



St. Norbert's

CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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.



Phone: 01775 722889 Website: www.st-norberts.lincs.sch.uk Address: Tollgate, Spalding, PE11 1NJ Twitter: https://twitter.com/St_Norberts

Friday 29th November 2024

VIRTUES AND VALUES

Virtue of the term
Compassion

Value of the Month
Diversity

LET US PRAY

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus.
Help us to get ready to greet you at Christmas and at the end of time.
Amen.

ARTICLES OF THE WEEK

Subsidiarity and Solidarity CST



A MESSAGE FROM MRS WITHERS

Foundation have enjoyed reading an interactive pizza recipe book and ordering instructions. The children loved making pizzas! They have enjoyed an Advent Retreat morning making star decorations and Christmas cards! The children are doing an amazing job learning songs and actions for the nativity.

Year 1 loved learning all about the Advent wreath. They enjoyed seeing it be put together and finding out what the different means of each element represented. They produced some beautiful writing to describe these while listening to calming choral music. So peaceful for such young children.

This week in Year 2 we have been discussing and organising our class worship. We looked at Christ The king and shared ideas and thoughts on how we could portray this key information that we need to listen to God's word and share his love through our actions. We have also been rehearsing our Nativity songs and lines to improve our stage presence in order to share this wondrous story and all its glory. We have also been enjoying an Advent retreat where we were able to reflect on Jesus being the light of the world. We were able to craft and create our very own cards and 3D stars!

The children in Year 3 had a great time at their Forest School Day on Wednesday, they were able to use cross curricular themes and because they were in the wood area, took the opportunity to re-enact the discovery of the tree man from our book in English "Our Tower". The children enjoyed telling me about his. The children also demonstrated how to create a triangular shape using the lever balance method and made pyramids using sticks. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their ICT lesson by creating stop motion animation stories.

Year 4 had a fabulous morning on Thursday as they enjoyed their Advent retreat with Mrs Wright. Children made stars to represent Jesus as the light of the world, Christmas cards to be donated to the local community and write Advent promises.

In Year 5 we have been learning about World War II. This week we explored rationing. We were amazed at how little people had to work with to create their weekly meals. We had a go at creating our own meal plan based on rations from the time. It wasn't as easy as we expected!

This week Year 6 have been planning and writing their own poem based on the classic poem Night Mail by W.H Auden. The theme for their poetry writing was a more modern form of mail- emails. They worked on developed rhyming pairs that they could use in their poetry as well as planning out ideas about emails including: how they are sent, technical equipment, who might receive emails, to name but a few ideas. They also worked on including figurative language in their writing, such as personification, metaphors and similes.

UNIFORM-Just a reminder we are now in our winter uniforms, which should include all children wearing a **shirt and tie**. You can now also order the new St. Norbert's hoodie from our uniform provider. The Hoodies are for PE Days and Outdoor learning days they are not a replacement for school jumpers or cardigans.

We have had another busy week and I have really enjoyed hearing and seeing the Nativity and Carol Concert preparations get underway. It is such a special time of the year at school and this Thursday we were able to prepare beautifully for the start of Advent with our Whole School Retreat Day, my thanks to the Chaplaincy Team and Mrs Wright our school chaplain for creating such a special experience.

Please remember to check our website Events Calendar and noticeboard over the coming weeks as we have quite a few events going on. If you have any queries regarding school events please make contact with the school office.

You still have plenty of opportunity to be in with a chance of winning the Advent Wreath it is £1 square just see me on the gate to take part and many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Withers x

Norbert Bear

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!

This Week Norbert will be going home with Joseph.



GOSPEL REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

No-one is sure what Jesus meant when he spoke of the strange signs in the sky, but we know that Jesus will come again and we know that God loves us dearly. Just as we spend a lot of time getting ready for Christmas, so too we must spend some time to be ready for the time when Jesus comes again. Advent is a special time the church sets aside for us to prepare.

The Advent wreath is a good way of seeing the weeks passing – a circle of evergreen branches, with three purple and one pink candle. One candle is lit each week of Advent, with the pink candle lit on the third Sunday. We know that Jesus came to share love, forgiveness and peace with the world. If we share these gifts of his love each day by small acts of kindness then we will be ready to enjoy the celebrations of Christmas.



Encounter - Hope

When you hope for something, it makes it even more special when it happens. Can you think of something which you have hoped for and then it has happened? How do you think Mary must have been feeling when she hoped for her baby? What do you hope for in your life? Let's take some time to think about that now and talk to God about it.

Hope

We believe that even in the darkest of times, God's love and light shine through. This hope isn't just wishful thinking, but a confident expectation of God's promises. Hope is a powerful virtue that can give us strength to persevere, even when things get tough, and to trust that God is always with us, guiding us towards a brighter future. In the season of Advent, we hope for the coming of Jesus and that he will bring peace, joy and love to the world.

Participation CST

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

Resource (9-13) - Group Chats

When I visit Primary/Prep schools, one of the biggest concerns I consistently hear is in relation to group chats, in particular group chats getting out of hand and causing disruption.

Childnet has a wonderful free resource which you can use which has some useful activities:

- Starting conversations, the positives and negatives.
- Digital wellbeing.
- Bullying and gossip.
- Inappropriate content.

This is a free PDF download with advice, screenshots which you can use etc. and you can find it [HERE](#).

Roblox Tightens Safety Measures

Roblox, one of the most popular games around the world, has been under a lot of fire lately for a whole host of reasons, such as highly inappropriate games accessible to young children, questionable moderation, significant grooming concerns and more.

At its most basic, Roblox is a platform where any user can create games and one of the biggest concerns is that none of these user-generated games have required an age rating system. That's about to change, from mid-December creators will have to content-rate their games. Whilst a positive step it still raises lots of questions, such as:

- Is anyone checking these ratings?
- What about games prior to mid-December?
- Will there be enhanced moderation?
- and more.

It's a positive step forward but much more needs to be done by Roblox and other platforms to help parents with keeping their children safe. You can read more about the concerns and the steps which Roblox are taking [HERE](#).

Information from: Alan McKenzie
<https://www.esafety-adviser.com/>



PUPIL OF THE WEEK



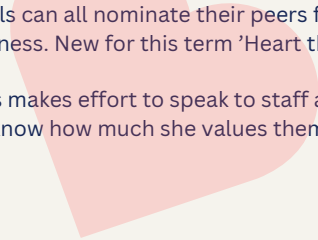
- Foundation:** Anveksha for following instructions beautifully to make a star decoration and Christmas card during our Advent Retreat!
- Year 1:** Melanie for always working hard and trying her absolute best.
- Year 2:** Ivania for her projection of her lines in our Nativity rehearsals.
- Year 3:** Nicholas who has settled in to our school so well and had applied himself and shown good effort in all his work.
- Year 4:** Zachary for his fabulous English learning.
- Year 5:** Sydney for super contributions to discussions in RE lessons this week.
- Year 6:** Isabella for excellent skills in Maths this week comparing, adding and subtracting fractions.

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. New for this term 'Heart that Sees' stickers!

Harmony-Rose who always makes effort to speak to staff around school and let them know how much she values them!



ATTENDANCE

Well done Year 3 for this week's highest scoring attendance! School Average this week 95.36%

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 - 90.95 %
- Year 1 - 92.57%
- Year 2 - 96.3%
- Year 3 - 97.78%
- Year 4 - 96.3%
- Year 5 - 98.47%
- Year 6 - 94.81%

Do Good December
 Human Dignity CST

WELLBEING

1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others	2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are	3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment	4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about
5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely	6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find	7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today	

Useful Websites

[Young Minds](#)

[Place 2 Be](#)

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

[Our Time](#)

Recommended Reads

READING CORNER



The Lights that Dance in the Night - Yuval Zommer

In this wonderfully festive picture book, Yuval Zommer imagines the Northern Lights' fleeting journey from space to Earth and how they weave a special magic for the animals and people living in the frozen lands below. From tiny specs of dust to gleaming rays in the dark, the Northern Lights travel across the Arctic, uniting every creature in a celebration that reverberates through land and sea.

The Snowman Code - Simon Stephenson

A beautifully hopeful, funny and heartwarming tale about the lasting power of love and friendship, from the critically-acclaimed and award-winning screenwriter behind Pixar's Luca and Paddington 2.

In London, in a winter which shows no sign of ending, a unique friendship begins.

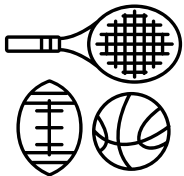
This is the story of Blessing, aged ten-and-a-half, and Albert Framlington, aged six hundred – an eccentric snowman who has seen many winters in many cities, and who is duty-bound by the Snowman Code to help any child in need. Together, Blessing and Albert must find a way to defeat Blessing's bullies, win back Albert's long-lost love Clementine, and even overcome the never-ending winter itself...

Race to the Frozen North: The Matthew Henson Story - Catherine Johnson

Matthew Henson was simply an ordinary man. That was, until Commander Robert E. Peary entered his life, and offered him a chance at true adventure. Henson would become navigator, craftsman, translator, and right-hand man on a treacherous journey to the North Pole. Defying the odds and the many prejudices that faced him to become a true pioneer. This is his incredible and often untold story.

SPORTS LEADERS

The Sports Leaders have continued to support and extend the provision of active minutes across the school through their daily break time clubs. We have also been tracking the children through a Skipping challenge and recording their daily scores to improve their engagement in physical activity. The Sports Leaders have been keen to encourage as many children across the school to take up more physical exercise and this might be something you can do together outside school? We look forward to hearing about your exercise activities over the coming weeks.



DIARY DATES

Monday 9th December

Foundation and KS1 Nativity 5pm

Wednesday 11th December

Foundation and KS1 Nativity 2pm

Thursday 12th December

Whole School Trip to the Panto

Friday 13th December

Christmas Movie Night 3:15-5pm

Tuesday 17th December

KS2 Carol Concert 6pm

Thursday 19th December

End of Term 2

Monday 6th January

Start of Term 3

FACTS AND CHALLENGES

Charge for bags a success for British beaches!

There is good news! Far fewer plastic bags are now littering our beaches according to the Marine Conservation Society. The charity has been monitoring beach rubbish for 30 years, their new survey has revealed that the number of plastic bags washing up on British beaches has dropped by 80% in the last decade.

The Marine Conservation Society think this is due to the UK government introduction of a charge for carrier bags. This charge gets shoppers to pay for single-use plastic bags and encourages the reuse of bags. The charity hopes future surveys will show a drop in pollution from other litter items, like plastic cutlery and polystyrene cups, which have been banned or restricted in the last two years. Let's keep our fingers crossed there is a positive impact to protect our wildlife both on shore and offshore.

Word of the week: pollution- means waste products or heat that damage the environment in some way.

Source: National Geographic Kids Magazine issue 234

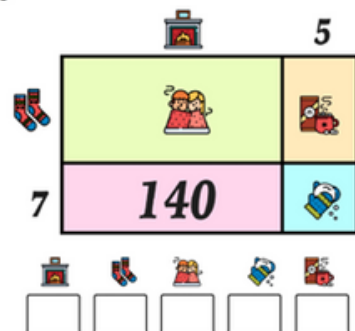
Writing Challenge



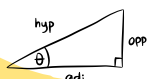
Maths Challenges

425

Directions: Find the value of each symbol in the area model below so that the entire box represents the value



Children can access maths activities at home that we use in school. Follow these links to find out more.



$$\sin(\theta) = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{hyp}}$$

[Mathematics Shed](#)
[Times Tables Rock Stars](#)
[Top Marks](#)



WHOLE SCHOOL ADVENT RETREAT



Let people see
THE LIGHT



On Friday 28th November, pupils and staff took part in a retreat day which helped us to get ready for the upcoming season of Advent. Our theme this year was light and one of our Year 5 pupils came up with the title 'Let People See the Light.' Our retreat was split into two sections. The first section explored Jesus, the light of the world. We prayed together, sang hymns and then created star themed art and crafts to remind us of the star of Bethlehem which marked the place where the light of the world was born. The second part of our day focused on our mission in life to share Jesus' light with others by letting our own light shine. We wrote our own Advent promises and made Christmas cards to give to people within our local community. Throughout the day, we also created a candle shape on the playground out of loose change that had been donated by our pupils. We will use the money to buy a CAFOD World Gift to help our global neighbours in need. The day was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a whole school community to begin to prepare for Advent and remind us of what we will be getting ready for over the coming weeks - the joyful coming of Jesus at Christmas.



FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL



Winter squares will be available to buy from Monday on the gate for £1, for the opportunity to win an Winter wreath.

