

# 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 reach the end of this long and busy term, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on all that has taken place at St. Augustine's over the last few weeks. It has been wonderful to see the children enjoying the special events we've shared as a school community.

Highlights have included the whole-school trip to the pantomime, our festive Christmas lunch, and the F.O.S.A Christmas Fayre, which raised an impressive £1,200 – thank you for your generosity! Our KS1 Nativity at the Church was a sweet and heart-warming celebration, and this week's Christmas Story and Carols at Church was a truly special moment, with the Church filled to the brim. It was lovely to see so many family members join us as we celebrated the true meaning of Christmas together. You are always welcome at our Parish Church of Saint Mary and Saint Augustine on Broad Street – even if it's just to light a candle and take a moment for peaceful reflection.

This has been a fantastic Advent term for the children, filled with learning and joy. We are excited to welcome everyone back in January for a new term of exciting opportunities and adventures.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff for their tireless efforts in making this term a success. A special thanks also goes to our wonderful F.O.S.A team for organising the disco, Christmas Fayre, and for their continued support of our school community. To our parents and carers, thank you for your understanding and support throughout 2024. I would also like to express my gratitude to our Governing Board, led by Julie McBrearty, for their commitment, time, and invaluable guidance.

Finally, we are excited to announce that we have produced a very special St. Augustine's book – F.O.S.A have generously paid for every child to be given a copy to bring home, and we will have extra copies on sale for just £5, if you wish to purchase as gifts for family members.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to St. Augustine's on Tuesday, 7th January. Until then, I wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas.

May the peace of Christ fill your hearts as we celebrate His birth this holy season.

Mrs Cox

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## LET US PRAY

God, our dayspring and our dawn, we turn to you when we fear the dark and all around us weep. We pray you greet us with your shining light that we may spread your warm embrace, and kindle the hope of Christmas in all whose lives remain in shadow. Come and be our strength, O Lord, our hope and our salvation.

Amen.

Annabel Shilson-Thomas/CAFOD



## REFLECTION

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

'The people in this weekend's Gospel are "filled with expectation." They believe John the Baptist might be the messiah they've been waiting for. Three times we hear their question: "What, then, shall we do?" The messiah's coming requires every man and woman to choose—to "repent" or not. That's John's message and it will be Jesus' too.

"Repentance" translates a Greek word, metanoia (literally, "change of mind"). In the Scriptures, repentance is presented as a twofold "turning"—away from sin (cf. Ezekiel 3:19; 18:30) and toward God (cf. Sirach 17:20–21; Hosea 6:1). This "turning" is more than attitude adjustment. It means a radical life change. It requires "good fruits as evidence of your repentance" (cf. Luke 3:8). That's why John tells the crowds, soldiers, and tax collectors they must prove their faith through works of charity, honesty, and social justice.

In this weekend's Liturgy, each of us is being called to stand in that crowd and hear the "good news" of John's call to repentance. We should examine our lives, asking from our hearts as they did: "What, then, shall we do?" Our repentance should spring not from our fear of coming wrath but from a joyful sense of the nearness of our saving God.

It is this theme that resounds through the readings: "Rejoice! . . . The Lord is at hand: do not be anxious about anything," we hear in the Epistle. And in the Responsorial Psalm, we hear again the call to be joyful, unafraid at the Lord's coming among us. While in the First Reading, we hear echoes of the angel's Annunciation to Mary. The prophet's words are very close to the angel's greeting (cf. Luke 1:28–31). Mary is the Daughter Zion—the favoured one of God, told not to fear but to rejoice that the Lord is with her, "a mighty one who will save". She is the cause of our joy. For in her draws near the Messiah, as John had promised: "he who is mightier than I is coming."

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



## 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



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

## VIRTUES CERTIFICATES

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

Cedar Class - **Ronnie** - **Friendship & Kindness**

Sycamore Class - **Teddie** - **Hope & Confidence**

Acacia Class - **Olivia** - **Friendship & Kindness**

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

Juniper Class - **Abel** - **Hope & Confidence**



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

## EXTRA-ORDO-NARY 'WORD OF THE WEEK'

Next week's word is '**Love**'

In the season of Advent, we are reminded of the great love that God has for us and the love we should have for each other. We know that Jesus Christ is the true example of love, and we celebrate this gift of love at Christmas time.

Think of someone who you love and make an effort to show and tell them that you love them.

**EXTRA  
+ORDO  
NARY+**

## YEAR 6 JUNIPER CLASS - FAITH IN ACTION

On Monday afternoon, we warmly welcomed residents of Braceborough Care Home, and members of Vision Day Support, to our school. Mrs Wright, our Lay Chaplain, arranged a special afternoon of Christmas Bingo, refreshments, and Christmas activities for our visitors and our Year 6 children, as part of our Faith in Action mission.

Mrs Wright said: 'It was wonderful to see our pupils engaging with our visitors and talking about their favourite Christmas memories and traditions!'

Everyone had a super afternoon, and our visitors commented on how lovely the children were and how much they enjoyed the afternoon - a couple of Braceborough ladies wanted to take Flossie the dog home with them!

Special thanks to Mrs Wright for all of her planning to make it such a nice event for all involved, and to our Year 6 children.





# GEORGE'S FOOD HUB; UPDATE

George, who runs the food hub, has shared the following update with us from FareShare:

*"Due to the current festive season, we would like to start off with a fun fact. Did you know that an average adult reindeer weighs around 63.5kg?"*

*In the last 30 days, you have collected 90% of the donations offered to you, which equates to 1,526kg of food. This means that you have collected and redistributed the equivalent weight of 24 reindeers in food.*

*We at FareShare would like to say a huge congratulations for the work you are doing to lower food waste and support your local community.*

*Please keep up the amazing work!"*

Well done to George and his amazing team of food hub volunteers - we are so proud to be affiliated with this wonderful initiative.



# ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week was 95.02%

Our attendance by class is as follows:

**Cedar** - 96.3%

**Sycamore** - 97.88%

**Acacia** - 91.18%

**Willow** - 92.86%

**Juniper** - 96.67%

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"



# MINDSPACE

**Parent & Carer  
Autism  
Support Group**

**MINDSPACE STAMFORD**  
3RD MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
1.15PM - 2.45PM

MindSpace Virtual Autism Hub **NHS**

**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!

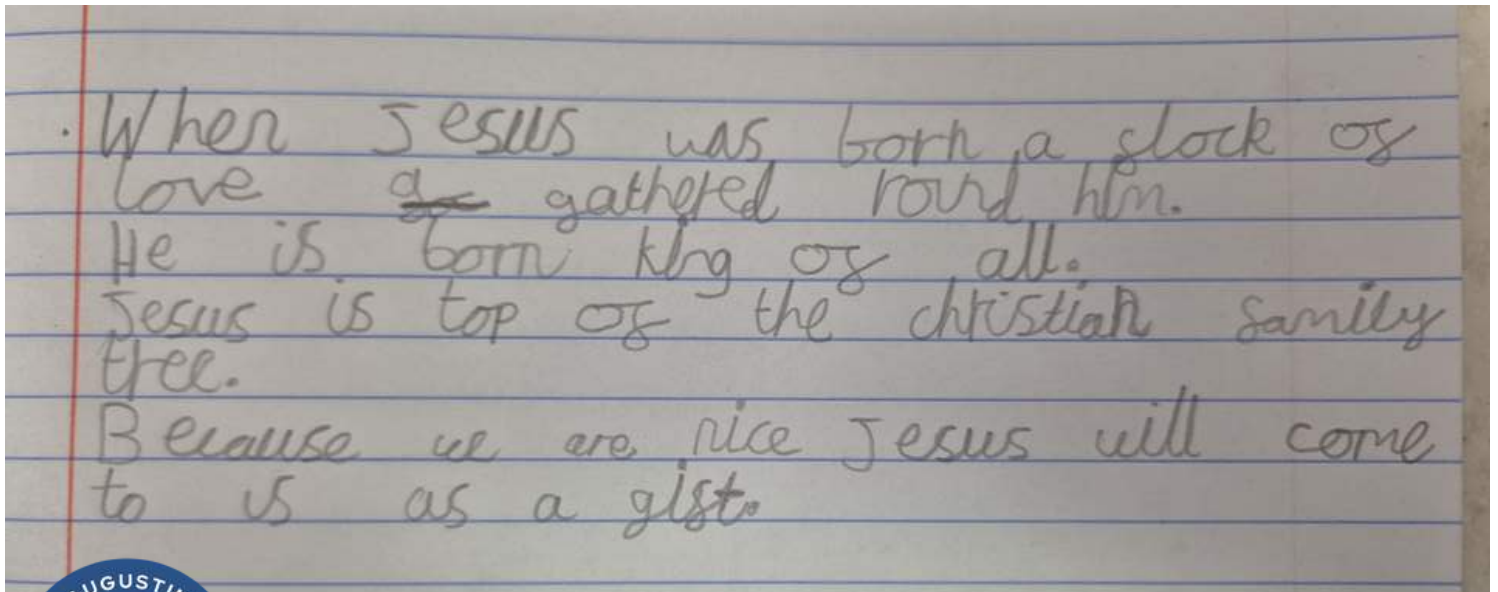
# Writer of THE WEEK

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Congratulations to Ben B in Year 3 Acacia Class... you are our Writer of the Week!

This week, Ben moved us with his wonderful writing about Jesus. Mrs Worrick explained that this was a completely independent piece of writing after listening to a hymn. Ben then wrote his own verse.

Well done, Ben – keep up the brilliant work!



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**B E N J A M I N   B R Y J A**

# JUBILEE YEAR - 2025 - PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year—a time for forgiveness and reconciliation. It is an wonderful opportunity to deepen our relationship with God, one another, and all of creation as we come together to celebrate our Catholic faith.

The Jubilee Year begins with a momentous event; on Christmas Eve 2024, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. A Holy Door is one of the entrances that are usually sealed shut, and is only opened during Jubilee Years.

Jubilee Years, celebrated every 25 years, hold deep significance in the Catholic Church. The Diocese of Nottingham will officially open its Jubilee Year on 29th December 2024, with schools joining in the celebration with a dedicated day on Friday 24th January 2025.

This sacred year will conclude on 6th January 2026, the solemnity of The Epiphany, marking the culmination of a profound journey of faith and unity.

Let us embrace this Jubilee Year with open hearts, ready to renew our hope and discover a vision that can *'restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone'* and we are encouraged to *'contemplate the beauty of creation and care for our common home'*.

**"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart, and far-sighted vision".**

Pope Francis







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 - all welcome!	18	19 LAST DAY OF ADVENT 2 TERM!	20 INSET DAY	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



2025

# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 INSET DAY	7 FIRST DAY OF LENT TERM!	8	9	10	11 COMMUNITY OPEN DAY EVENT AT SCHOOL 10.30AM-12.30PM
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE OPENS FOR SCHOOLS	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Peace at Christmas Time



MAY THE BLESSINGS OF THE HOLY FAMILY BE  
WITH YOU THIS CHRISTMAS AND ALWAYS.

WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS.