

St. Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy



LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE *in love*
1 CORINTHIANS 16:14



Phone: 01780 762094

Website: www.st-augustine.lincs.sch.uk

Address: Kesteven Road, Stamford, Lincs PE9 1SR

A MESSAGE FROM MRS COX

I hope you all had a restful and relaxing half-term break. We've started our first week of the Lent 2 term with the promise of spring, enjoying some beautifully sunny days!

Our football team has had an incredible week in the league, making it all the way to the final against Malcolm Sargent School last night. After a huge 9-1 win against Uffington on Tuesday, we faced a tough match in the final, with Malcolm Sargent winning after securing a 3-1 victory. We are tremendously proud of our team - they have shown great determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship. A huge thank you to Miss B and Darryl Sinclair for their support and coaching. It's been wonderful to see the growth in confidence among our players this year. School sports play such an important role in teaching valuable life skills, teamwork, and resilience - well done to all!

We were also delighted to welcome a very special visitor to school this week - Dai Greene, former World and European 400m hurdles champion, who delivered an Inspire+ assembly and worked with our Year 6 pupils in a sprint training session. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn from an elite athlete and be inspired to aim high in their own sporting journeys!

Our breakfast club initiative with Mrs. Smith and Miss B has got off to a great start this week, with so many children enjoying a healthy breakfast together before starting their learning for the day. A big thank you to both of them for all their time and effort in making this a welcoming and enjoyable start to the morning for our children.

Looking ahead to next week, we're excited to be celebrating World Book Day! After last year's fantastic response, we're bringing back the 'Book in a Box' competition - full details can be found further along in the newsletter, and all entries should be returned to school by Thursday, 6th March. On the same day, children are invited to come to school either in their pyjamas or dressed as a character from a book. Please don't feel the need to buy anything new; homemade and creative costumes are very much encouraged! We can't wait to see all of your fantastic ideas!

We also have non-uniform days on Friday 7th and Friday 14th March in support of our F.o.S.A team. More details can be found on the next page!

We have also signed up to take part in the Big Lent Walk, raising money for CAFOD, and will be recognising British Sign Language Week in the coming weeks - more details on both will follow soon.

Wishing you all a lovely, sunny weekend; we're looking forward to another great week of learning ahead!

Mrs Cox



LET US PRAY

Dear God,
Thank You for new beginnings.
Help us to start each day with kindness,
To be brave when we face new things,
And to trust that You are always with us.
Fill our hearts with hope and joy,
Guide our steps on the right path,
And help us to be a light to others.

Amen



A SEASON OF NEW BEGINNINGS

As we get ready to step into March, we welcome the gentle arrival of spring - a season filled with new life, fresh beginnings, and the promise of brighter days. The world around us begins to awaken from its winter slumber, reminding us of God's power to renew and transform. Just as the first blossoms appear and the days grow longer, we, too, are invited to embrace this season of growth in our hearts and lives.

In our school community, the start of this new term - Lent 2 - calls us to reflect, renew, and draw closer to God. Lent is a time of preparation, a journey towards Easter, where we are reminded of Christ's love and sacrifice for us. As we continue through this sacred season, let us take inspiration from the beauty of spring, opening our hearts to kindness, forgiveness, and faith.

As our school reminds us, "Let all that you do be done in love" (1 Corinthians 16:14); may this new term be filled with hope, growth, and God's blessings for us all.

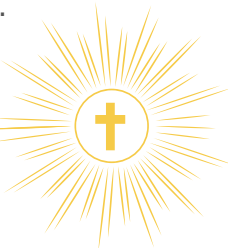
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Many happy returns to Alicia in Juniper Class who was 11 yesterday - we all hope that you had a great time celebrating your special day!



ST. AUGUSTINE'S CLASS LITURGIES

Our children have class liturgies every Wednesday afternoon from 3pm until 3.15pm. Classroom doors will be open at 3pm if you would like to join us.



OUR PARISH CHURCH

The Children's Liturgy takes place at the 9:00am Mass. All children are welcome to share in this opportunity to participate in their own Liturgy of the Word at Mass at an appropriate level for them.

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

F.O.S.A EVENTS

Friday 7th March and Friday 14th March will be non-uniform days at St. Augustine's! Our F.o.S.A team have asked for donations of gifts such as bath bombs, toiletries, chocolates, nail care, face care etc for Mothering Sunday gifts. Children will soon be able to purchase a bag for £5, and will make their own cards in class, and will spend time with F.o.S.A to choose items, and decorate their gift bags... more to follow soon from F.o.S.A!

A reminder that Wednesday 5th March is the closing date for your Easter Eggstravaganza entries!



SCHOOL COUNCIL AND GREEN TEAM

Green Team will meet after school on Monday 3rd March and School Council will meet on Monday 10th March.



VIRTUES CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to all of the recipients of this week's Virtue Certificates - we are all very proud of you.

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

Sycamore Class - Derry - **Hope & Confidence**

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

Willow Class - Peggy - **Hope & Confidence**

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



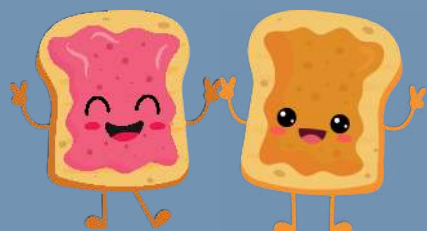
EXCITING NEW BREAKFAST INITIATIVE AT ST. A'S!

We have had lots of children enjoying breakfast together at St. Augustine's this week, with the start of our breakfast provision trial!

This trial is being generously supported and provided for by George's Food Hub and aims to ensure that every child has the best possible start to their day. If your child has not had breakfast at home, they are welcome to come to the dining hall between 8.40am and 9.00am to help themselves to a nutritious breakfast. Mrs Smith, our Family Support Worker, is coordinating this provision along with Miss B, and will work with all children that drop in, guiding them on the life skills involved in making their own breakfast and helping to clear away, which we believe are valuable skills. We also hope that this will provide a 'soft landing' for any pupils who find the start of the school day a busy or difficult time.

We believe that a good breakfast, eaten in a safe space with others, sets children up for success, helping them to feel ready to learn and thrive throughout the school day. We look forward to seeing the positive impact this initiative will have on our pupils!

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to help with this initiative, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



DAI GREENE INSPIRE+VISIT!

We were delighted to welcome a very special visitor to our school on Thursday! Dai specialised in the 400 metres hurdles, competing internationally for both Wales and Great Britain, as well as Europe in the IAAF Intercontinental Cup. Dai was also the European and Commonwealth champion at the same time as he was World Champion.

We all enjoyed a special assembly with Dai, and our Year 6 Juniper Class were lucky enough to spend the afternoon in the sunshine with Dai!



ST. AUGUSTINE'S FOOTBALL TEAM!

Our brilliant St. Augustine's football team finished the league in second place! We played Uffington on Tuesday, winning with an amazing 9-1, and were defeated against Malcolm Sargent last night in the league final with their 3-1 win.

Our team have played extraordinarily well during the league, and we're so proud of them for displaying our school virtues during every single match played.

Huge thanks to Darryl Sinclair for his time and efforts coaching our team - we're so grateful for the advice and support that he gives to all of our players.

- Miss B



L-R back: Mia, Tyler, Arlo, Luke, Flynn and Freddie
L-R front: Jake, Stanley, Ronan, Jacob and Toby

ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week was 91.88%

Our attendance by class is as follows:

Cedar - 98.04%

Sycamore - 89.3%

Acacia - 88.39%

Willow - 88.27%

Juniper - 96.76%

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 'Temperance'

Temperance is the virtue of self-control. It is about being able to control our desires and impulses, and to make choices that are good for us. We are often faced with temptations. Temperance can help us to resist these temptations and to make the right choices.

When you face a difficult situation this week, stop, take some time, and pray about what the right decision might be.



COOKERY CLUB

Our Year 3 and Year 4 Cookery Club has now finished - the next one will be after Easter for our Year 5 and Year 6 children.

The children have enjoyed learning knife skills, health and safety in the kitchen, and how to make fruit salad. They have cooked pizza and made their own soup. I asked them what they had learnt and enjoyed - here's what they had to say:



L-R: Ben, Evie and Clara with some delicious bakes!

WORLD BOOK DAY AT ST. AUGUSTINE'S

WORLD BOOK DAY:
THURSDAY 6TH MARCH 2025



Dress Up Day

Come to school in your pyjamas or as a character from a book!



WORLD BOOK DAY:
THURSDAY 6TH MARCH 2025



Children are invited to recreate a scene from their favourite story, inside a box (shoe box/cereal box etc).

Story boxes create special opportunities to revisit children's favourite books. Children can use their box to explore characters, settings or even create their own adventure!

'Book in a Box' Competition





2025 March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 WORLD BOOK DAY! -COME TO SCHOOL IN YOUR PJ'S OR AS A BOOK CHARACTER! -BOOK IN A BOX COMPETITION	7 -FoSA NON-UNIFORM DAY! -COFFEE MORNING 8.45AM	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 -FoSA NON-UNIFORM DAY! -COFFEE MORNING 8.45AM	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 FUNDRAISING COFFEE MORNING 8.45AM	22	23
24 31	25 CYBERWISE CAMPAIGN SESSION WITH THE CONVERSATION, STAMFORD: 8.45AM-10.45AM	26	27	28 COFFEE MORNING 8.45AM	29	30

FUNDRAISER!

Cake Sale

St Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Kesteven Rd, Stamford PE9 1SR

21st March 2025 2pm

Fundraising

women's aid

Cake sale

A representative will be attending should you need support

MINDSPACE & ART POP-UP: FAMILY WINTER WARM SPACE

Every Thursday evening until the end of March, George's Food Hub provides a free, home-cooked hot meal for all attendees, there is tea/coffee/squash too. It's completely free, hosted by MindSpace volunteers – who can offer support and a listening ear if needed, while Art Pop-Up provide creative activities. You are free to do whatever you choose – join in, have a chat, bring a book, do your homework or just relax in a warm, friendly space.

Family Winter WarmSpace takes place between 4.30 – 6.30pm at the Free Church hall on Kesteven Road, PE9 1SU in Stamford and sessions are running up until March 27th 2025. Booking is preferable so that George's know how many people to cater for – however if this is a barrier on your first visit just turn up that's fine too!

Please click on the image on the right to book your place.

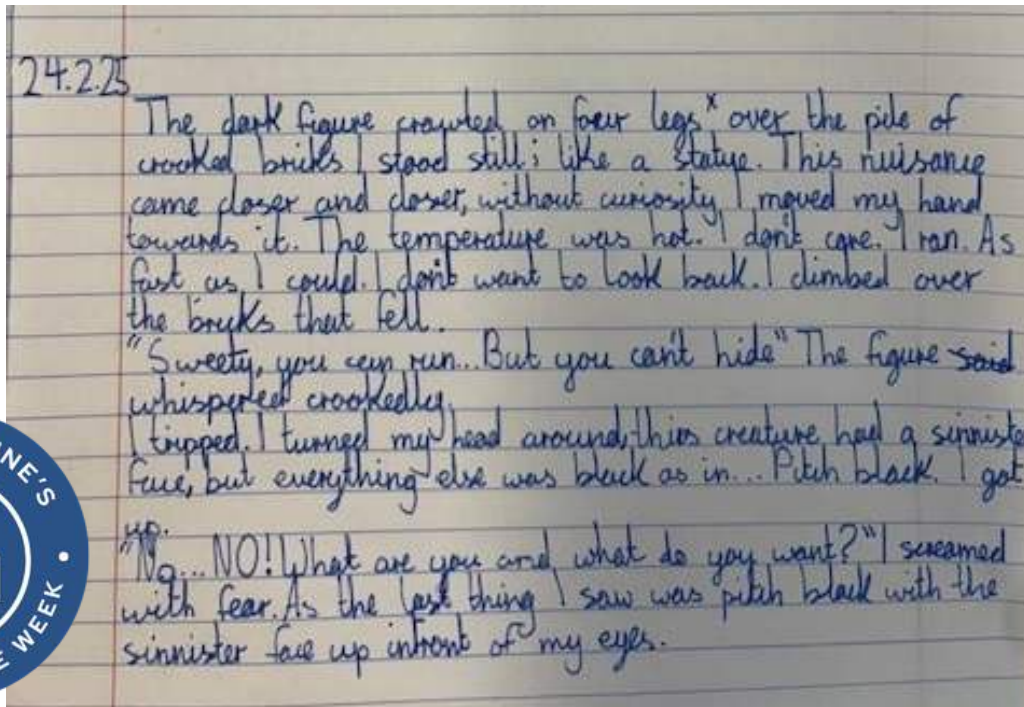


Writer of THE WEEK

Congratulations to Alicia in our Year 6 Juniper Class... you are our Writer of the Week!

Alicia wrote a wonderfully descriptive piece, and used all of her retrieval knowledge to make her writing exciting and full of suspense.

Mrs Oliver is very proud of you, Alicia - well done on your brilliant work.



**A L I C I A
B U C Z A K - S M I T H**



What Parents & Carers Need to Know About WHATSAPP

16+
in UK & EU;
12+ rest of
world.

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, and making voice and video calls. The app offers end-to-end encryption, meaning messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient(s). Not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 reportedly caused millions of users to leave the app. But the new policy was widely misinterpreted: it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

'Prize' Scams

WhatsApp users occasionally receive messages from unauthorised third parties or fraudsters pretending to offer prizes – encouraging recipients to click a link to win. A common scam involves a warning that someone's WhatsApp subscription has run out: aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details. Other scams include instructions to forward a message to earn a gift or reward.

Enabling Fake News

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India, some outbreaks of mob violence were reported to have been sparked by false allegations shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Connections with Strangers

To start a WhatsApp chat, you need the mobile number of the person you want to message (they also need to have the app). WhatsApp can also access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts use WhatsApp. If your child has given their mobile number to somebody they don't know, that person could then use it to get in touch via WhatsApp.

Disappearing Messages

With 'disappearing messages', users can send messages that vanish from WhatsApp after seven days. A new feature also erases photos and videos from chats after they've been viewed. These files can't be saved or forwarded on, making monitoring what children are discussing problematic – and if someone sent your child an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove. Content can be reported to WhatsApp, however: ensure your child knows how to do this.

'Only Admins' and Cyberbullying

Group chats and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

Live Location Sharing

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." Indeed, it is a useful method for a child to let loved ones know they are safe. But if your child is in a chat with people they don't know, it means they will be exposing their location to them, too.

Advice for Parents & Carers

Report Potential Scams

Advise your child not to engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they will be given the option to report that number as spam. They can also report a contact or a group as spam by tapping on the contact or group name to open their profile and scrolling down to 'report spam'.

Create a Safe Profile

Even though someone would need your child's phone number to add them as a contact, as an extra precaution it's worth altering your young one's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody.' Choosing one of the latter two ensures their profile is protected.

Use Location Features Sparingly

If your child needs to use 'live location' to show you or their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives 'live location' options of 15 minutes, one hour or eight hours. However, your child can manually choose to stop sharing their position at any time.

Fact-Check Messages

You can now fact-check messages that have been forwarded at least five times in WhatsApp, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was accurate or not. It's a good way to encourage young people to question things they see online.

Explain about Blocking

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – they would also need to be deleted from the device's address book. The option to block someone is on their contact info screen.

Leave a Group

If your child is part of a group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they no longer want to be part of, show them how to use the group's settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

Delete Accidental Messages

If your child has posted a message in the wrong chat or sent a message that they immediately regret, they can delete it. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' WhatsApp allows seven minutes to delete a message after it's sent – but it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



NOS National
Online
Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/260895/number-of-monthly-active-whatsapp-users/>, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/260895/most-popular-global-mobile-messaging-app/>, <https://www.whatsapp.com/faq/en/https://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/WhatsApp>, <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/whatsapp-update-latest-india-hoax-forward-messages-app-download-19160011.html>, <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-5248002>

Fully Funded School Support Course

Available in Levels 1, 2 & 3

*Please go to our website for more detailed information.

6 Week Course
Mon - Fri
Daily sessions
1st session 9:30 - 11:30am
2nd session 12:30 - 2pm

www.studysmartuk.online

We are looking to fill 150+ School Support vacancies in local schools (e.g. Teaching Assistants, SEN Support, Behaviour Mentors, 1-1 Classroom Support, Cover Supervisors etc). These roles are available in both full time and part time positions.

Please go to our website address given above, or scan the QR code for more information.

This is a 6 week course, full time, intensive course, with online guided learning sessions within school hours.
If you are earning less than £23,500 per annum or are in receipt of any benefits, you will be eligible for a fully funded place with us.



The Reading Doctor™

Becky Birch

The Reading Doctor - Stamford

07921151073

beckyb@thereadingdoctors.com

Facebook / The Reading Doctor

THE TUTORS' ASSOCIATION
CORPORATE MEMBER



Parent Testimonial:

"What a difference it has made to our sons reading after just a few weeks with Becky! He also really enjoys his sessions and asks when the next one is. It has given him so much more confidence reading and he actually wants to read more now.

Thank you!"

Childcare Survey

Calling all parents and carers in Lincolnshire... we want to hear from you about your childcare requirements. Please help us to make sure you have the right childcare in your area!



The survey will be open between
17th February and 18th March 2025

To access the survey please use the QR code or online at
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/childcaresurvey2025

Lincolnshire
THOUGHTS COUNT
Asking for a better future



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

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

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

Mrs Smith and Mrs Garland 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 - come to the main school entrance - no need to book!

CALLING CATHOLIC TEACHERS

Catholic teachers working outside Catholic education

An invitation for you!

Date & Time

**Wednesday 26 March 2025
7.00pm - 8.00pm**

Venue

VIRTUAL - Microsoft Teams

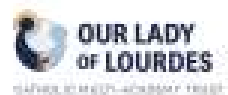
Teaching has an extraordinary moral depth and is one of humanity's excellent and creative activities, for the teacher does not write on inanimate material, but on the very spirits of human beings.

The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium

If you are a Catholic teacher currently working outside of Catholic education, we'd love to meet you! Whether you have taught in a Catholic school before or not, we would like to invite you to find out more about the exciting and immensely rewarding opportunities in Catholic education within the Diocese of Nottingham, including our Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts.

Teaching in a Catholic school is not just a job, it is a vocation. For us, education is about far more than academic success, it is about the formation of the whole person.

This occasion is designed to provide information about how best to prepare for a role in a Catholic School and to answer any questions you may have. There will also be an opportunity to register for a mentoring programme for those senior leaders who wish to be accompanied and supported on their journey into Catholic education.



Serving Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire



Serving Derby, Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Stockport



Serving Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

To reserve your place please contact Gill Burns: gill.burns@nottingham-des.org.uk