



# St. Norbert's



We strive to nurture and develop the whole child through:  
a love of God, a love of one another and a love of life itself.

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Friday 1st December 2023

## VIRTUES AND VALUES

**Virtue of the term**  
Hope

**Value of the Month**  
Honesty

LET US PRAY

Lord, You are our maker, we  
rely on your help and mercy,  
be with us this day and  
always so that we may live  
good lives.  
Amen.

## ARTICLES OF THE WEEK



43-54



HOW THE CONVENTION WORKS

## A MESSAGE FROM MRS WITHERS

Nativity is well underway and the children were very excited to put on their costumes for a full dress rehearsal. EYFS have enjoyed starting their RE Birthdays topic learning about the word Birthday, the day they are born and that a very special baby celebrates their birthday on Christmas Day. EYFS are excited to be moving into the season of Advent and are ready to change their prayer cloths to purple. They enjoyed the Advent treat, making angels and Christmas cards and learning that they are messengers of God!

In RE this week, Year 1 created beautiful Advent calendars in preparation for Christmas. The children filled the days with symbols of the Christmas story as well as daily missions to prepare their hearts for Jesus.

Year 2 this week have been learning their lines and sharing their roles in the Nativity. They have been excited about their costumes and are beginning to act their lines out as the characters with greater precision. In Science we have been learning how to test and record the properties of different materials we can find in and around our school. We have also been learning about the process of recycling.

Elliot has shown great enthusiasm in his learning this week, and made Tutankhamun from Lego at home, the children have shown great interest in their science learning about the human body, the muscles, bones and how it all works together. They have drawn some fantastic cross section pictures in their books.

Year 4 had a lovely morning on Thursday making angels and nativity cards during our Advent retreat. They have also been busy designing their torches in DT this week. Thank you to all the children who have bought in cardboard and plastic bottles so far.

Year 5 have been full of creativity, weaving powerful metaphorical comparisons in their writing that transports the reader straight into the heart of the Blitz. This week's journey was not just about mastering literary techniques; we delved into the history and emotions of a significant time. As we bid adieu to our World War 2 poetry unit, we will celebrate each budding poet's creativity in computing. Year 5 will have the opportunity to record their poems using the videography skills they have learnt this term - look out for snapshot videos on Twitter in the forthcoming weeks!

Year 6 have had a busy week completing DT tasks, RE learning and the final draft of their non-chronological reports. On Wednesday the children prepared and led a thoughtful and reflective worship about Advent that led nicely into the Advent Retreat Day on Thursday. As part of their worship the children explained the symbolism of the Advent Wreath. They recreated one using a hoop, branches, and people as candles. They ended their worship by sharing an Advent song with a dance that they created.

The weather has changed for now to colder conditions, so just remember in this cold blast the following:

- Dress in layers, with a wind resistant outer layer, a hat, mittens or gloves, a scarf, and warm and waterproof footwear.
- Cover as much exposed skin as possible, especially when the wind chill is significant.
- Cover your mouth to protect your lungs from extreme cold.
- Stay dry and out of the wind. Wet clothing chills the body quickly.
- Monitor your physical condition and that of others around you. Know the symptoms of cold stress. The elderly and young children are at most risk.
- Move into warm locations during breaks.
- Avoid touching cold metal surfaces with bare skin.
- Prepare ahead of time and avoid going outside for long periods of time.

Have a safe, cosy weekend as we mark the start of the season of Advent.



Mrs Withers x

### Norbert Bear

This term Norbert Bear will be going home with a child in reception on a Friday to spend the weekend! Please follow the instructions on Norbert's tag and tweet any photos with Norbert with your child having fun! Norbert must be returned to school on a Monday for a busy week at school!

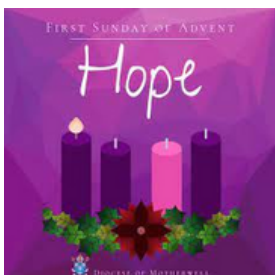


Norbert Bear will be going home with Jaynie

## GOSPEL REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

The word Advent means coming. It is a time of waiting and expectation. Only God knows when the second coming will be, but in today's Gospel we are reminded that we must stay awake and be ready for Jesus when he returns at the end of time. At this time of the year we are reminded to keep awake and to call upon God for mercy. When we are preparing for anything what do we do? We look forward to the event that is about to happen with excitement and sometimes with a little trepidation.

The Gospel today tells us that we don't know when the waited for event is going to happen. We are told to always be on our guard to always be expecting the end of things as we know them. There are some things during a time of waiting that we can keep on growing in our lives. What about the feeling of hope we have that comes from a belief that we have been blessed by God with the gift of our faith. That appreciation can grow and survive throughout all of our lives. So like Paul in the Second Reading we will continue to thank God for our Saviour in our prayer, by full and active participation in the Sunday Eucharist and by participation as an active member of the church in the world in our dealings with others.



**This Year we focus on Encounter**

I wonder... What any of this week's readings mean and how they might make a difference to your life.  
 Perhaps... you could organise an Advent liturgy of the Word based on the appropriate readings for the week. Perhaps you could write a reflection on one of the readings.

**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.

**SAFEGUARDING**

If you are concerned about a child or need help and support do not hesitate to contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead Mrs Withers and Deputies Mrs. Hibbert and Mr. Morton

**jenna.withers@st-norberts.lincs.sch.uk**  
**sarah.hibbert@st-norberts.lincs.sch.uk**  
**sam.morton@st-norberts.lincs.sch.uk**



**Online Safety: Omegle**

This week a parent guide has been shared with you via email concerning Omegle.

Omegle is a website offering a free video chat service which will connect you to a random stranger who you can interact with through text chat and webcam. There is no Omegle app currently available to download. No account or username is required to use the service and users are anonymous unless they choose to tell other users about themselves. Users should be 18+ or over 13 years with parental permission. The main page of the site has a direct link to an adult site which streams adult sexual content. There are no parental controls or privacy tools available at all through Omegle other than the ability to stop a chat and move to another user.

There are both moderated and un-moderated video chat features. The un-moderated chat carrying an 18+ age requirement and a warning that there is a high likelihood of viewing sexual content and coming into contact with potentially predatory individuals.

You can restrict access to this site by using parental controls on devices or home broadband. Visit Internet Matters to learn more.



**PUPIL OF THE WEEK**



**EYFS** - Juliana for her wonderful creativity during our advent retreat, creating a beautiful angel in her own learning time, using ideas model during an adult led activity.

**Year 1** - Antonia for singing her heart out in all the Nativity rehearsals.

**Year 2** - Cera for composing and sharing her wintery sentences.

**Year 3** - Evie for overcoming her fear of the deep end of the swimming pool and swimming 25m.

**Year 4** - Hunor Vaskor for being 100% ready for learning.

**Year 5** - Oscar for his sharing his greater depth knowledge in History and our World War 2 topic!

**Year 6** -Anna for working independently on her targets in Maths this week.

**THE HEART THAT SEES AWARD**



Each week the staff and pupils can all nominate their peers for this award, for those acts of mercy and kindness.  
 Shazil in Year 1 for taking care of our communal areas and tidying up the coats.  
 Marcel as he saw how nervous Evie was swimming, so he let her go first so she did not have to wait .  
 (Nominated by Bhavya) is Paul (Y6) for supporting and helping her to finish her Christmas card design.  
 Mrs Wright our School Lay Chaplain for planning a wonderful whole school Advent retreat.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Well done Year for this week's highest scoring attendance!**

Remember our school target is 97% and anything below 90% is Persistent Absence and can result in a fixed penalty notice.. You must inform us when your child is not attending school if we are unable to make contact we will conduct a home visit. Pupils should be at school by 8:45 to avoid being marked as Late.

- EYFS - 92.83%
- Year 1 - 96.67%
- Year 2 - 100%
- Year 3 - 98.52%
- Year 4 - 98.14%
- Year 5 - 98.89%
- Year 6 - 95.79%

**WELLBEING**



**Wellbeing activities - Learn new skills**

Research shows that learning new skills can also improve your mental wellbeing by:

- boosting self-confidence and raising self-esteem
- helping you to build a sense of purpose
- helping you to connect with others

Even if you feel like you do not have enough time, or you may not need to learn new things, there are lots of different ways to bring learning into your life.

**Useful Websites**

[Young Minds](#)

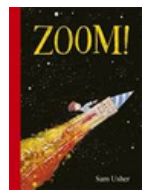
[Place 2 Be](#)

[Mentally Healthy Schools hub by Heads Together](#)

[Our Time](#)

**Zoom - Sam Usher**

A heart-warming adventure tale, this picture book sees a young boy and his Grandad take to the skies to rescue the stranded astronauts spotted through their telescope.



**Norah's Ark- Victoria Williamson**

Norah and Adam are from very different backgrounds but, united by their loneliness and love of animals, they form an unexpected friendship. This powerful, uplifting novel sensitively highlights some tough issues, including homelessness, addiction, illness and bullying.



**Scareground-Angela Kecojevic**

12 year old Nancy Crumpet loves nothing more than talking to the sky, going on adventures with her best friend Arthur, and eating the delicious cakes and pies that her adoptive parents make in their bakery. But despite her charmed life, Nancy's past is full of secrets she's desperate to unravel. Could the mysterious Scareground be hiding some answers?



**FRIENDS' FUNDRAISER**

Our XL Squishee, Norbert, could be yours for just £1! Pick a numbered square, pay your £1 and he could be yours in time for Christmas. Squares will be for sale at the end of school on different days in the run up to Christmas, or can be purchased at the school office.

These will also be sold at the Nativity and the Carol Concert



**DIARY DATES**

Swimming Advent 2 every **Tuesday Y3**  
Final week **12th Dec**

**Tuesday 5th Dec**

EYFS and KS1 Nativity Afternoon 2:15pm

**Wednesday 6th Dec**

EYFS KS1 Nativity Evening 5pm

**Thursday 7th Dec**

Christmas Jumper Day

Reconciliation Service in School 1:30pm

Movie Night (Whole School) 3:15pm – 5:30pm

NO CLUBS

**Monday 11th Dec**

Whole School Panto Visit Beauty and the Beast

**Thursday 14th Dec**

KS2 Carol Concert at church – 6pm

**Wednesday 20th Dec**

End of Term

**Tuesday 2nd January**

Start of Term 3

**CURRICULUM FACTS, ACTIVITIES AND CHALLENGES**

**Geography**

**Facts about capital cities**

A capital city (or capital town or just capital) is a city or town, specified by law or constitution, by the government of a country, or part of a country, such as a state, province or county. It usually serves as the location of the government's central meeting place and offices. Most of the country's leaders and officials work in the capital city. A capital city is not always the largest city in a country. Not all countries have a capital.

**Write a story with this as the title: It was the day the moon fell.**

**Think about:**

- Why did the moon fall?
- Who found out that the moon had fallen?
- Did they manage to get it back in the sky again?

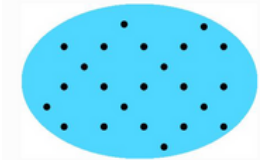


**Check:**

- Does every sentence make sense?
- Have you written it in the third or first person?
- Capital letters and full stops

**Maths Challenges**

How many dots?  
How would you count them?



**ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR**

This Advent, Caritas Westminster have created a 'reverse' Advent calendar which will give suggestions for items to collect each day to donate to a local foodbank or food poverty project in time for Christmas. Over the past four years many schools have got involved with the calendar, collecting hundreds of boxes of food for local foodbanks and helping to ensure families did not have to go hungry at Christmas. You can download your calendar [here](#). We are collecting here at school if you want to send something we will add to our collection box.





## ADVENT RETREAT

On Thursday, we all gathered at 9am –for an Opening Celebration of the Word in the Hall with our Chaplain Mrs Wright.

We then returned to the classroom for first activity of the day. The theme was 'Message' and we discussed how we can be messengers of God, how to celebrate and share God's message at school and in our community.

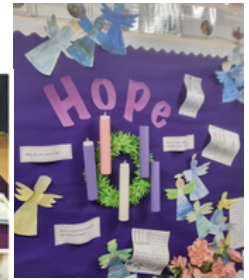
KS1 were tasked with colouring in their own hanging angel.

KS2 were challenged to create an angel display for a classroom window or to take home.

We gathered again to share our creations and the message of the day

Children had to design their own Christmas cards based on part of the Nativity story to be distributed to NHS/Nursing Homes, with KS2 adding beautiful scripture.

The day concluded with gathering together once more in the Hall for concluding with the Celebration of the Word.



## FOOTBALL NEWS

Yesterday evening the Year 5 and 6 boys wrapped up their sports football league campaign. On a freezing cold night the team worked incredibly hard to compete for the ball and to try and create chances. The hard work paid off with a goal and despite defeat the team should be incredibly proud of their efforts in this game and the season as a whole.

Mr Withers



### Year of Preparation & Prayer – Encounter – First Sunday of Advent (3rd December 2023) – Christmas Eve morning (24th December 2024)

Although the Jubilee is being celebrated in 2025, the Holy Father Pope Francis has asked for two years of preparation before the Jubilee Year itself. The first of these is coming to a close: 2023 has been a year dedicated to revisiting afresh the fruits of the Second Vatican Council, and the four great constitutions in particular. Alongside resources provided by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, Nottingham Deanery has taken a lead in organising speakers to present talks about Dei Verbum, Sacrosanctum Concilium, Gaudium et Spes, and Lumen Gentium. These are all available on the diocesan website. The coming three years will form a tripos of celebrations around the Jubilee, tying-in with the diocesan Spiritual Themes as well as the celebrations across the Universal Church. Bishop Patrick asked the entire Diocese of Nottingham to consider the three Themes back in November 2018, and since then they have been well established in a pattern of Encounter in the Advent Term; Discipleship in the Lent Term; and Missionary Discipleship in the Pentecost Term

From Advent 2023 the focus will be changed slightly to align with the Jubilee, so that there is a whole year of Encounter in 2024, to tie-in with the Year of Preparation focusing on Prayer in its many forms.

