# St. Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy

LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE  $i \sim 200$ 



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## A MESSAGE FROM MRS COX

MFS

What a wonderfully festive week it has been here at school! Yesterday, our KS1 children shone brightly during their Nativity performance at our Parish Church. One of the directors of our Trust, who joined us for the event, shared their heartfelt feedback: *'Thank you very much for yesterday. I was very impressed with the Nativity performance. The children did so very well!'* We couldn't agree more – the children were brilliant, and we are so proud of their hard work and growing confidence. Thank you, as always, to our families for your support – I know you were just as proud as we were!

Today has been another wonderful day. The whole school had an exciting trip to the Corn Exchange to enjoy Little Red Riding Hood's Christmas Adventure – a magical experience for all! Back at school, we gathered together for a delicious Christmas lunch, made even more festive with Christmas jumpers galore, and homemade crackers and table decorations. The hall has been filled with laughter, singing, and beaming smiles, making it a day to remember. As I type this, I can hear the joyful voices of children singing in the lunch hall, a perfect soundtrack to this wonderful season.

This afternoon, we're looking forward to our F.O.S.A Christmas Fayre. A huge thank you to all parents for your incredible support in making these events so special. Your contributions and involvement truly create really special memories for the children as we approach the end of term.

Looking ahead, we hope you can join us at the Parish Church on Tuesday 17th December at 1.30pm for our special version of the Christmas Story and Carols. It's always such a meaningful way to come together as a school community to celebrate this very special season of Advent.

A quick reminder that we finish for Christmas on Thursday 19th December. Let's enjoy these final festive days together before the holidays.

Wishing you all a peaceful and joyful weekend! Mrs Cox St. Augustine's News | Issue 98 | 13.12.24





#### REFLECTION

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

This weekend's Psalm paints a dreamlike scene—a road filled with liberated captives heading home to Zion (Jerusalem), mouths filled with laughter, tongues rejoicing. It's a glorious picture from Israel's past, a "new exodus," the deliverance from exile in Babylon. It's being recalled in a moment of obvious uncertainty and anxiety. But the psalmist isn't waxing nostalgic. Remembering "what great deeds the Lord worked" in the past, he is making an act of faith and hope—that God will come to Israel in its present need, that He'll do even greater things in the future.

This is what the Advent readings are all about: we recall God's saving deeds—in the history of Israel and in the coming of Jesus. Our remembrance is meant to stir our faith, to fill us with confidence that, as the Epistle puts it, "he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ", that is until He comes again in glory.

Each of us, the Liturgy teaches, is like Israel in her exile—led into captivity by our sinfulness, in need of restoration and conversion by the Word of the Holy One (cf. Baruch 5:5). The lessons of salvation history should teach us that, as God again and again delivered Israel, in His mercy He will free us from our attachments to sin if we turn to Him in repentance. That's the message of John, introduced in the Gospel as the last of the great prophets. But John is greater than the prophets (cf. Luke 7:27): he's preparing the way not only for a new redemption of Israel but for the salvation of "all flesh".

John quotes Isaiah (40:3) to tell us he's come to build a road home for us, a way out of the wilderness of sin and alienation from God. It's a road we'll follow Jesus down,a journey we'll make, as this weekend's First Reading puts it, "rejoicing that God has remembered [us]."

> Please <u>click here</u> to read more newsletters from our Catholic Parish of Stamford, Saint Mary and

## ST. AUGUSTINE'S AT THE PANTO!

Today, all of our St. Augustine's children had a wonderful time at the Stamford Corn Exchange, watching the 'Stamford Showstoppers' delightful production of Little Red Riding Hood's Christmas Adventure.

The children were completely captivated by the story, and it was magical to see their joy and excitement throughout the performance.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make this memorable trip possible.



#### WHOLE SCHOOL MASS & LITURGY DATES We would like to welcome our school families to join us:

17th Dec: Christmas Carols - Church - 1.30pm



Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Many happy returns to Althea in Acacia Class who is 9 on Wednesday, and to Elspeth in Willow Class who will be 10 on Thursday!



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.



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#### **E-SAFETY WITH ALAN MCKENZIE**

#### For Parents - The ABC Checklist

With Christmas just around the corner, the holiday period is a great time to take stock of the devices they have (plus any new Xmas devices) and ensure they are set up correctly with any parental features you feel are appropriate for your child.

One frustrating issue is that the available features and how you set devices up differ, so to help parents Internet Matters have really good, non-techie guides which you can follow as part of their ABC Checklist. ABC stands for:

- A Activate parental controls.
- B Balance screen time.
- C Check and chat.

You can find a full explanation, set up guides and advice HERE.

#### For Parents - Emotional Safety on Roblox

The Jed Foundation have put together a great guide for parents regarding emotional safety/wellbeing on Roblox. Although the guide refers to US teens, I would say this guide is appropriate for all children, not just teens. It covers cyberbullying, signs a teen might be struggling online and what parents can do.

You can find the guide HERE.

#### ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week was 95,44%

Our attendance by class is as follows: Cedar - 96.3% Sycamore - 94.07% Acacia - 91.54% Willow - 100% Juniper - 97.33%

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 'Joy'

Joy is a feeling of great happiness and pleasure. It is a positive emotion that help us to overcome sadness and despair. In the season of Advent, we rejoice in the coming of Jesus Christ. We know that he is the source of all joy, and we celebrate his birth with great joy.

Think of something you can do for someone else to bring them joy and find time to make it happen 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

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 hd give advice on SEND, emotions, mental health and ellbeing, finances and any other questions that you

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# ACACIA - CELEBRATION OF THE WORD

Well done to Acacia Class on their beautiful worship last Thursday.

Thank you to all the grownups that came to support the children; your presence made the morning very special for us all.



### CHRISTMAS LUNCH!



Mas

Wonderful, happy smiles at our Christmas lunch todav!



#### 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 Mass11:30pm Office of Readings followed byMidnight Mass

Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day)9:00am Dawn Mass of Christmas11:00am Day Mass of Christmas





# December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4		6 -Roots to Food workshop for whole school	7
8	9	10	11	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 - all welcome!	18	19 LAST DAY OF ADVENT 2 TERM!	20 INSET DAY	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

# **ST. AUGUSTINE'S C.V.A PRESENTS...**



## AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ST. AUGUSTINE

**TUESDAY** 



1.30PM

# **DEC 17TH 2024**



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

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

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