cf. Daniel 7:13–14).

Many will cower and be literally scared to death, but Jesus says we should greet the end times with heads raised high, confident that God keeps His promises, that our "redemption is drawing near" (cf. Luke 21:31)".

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



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

GREEN TEAM & SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next School Council meeting will be on Monday 16th 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 - **Millie-Mae** - **Love of Learning & Determination**

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

Acacia Class - **Saoirse** - **Hope & Confidence**

Willow Class - **Everyone in Willow Class!** - **Hope & Confidence**

Juniper Class - **Mia** - **Love & Respect**



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

TEA WITH MRS C...

Cedar Class - **Ellie**

Sycamore Class - **Eirinn**

Acacia Class - **Oscar**

Willow Class - **Stanley**

Juniper Class - **Lucy**



I'M HAVING
TEA WITH MRS C!



I'M A TOP VIRTUE POINT WINNER!

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AT ST. MARY & ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH CHURCH

For your information, if you are at home this Christmas or hosting family in Stamford, Mass times at St. Mary & St. Augustine over Christmas will be:

Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)
6:00pm Vigil Mass
11:30pm Office of Readings followed by Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day)
9:00am Dawn Mass of Christmas
11:00am Day Mass of Christmas



ONE MILE CHALLENGE 2024- GOLD FOR ST. AUGUSTINE'S!

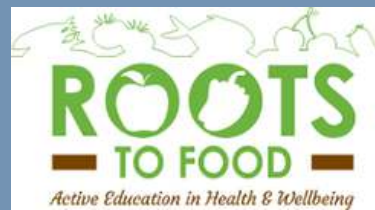
We are delighted to have been awarded with a certificate for the One Mile challenge! for achieving the GOLD award with at least 75% of the school's pupils taking part in the event. An incredible effort and an outstanding achievement.

In total, nine schools took part with one thousand four and seventy-four pupils participating in the event. Huge congratulations to Miss B and to everyone who took part!



ROOTS TO FOOD

Year 6 children preparing for and hosting their Gala Dinner,
and Y1/3 Sycamore children in their cooking masterclass today!



E-SAFETY WITH ALAN MCKENZIE

For Parents - Loot Boxes

For many children and young people playing games is predominantly about socialising with their friends. Because of this there can be significant peer pressure to look and be better than everyone else, to get further in the game than other and more. In-game purchases such as loot boxes capitalise on this peer pressure, essentially enticing users to get ahead more quickly by spending money.

Loot boxes have been a concern for a long time. A few years ago in the UK it was thought that loot boxes would come under the updated Gambling Act but this never happened due to a lack of research, however it is thought by many (including myself) that loot boxes can be a gateway or lead-in to gambling.

Concerningly, a BBC investigation has found that, out of the top 45 biggest games on the Google Play store, most are not disclosing that the games contain loot boxes properly. Many parents rely on the information that is available on the various game/app stores as well as ads to decide what is/is not appropriate for their children and this lack of important information is inexcusable.

The BBC article can be found [HERE](#).

For Parents - My Family's Digital Toolkit

I've shared this resource from Internet Matters before, but with Xmas just a few weeks away I thought it worth sharing again. The Family Digital Toolkit is where parents can get personalised online safety advice based on a number of factors such as age, popular apps and platforms their children use, tackling online issues and more. As a bonus parents can also be entered into a draw to win a prize bundle (including an iPhone 15).

The Family Digital Toolkit can be found [HERE](#).



ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week was 96.33%

Our attendance by class is as follows:

Cedar - 94.44%

Sycamore - 97.94%

Acacia - 93.16%

Willow - 98.25%

Juniper - 97.78%

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 'Peace'

In the season of Advent, we pray for peace in the world.

We know that Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace, and we believe that he will bring peace to all people.

Find a way to bring peace to a difficult situation or relationship this week.



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

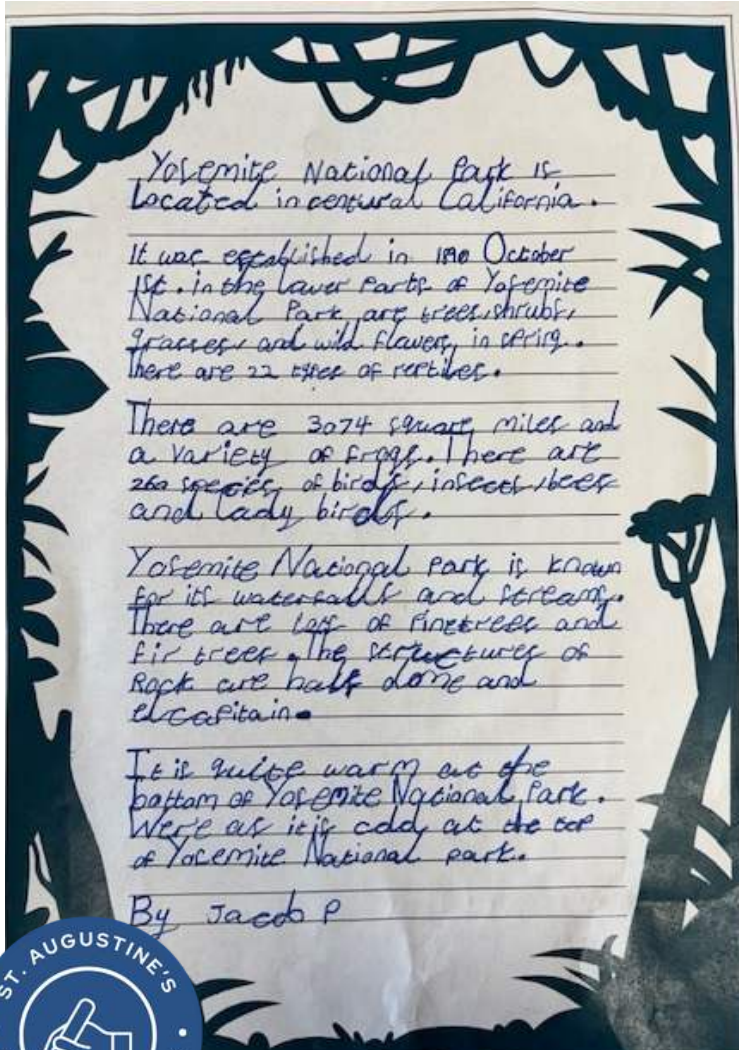
We would like to invite you to join us in the Shiloh room on Fridays after the morning drop off!

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!

Writer of THE WEEK



Congratulations to Jacob P in Year 5 Willow Class for being our Writer of the Week!

This week, Jacob amazed us with his fantastic writing about Yosemite. Mrs. Dollin was so impressed by the detail that Jacob used to bring the beauty of the national park to life.

Well done, Jacob – keep up the incredible work!



J A C O B P O L K E Y



CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES!

Friday 13th December



Come to school in your Christmas jumper or party outfit!

10am: All of our St. A's children are going to watch 'Little Red Riding Hood's Christmas Adventure' at the Stamford Corn Exchange*...oh yes, they are!

12pm: The whole school will enjoy a special Christmas lunch together!

3.30pm: F.O.S.A Christmas Fayre - join us after school for some brilliant stalls, a raffle at 5pm, games and Christmas cheer...
and we might have a very special guest!



*Please make £5 voluntary contributions through your Arbor app - many thanks!



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	14
15	16	17 -Christmas Carols at Church - 1.30pm	18	19 LAST DAY OF ADVENT 2 TERM!	20 INSET DAY	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



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