

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 WITHERS

This week, we begin Advent by lighting the candle of Hope. As we wait for the coming of Christ, we focus on the light of hope in a world that can sometimes feel dark and uncertain. Let this first candle remind us to trust in God's promises and to find hope in His faithfulness as we move towards the joy of Christmas.

Many of us were able to visit the Stamford Christmas Market last weekend and see the Christmas Tree Festival at St. John's Church, along with the beautiful tree created by our Chaplaincy Team, focused on the Jubilee theme of Hope. Our thanks go to our chaplain, Mrs Wright.

A huge thank you to families for supporting our recent 'World Day of the Poor' collection for Mary's Meals. £17.33 was raised. Click on the logo below for more information about Mary's Meals.

As the first week of Advent draws to a close, I hope you are able to enjoy time together as a family this weekend as you prepare for the busy festive weeks ahead.

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.



WHY DO WE SEE THE COLOUR PURPLE DURING ADVENT?

During Advent you'll probably notice that lots of things in church turn purple - the vestments, the hangings, even some of the candles on the Advent wreath. But do you know the history behind this pretty colour?

A long time ago, purple dye was extremely rare because it came from tiny sea snails called murex snails. It took thousands of them just to make enough dye for one piece of cloth! That meant that anything dyed purple was very expensive, so only really important people, like kings and queens, wore it. That's how purple became known as the colour of royalty.

The Church uses purple in Advent partly for that reason: it reminds us that we're getting ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the King of Kings; a very different kind of king who came to us in kindness and humility

Purple is also a colour of waiting and getting ready. Advent invites us to slow down, think about others, and make space in our hearts for Jesus as Christmas approaches.

So the next time you spot the purple decorations or candles, you'll know that they're not just pretty colours - they carry a whole story about the special time of preparing for Christmas.

- Miss Griffin



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Many happy returns to Ella and Romeo in Juniper Class who are both celebrating their 11th birthday today!



Many happy returns to Ella and Romeo, from everyone at St. Augustine's!

DECEMBER DIARY DATES!

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

Carol Service (All) - Tuesday 16th December in school 2.15pm.

GREEN TEAM & SCHOOL COUNCIL

9 Dec - Green Team



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Our Christmas postbox will be ready from Monday for the children to post their Christmas cards to each other!



NO SMOKING

A polite reminder that smoking is not permitted in our school grounds.

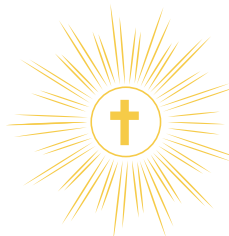


OUR PARISH CHURCH

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



VIRTUES CERTIFICATES

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

Olive Class - **Ralphie** - **Love of Neighbour & Self-Control**

Sycamore Class - **Ivy-Rose** - **Hope & Confidence**

Acacia Class - **Rakshith** - **Hope & Confidence**

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

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



E-SAFETY WITH ALAN MACKENZIE

For Parents - Sharenting

For a multitude of different reasons the advice we give to children and young people is to be careful with what they're sharing online, including images. This can be anything from protecting your privacy to very serious harms such as blackmail including sextortion. For example, an article in the Guardian refers to a report from the NSPCC where nearly 1 in 10 parents say their child has been blackmailed online and the National Crime Agency are receiving around 110 reports of sextortion each month.

That education we give to children and young people extends to parents, caregivers, schools and anyone else that may share data, such as images, of children. We must be mindful of the potential uses of that data.

The Irish Data Commission has recently released a short (40 seconds) light-hearted but serious video about the risks of sharenting along with some useful advice.

You can see the video and advice [HERE](#) and you can read the Guardian article [HERE](#).



SAFEGUARDING WITH ANDREW HALL

Roblox Security Changes

The introduction of the Online Safety Bill earlier this year has brought welcome controls over what we and our children can access online. As internet speeds have increased and the digital world has expanded, the ability for anyone of any age to reach almost any content has grown at a pace far beyond our capacity to safeguard against it. The risks have become unmistakable. Adults now face increasingly sophisticated attacks from hackers and scammers, while children remain acutely vulnerable to online predators.

Although some internet services initially resisted tighter regulation, the government's commitment to reducing online harms has ultimately prevailed. For children, one of the most persistent avenues for predatory behaviour has been online video games. These are spaces where young users gather, communicate, and interact, often with limited verification or oversight.

Roblox, a platform widely associated with younger players, is now beginning to address this by introducing facial analysis age checks and optional ID verification for users over 13. These real-world verification measures are designed to confirm a user's age more accurately and to restrict interactions that could place children at risk. In practice, they signal an important shift in how major platforms are starting to manage online safety and respond to the expectations set out in the Bill.

You can read more about these checks [here](#).



THE MARK 10 MISSION - ADVENT

Advent has begun and we have two more beautiful celebration of the Word second videos for you. On the Second Sunday of Advent we are introduced to St John the Baptist. In the Gospel, we meet him echoing the words of the prophet Isaiah 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' This message is the theme for our videos this week. In both the Mark 10 episode and the Little Liturgies, I reflect upon the humility of John and how, during Advent especially, we can look honestly at the blockages in our spiritual lives. This is the season to clear away distractions and unkindness and create a straight path for Jesus's love to fill our hearts - *The Mark 10 Mission*

Click on the images below to watch the videos.



Little Liturgies
(ages 4-8)



The Mark 10 Mission
(ages 8-12)

LINCOLNSHIRE PARENT CARER WORKSHOPS ADVENT TERM 2

December

- 🧑🏻‍🦱 Thu 11th December | Wellbeing: Hypnotherapy – Anticipating Christmas (19:30–21:00, Online)
- 🧑🏻‍🦱 Mon 15th December | Zoom Social for Parents (19:00–20:00, Online)

🔗 [Book Events Here](#)



ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this week was 90.4%

Our attendance by class is as follows:

Olive- 91.81%

Sycamore - 92.44%

Acacia - 95.96%

Juniper - 84.98%

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"



BOOK CORNER!

This week's recommended reads:



Winter Sleep: A Hibernation Story - Sean Taylor

This beautifully illustrated, large-format picture book perfectly blends a sweet story with fascinating facts about animals sleeping through winter. As it's all about being cosy and sleepy, it makes a lovely bedtime book!

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



The Other Father Christmas -Serena Holly

A heartwarming chapter book about a boy and his Grandad who go to the North Pole on a quest to find the next Santa.

Click on the image above to listen along to the first chapter.



The Lone Husky - Hannah Gold

When a nervous purebred Siberian husky arrives at the dog yard, April does everything she can to build his trust. Volunteering for The Polar Race may provide the adventure April longs for, but can Blaze the husky handle the competition?

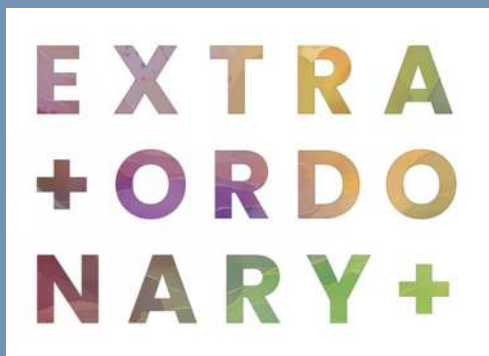
Click on the image above to listen to a preview of the audiobook.

EXTRA-ORDINARY '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.



HANNAH GOLD

Local author Hannah Gold visited the KS2 children at St. Augustine's on Wednesday and answered lots of interesting questions from the children. Hannah read some of her new book, 'The Lone Husky', and signed books that the children brought in.

Many thanks to Hannah for her visit and her generous donations to the school.



POP ROX MUSIC SCHOOL

Rory from Pop Rox came to see us today for a very musical whole-school get together! We experienced what it is like to form a rock band - we had so much fun!



**ROCK BAND LESSONS
ARE NOW AT YOUR SCHOOL!**

**YOUR CHILD JUST EXPERIENCED
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FORM A ROCK BAND WITH
POP ROX MUSIC SCHOOL!**

WHAT DO WE DO?

- WEEKLY GROUP LESSONS DURING SCHOOL
- AGES 4-11 WELCOME
- NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
- INSTRUMENTS PROVIDED
- TERMLY CONCERTS & PROGRESS REPORTS

Pop Rox Music School lessons are exciting, engaging, and take place during the school day, with all instruments provided. Your child's favorite day at school for just £36.95 per month (with no payment in August).

BOOK YOUR CHILDS PLACE ONLINE TODAY!
WWW.POPROXMUSICSCHOOL.COM

 **SCAN
ME**



Click on the image above to find out more about Pop Rox.

Writer of THE WEEK

Our Writer of the Week is Ellie-Mae from Juniper Class! Ellie-Mae wrote a very well balanced argument about the pros and cons of children having mobile phones in school.

Mrs Oliver is very proud of you, Ellie-Mae - well done!

Balanced argument: Should mobile phones be used in primary schools?

Some people think that phones should be allowed in primary schools. These are the reasons why they are a good resource and why they are not.

For:

Firstly, phones help parents see where their child is at all times (such as life 360). They can also be used for school work, research and reminders. In addition, allowing phones is easy to access in emergencies. Plus, using phones is a good resource with helping with homework and difficult questions, especially when using apps like google and chat GPT.

Against:

Phones in school are a major distraction to pupils; it stops you from using doing your work and using your knowledge. It can also lead to bullying (and sometimes cyberbullying) when one pupil has one and the others do not. Therefore, mobile phones are very expensive and not everyone can afford them.

Conclusion:

I personally believe that phones should not be allowed in primary schools; it is distracting and stops pupils focusing on work.



ELLIE - MAE BURKE



In Acacia's worship last week, each class had the opportunity to get creative!

Acacia Class children nominated Saoirse, who drew a brilliant picture of Hogwarts, to have her picture in the newsletter.

Wonderful detail, Saoirse!

The nomination for Sycamore Class was drawn by Indie...a picture of some very colourful McDonald's Happy Meal boxes!

Fabulous work, Indie, and gorgeous colours!





CHRISTMAS FAYRE

**SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER
10AM TILL 1PM.**

**CHILDREN'S CRAFTS, RAFFLE, TOMBOLA,
CAKE STALL, GIFTS & SO MUCH MORE!!**

SANTA'S GROTTO!

**CAFE OPEN WITH HOT & COLD
REFRESHMENTS, SOUP, CAKES & MINCE
PIES.**

COME ALONG & JOIN IN THE FUN!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

TEL: 01780 766446

EMAIL: [JACQUI@CHRISTCHURCHSAMFORD.COM](mailto:jacqui@christchurchsamford.com)



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Wednesday 10th December

Wear your Christmas jumper to school! In return, please bring a donation for the Christmas Tombola!

If you do not wish to participate, please wear school uniform

Thank you for your continued support!



CHRISTMAS DRESS UP PARTY

FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER

WEAR YOUR FAVOURITE OUTFIT FOR THE LAST DAY OF TERM AND THE FOSA CHRISTMAS FAIR! IN RETURN, PLEASE KINDLY DONATE A GIFT FOR OUR TOMBOLA.

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE WEAR SCHOOL UNIFORM.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

