

# 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](http://www.st-augustine.lincs.sch.uk)

Address: Kesteven Road, Stamford, Lincs PE9 1SR

### A MESSAGE FROM MRS WITHERS

At both schools this week we have celebrated National Tree Week and considered the importance of trees as part of future conservation and preserving of our wonderful world. The children have explored the National Tree Week Assembly and have been reflecting on what an important part trees have to play in all out our lives including just creating beautiful spaces for us to walk in and enjoy.

National Tree Week (23 November – 1 December 2025) is the UK's biggest annual celebration of trees, marking the start of the winter planting season. This year's theme, "A Future Filled with Trees", is a call to action for communities, schools, and individuals to come together and plant for tomorrow. Whether it's a single sapling in your garden or joining a local planting event, every tree makes a difference – helping wildlife thrive, improving air quality, and creating beautiful spaces for generations to enjoy. Let's root for a greener, healthier planet – one tree at a time! 🌱 Maybe this weekend you could plant something as a family...

Have a wonderful weekend,

*Mrs Withers*



## LET US PRAY

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love.

Amen.



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

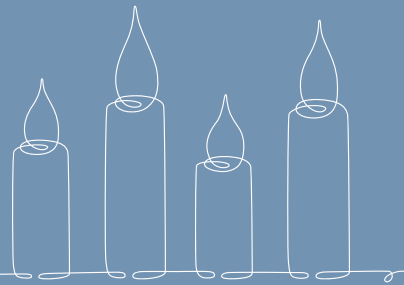
As we prepare to begin the season of Advent on Monday, our St. Augustine's community looks forward to entering a time filled with reflection, anticipation, and joy. Advent, which marks the four weeks leading up to Christmas, invites us to take a moment amidst the busyness of the term and consider the traditions that bring meaning, warmth, and togetherness to this special time of year.

Across different cultures and families, Christmas traditions can vary wonderfully, yet many share the same heart: gathering with loved ones, offering kindness, and celebrating hope. From lighting Advent candles and decorating trees, to baking festive treats or lovely Christmas crafts, each tradition helps build a sense of connection and excitement as Christmas draws near.

In school, we'll be embracing this season through our own celebrations and activities; moments for our children to experience the joy of giving, the importance of community, and the comfort of shared traditions. As the first Advent candle is lit, may it remind us all of the light we can bring into each other's lives.

Wishing everyone a peaceful, hopeful, and joyful start to the Advent period.

- Miss Griffin



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Many happy returns to Jacob P in Juniper Class who celebrates his 11th birthday on Thursday!



Many happy returns to you, Jacob, from everyone at St. Augustine's!

## DECEMBER DIARY DATES!

As we start our Advent 2 term, please make a note of the following special events:

**Nativity (EYFS, Y1/ Y2)** - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December in Church at 2pm.

**Carol Service (All)** - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December in school 2.15pm.

## GREEN TEAM/ SCHOOL COUNCIL

2 Dec - School Council

9 Dec - Green Team



hello  
FRIDAY



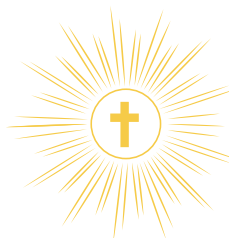
## OUR PARISH CHURCH

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.

## ST. AUGUSTINE'S CLASS LITURGIES

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



## BOURNE & DEEPING R.C. PARISH

Please [click here](#) to read weekly newsletters from our friends at the Bourne and Deeping Roman Catholic Parish.

# SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns about a child, or if you need help and support, please don't hesitate to contact our Safeguarding team:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Withers

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Oliver

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Reeves

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Taylor

The Safeguarding team can be contacted on 01780 762094 or by email: [enquiries@st-augustine.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-augustine.lincs.sch.uk)



# VIRTUES CERTIFICATES

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

Olive Class - **Finn** - **Love of Learning & Determination**

Sycamore Class - **Elouise** - **Friendship & Kindness**

Acacia Class - **Ada G** - **Hope & Confidence**

Juniper Class Year 5 - **Zachary** - **Hope & Confidence**

Juniper Class Year 6 - **Mia** - **Love of Learning & Determination**



## E-SAFETY WITH ALAN MACKENZIE

### For Parents - Protect Neurodivergent Children from Scams in Games

As we all know, neurodivergent children can be amongst those most vulnerable online, therefore more likely to become victims of things like scams. Those with ADHD, autism or other divergent ways of thinking might not recognise when someone intends to do harm.

Internet Matters have put together a brand new free guide for parents which explores how neurodivergent children's unique traits can leave them open to scams, particularly in games.

You can download the free guide [HERE](#).

### For Parents - Gadget Gift Guide

Christmas can be an exciting time when many children are given new devices and gadgets. Ireland's online safety charity, CyberSafeKids, have put together a brand new guide for parents and carers covering:

- The benefits and risks of popular smart devices and toys.
- What you can do to make them safer.
- Age recommendations
- And more.

You can download the guide [HERE](#).

### Online Safety Weekly Update

Alan Mackenzie  
Online Safety Specialist



## ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHRISTMAS TREE - ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

On Thursday afternoon, some of our St. Augustine's children visited St. John's Church on Stamford High Street, to decorate our very own special Christmas tree! The children had a wonderful time decorating the tree, and admired all of the beautiful trees. Well done, everyone - our tree is so lovely!

The Christmas tree festival at St. John's opens today, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November, raising funds for local charities. Do pop in and see if you can spot our St. Augustine's tree in the winter wonderland!





## THE MARK 10 MISSION - ADVENT

Advent is about preparing to meet Jesus! We can get ready to welcome him in the manger at Christmas and also when he comes again.

- *The Mark 10 Mission*

Click on the image below to watch the video.



## AUTHOR VISIT – HANNAH GOLD

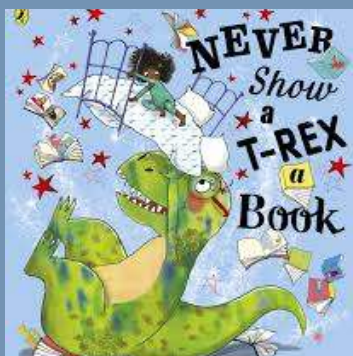
We're delighted to share that Hannah Gold, author of *The Last Bear* and other much-loved titles, will be visiting school on 3rd December at 2pm to read from her brand-new book, *The Lone Husky*.

Children are very welcome to bring in any of her books if they would like to have them signed.



## BOOK CORNER!

This week's recommended reads:



While sitting on her bed reading to her toy dinosaur, a young girl wonders what would happen if she showed her book to a real T-Rex. The dinosaur may try to wear the book as a hat, or eat it thinking it's a biscuit. The girl would have to teach her how to read, which would inevitably lead to the dinosaur demanding more books, but could such a large creature be smuggled into the library unnoticed? Then she would have to hide the dinosaur, along with a mountain of borrowed books, into her bedroom without her parents finding out. The hilarity continues as the girl works through potential consequences, such as the T-Rex attending school, getting a job and even becoming Prime Minister. This entertaining tale celebrates the joy of reading and demonstrates how books can fuel the imagination.

Click on the image above to listen along to the book.

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## ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week was 89.1%

Our attendance by class is as follows:

**Olive**- 90.64%

**Sycamore** - 92.44%

**Acacia** - 89.39%

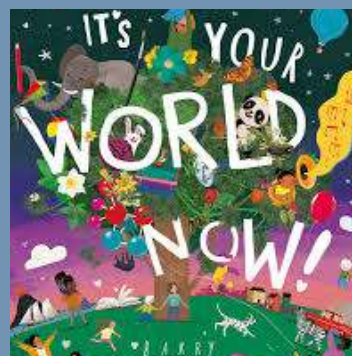
**Juniper** - 85.89%

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](#),

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

"From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child.  
#AttendanceCounts"



So go and play and live and learn. It's your world now, this is your turn to think and ask and make and do. The world is magic, just like you! A beautiful, moving and funny celebration of life that highlights the potential of each and every child. This is the perfect book to read out loud – helping children to appreciate the wonderful things that exist in the world, and the great things that they can do. It also allows them to understand some of the setbacks that may occur along the way. And the overall message is that whatever happens, you will always be loved by those closest to you. Barry Fallis' illustrations burst from the page with exuberant detail while his rhyming text is a delight to read. This is a gorgeous, funny and thought-provoking celebration of where you might go and what you might do in life.

Click on the image above to listen along to the book.

# 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.



# TERM TIMES MAGAZINE

The latest edition of Term Times magazine is now out! Your child will bring a paper copy home with them - click on the image below to view the online version.





# 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?

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



**Try to do more little acts of kindness for others throughout Advent.**



# All Saints' Children's Advent Workshop.



**In church on Saturday 29th November from 10am to 12pm.**  
**Christmas crafts, with hot chocolate and mince pies.**

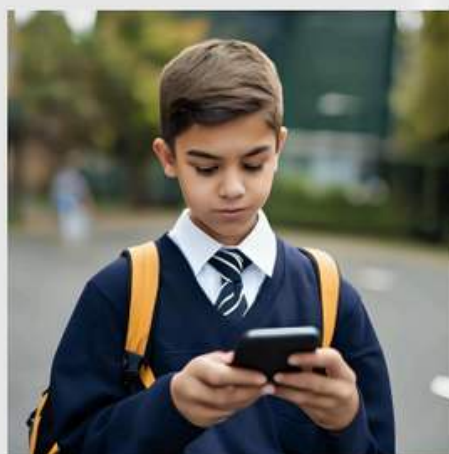
**Everyone welcome!**

Please note children must be accompanied by an adult

All Saints' Church, Red Lion Square, Stamford, PE9 2AG



## ONLINE SAFETY Q+A PRIMARY PARENTS



Lincolnshire  
 COUNTY COUNCIL  
 Working for a better future



**WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER**  
**6 - 7:30PM**  
**MICROSOFT TEAMS EVENT**

**Discover the Digital World Your Child is Navigating!**

Join the Stay Safe Partnership for an essential online safety event for parents. We'll provide the latest information and practical tools to help you:

- ✓ Understand what your child experiences online
- ✓ Use parental controls effectively
- ✓ Navigate age-appropriate apps, games, and social media
- ✓ Ask your burning questions about online trends and risks

Feel confident keeping your child safe while they explore the online world.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/staysafepartnership/1929114>



## Holiday Activities AND FOOD CAMP

**Dates: 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> December**  
**9.30 - 15.30**

For children aged 5-16

Our camps are the best place to entertain your children during the holidays. The children will participate in lots of fun games, sports, cooking sessions, arts and crafts, and much more!

Funded places available for children who receive benefits-related free school meals

### Locations:

Deepings

Spalding

Grantham

Stamford

### Get booked in



**SCAN HERE**

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 Working for a better future

inspire+

Department  
 for Education

## SHOOTING STARS JUNIOR NETBALL CLUB



**LOVE NETBALL OR WANT TO GIVE IT A GO? COME JOIN SHOOTING STARS!**  
**WE'RE ALL ABOUT LEARNING NEW SKILLS, MAKING FRIENDS, AND HAVING A GREAT TIME ON THE COURT.**

ALL LEVELS WELCOME

SKILLS, GAMES, AND MATCH PLAY

FRIENDLY COMPS (WITH LOADS OF FUN AND GOOD VIBES!)

SUPPORTIVE AND EN QUALIFIED COACHES

WHERE: STAMFORD WELLAND ACADEMY  
 WHEN: MONDAYS TERM TIME ONLY  
 TIME: FS-Y6 6.30PM-7.30PM Y7-Y13 7.30PM-8.30PM

KEEN TO JOIN?  
 DROP US AN EMAIL FOR MORE INFO @ SHOOTINGSTARSNETBALL@OUTLOOK.COM  
 OR SCAN THE QR CODE FOR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

