



# 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](http://www.st-norberts.lincs.sch.uk) Address: Tollgate, Spalding, PE11 1NJ Twitter: [https://twitter.com/St\\_Norberts](https://twitter.com/St_Norberts)

Thursday 19th December 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM MRS WITHERS

### VIRTUES AND VALUES

**Virtue of the term**  
Compassion

**Value of the Month**  
Honesty

### LET US PRAY

God, You have given us many gifts, and the greatest of these is your Son, Jesus. Help us to always remember your goodness. Amen.

### ARTICLES OF THE WEEK

#### Subsidiarity and Solidarity CST



Foundation have had a very busy week preparing for Christmas! They are really looking forward to Christmas and would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas!

In Maths, Year 1 have been enjoying learning about 3d and 2d shapes. They've been on shape hunts, made towers, sorted shapes and created shape pictures. What a lot of vocabulary and interest they've demonstrated. Well done!

Year 2 have been enjoying a week of addition in maths calculating larger numbers and crossing ten - we have been working on adding two -two digit numbers which cross the ten and using our strategy to calculate ones and tens (36 + 27). Maybe you'd like to practice at home over the Christmas holiday? We have also been learning about John McAdam in history and finding out how roads were made. In our Design Technology the children have been creating their Great Fire of London Structures to lift a bucket of water using flanges and bracing reinforcement. Finally, we have been singing Christmas carols and sharing the joy of Jesus birth as we crafted and created our very own cards.

The Year 3 children have really enjoyed making frosty the snowman this week and were delighted when they were able to take them home.

Year 4 have had a great time in PE this week learning how to dance in sequences to the beat of Daff Punk 'All Around the World'

In Year 5 this week we have been working hard to finish our DT projects. We have been making aprons for our topic of 'Make do and Mend' and have been cutting and sewing with some fab results.

This week Year 6 have been finishing their History topic exploring the legacy of the Ancient Greek era. They learnt about famous Greek philosophers and scholars and the beginnings of the Olympics Games. It has been surprising and interesting to discover that many features of society today are all down to the Ancient Greeks.

**Safeguarding:** Please remember as we approached a prolonged break that if you have Safeguarding Concerns, Worries or need to reach out for advice as Designated Safeguarding Lead you can email me outside of working hours and term time. I check my email correspondence daily you can reach me on [jenna.withers@st-norberts.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:jenna.withers@st-norberts.lincs.sch.uk). (See Safeguarding Section below for further details)

A huge thank you to all of our families for your support this term I hope you are able to enjoy some well earned family time together over the next few weeks and I look forward to welcoming you all back in 2025! Ready for new challenges and new learning.

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!

Norbert will be off to the North Pole for a well deserved Christmas holiday!



### GOSPEL REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that her cousin Elizabeth was expecting a baby, Mary would have been surprised because Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah had never been able to have children and were quite old. Mary set off to visit Elizabeth. Both of them were expecting their first child, and both knew that they had been chosen by God and that their children would be blessed by God in a very special way. What do you think they would have talked about together?

In this week's Gospel, Mary and Elizabeth are completely 'tuned in' to God's action in their lives. How tuned in are you? Do you have a sense of how 'blessed' you are, and can you recognise goodness in others? What do you believe God promises you? As Christmas fast approaches, we all become very busy. Try to find time this week to visit someone who would particularly appreciate it at this time.



Encounter - Love

Love

Love isn't just a feeling it's our actions. Let's hear a bit about that here.

In the season of Advent, we are reminded of the great love that God has for us and the love we should have for each other. We know that Jesus Christ is the true example of love, and we celebrate this gift of love at Christmas time.

How could you put love into action?  
Can you think of any examples of how you could show love?  
When have you been shown love by someone else?

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](mailto:jenna.withers@st-norberts.lincs.sch.uk)  
[sarah.hibbert@st-norberts.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:sarah.hibbert@st-norberts.lincs.sch.uk)

For Parents - The ABC Checklist

With Christmas just around the corner, the holiday period is a great time to take stock of the devices they have (plus any new Xmas devices) and ensure they are set up correctly with any parental features you feel are appropriate for your child. One frustrating issue is that the available features and how you set devices up differ, so to help parents Internet Matters have really good, non-techie guides which you can follow as part of their

ABC Checklist. ABC stands for:  
A - Activate parental controls.  
B - Balance screen time.  
C - Check and chat. You can find a full explanation, set up guides and advice [HERE](#).

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



PUPIL OF THE WEEK



**Foundation:** Aleksander for really working hard at forming the letters in his name and being a superstar at writing his name on all of his own learning!  
**Year 1:** Reggie for incredible programming skills in Computing.  
**Year 2:** Emina for her amazing DT Structure.  
**Year 3:** Sinead for her effort and commitment to all that she does, and lways helps around the classroom  
**Year 4:** Zachary for continued hard work and effort.  
**Year 5 :** Levon for working really hard on sewing his DT project.  
**Year 6:** Julia for a continued positive and hardworking attitude to learning across the curriculum.



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!

Our hard working PTA Friends of St. Norbert's who may be low in number but have worked tirelessly to put on so many wonderful events this term. All this hard work and effort provides great enrichment for our children but also much needed finances to support the purchase of amazing resources to support the school. We are so incredibly grateful for all that you do.

New Year New You? Why not join our PTA come and speak to me on the gate to find out more...

ATTENDANCE

Well done Year 6 for this week's highest scoring attendance! School Average this week 84.33%

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 - 88.84%  
Year 1 - 81.25%  
Year 2 - 82.5%  
Year 3 - 75%  
Year 4 - 91.38%  
Year 5 - 79.13%  
Year 6 - 92.5%

Do Good December  
Human Dignity CST

WELLBEING

|   |  |   |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| 22<br>Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed | 23<br>Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness        | 24<br>Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh | 25<br>Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself! | 26<br>Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature |
| 27<br>Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat  | 28<br>Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy | 29<br>Turn off digital devices and really listen to people      | 30<br>Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why   | 31<br>Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2025                |

Useful Websites

[Young Minds](#)

[Place 2 Be](#)

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

[Our Time](#)

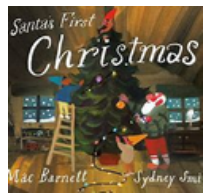


## Recommended Reads

## READING CORNER

### Santa's First Christmas - Mac Barnett

We all know that Santa makes everyone's dreams come true every Christmas, but it turns out that he needs a little help getting into the holiday spirit himself. Instead of letting Santa get right back to work after he returns home to the North Pole on Christmas morning, his loyal elves want to make sure he experiences the same Christmas cheer he provides for others. With the perfect tree, lots of delicious treats, and, of course, presents, Santa experiences the magic of Christmas for the very first time.



### Captain Christmas - Karl Newson

Did you know that Santa's elves once used to be fearsome PIRATES? But everything changes when they meet Captain Christmas, a jolly pirate who shows them that giving is better than taking, and soon has them sailing the world on Christmas Eve on a ship packed with presents for every child, no matter how big or small.



### Biggest Christmas Secret Ever - L.D Lapinski

Harper and Will's lives are already full of festive wonder, but baby sister Yula is about to bring a whole new meaning to the magic of Christmas. Indoor snowflakes, naughty gingerbread biscuits and reindeer running wild spell Christmas chaos! And with the Elf and Safety Department on the lookout for any unexplained festive magic, it's up to their family keep the biggest Christmas secret ever...



## MATHS STAR BADGES

We have had some more children in KS2 receive their Gold and Platinum Maths Star Badge Award this week and some of our SEND pupils achieve their white star badges.

We have also this week seen a number of Year 6 children receive their Platinum +1 badges.

It's fantastic to see the dedication and hard work the children have shown to achieving their badges.

Well done!!



## DIARY DATES

Monday 6th January  
Start of Term 3

## FACTS AND CHALLENGES




### Geography

#### Winter Solstice

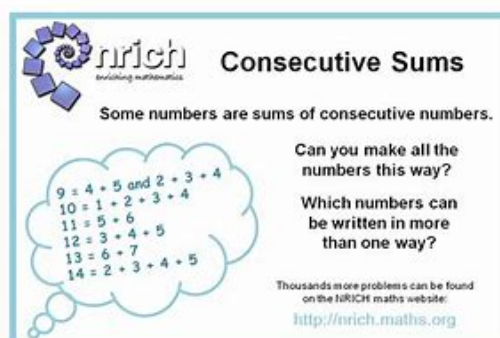
The winter solstice is the shortest day of the year, but also brings the promise of more daylight ahead. For people in the Northern Hemisphere (above the Equator, like the [United States](#)), winter is a season of cold, dark days—and if you're lucky, lots of snow to sled on! The winter solstice marks the exact moment when half of [Earth](#) is tilted the farthest away from the sun. It usually happens on December 21 or 22, at the exact same second around the world.

Because less sunlight reaches Earth, the winter solstice is also the day of the year with the least amount of daytime, known as the shortest day of the year. But the good news is that every day after the winter solstice will be a little longer, until we reach the day with the most hours of daylight. Called the summer solstice, it usually occurs between June 20 and June 22. For people who live in the Southern Hemisphere, though, the winter solstice takes place in June. That's because the seasons are reversed below the Equator. For instance, in [New Zealand](#), it can actually snow in July!

### Writing Challenge

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Write a recipe for your favourite Christmas meal.<br><b>Day 22:</b>  | Write about a favourite character you read in a book.<br><b>Day 23:</b>  | Write a hilarious story about a grumpy elf.<br><b>Day 24:</b>  |
|---|---|---|

### Maths Challenges



**Consecutive Sums**

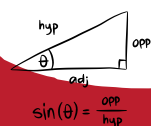
Some numbers are sums of consecutive numbers.

Can you make all the numbers this way?

Which numbers can be written in more than one way?

Thousands more problems can be found on the NRich maths website: <http://nrich.maths.org>

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



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





# ONLINE SAFETY - LIKE RIDING A BIKE

Are you considering getting your child a mobile phone?

There are benefits to being online but equally there are risks that children may experience.

Just like preparing your child to ride a bike for the first time, there are things we can do as parents to make our children's online experience as safe as possible.



## Pick the device

- 1 Basic phones can message and make calls but children will not be able to access apps

## Helmet - Parental Controls

- 2 Before giving your child any device make sure you access parental controls and discuss apps you are happy for them to access

## Brakes - Stop and Think

- 3 Teach children to stop and think before they reshare information or reply to comments.

## Protection - Block and report

- 4 Teach your children how to block and report on the games and apps they are using.

## Stabilizers - Tech free areas

- 5 Keep technology out of bedrooms and charge devices downstairs

Talk to your children about the risks they may face online and where they can go for help. Explore games and apps together. Talk often and openly. For more information on parental controls and online risks visit [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

Social  
Media



Safer  
Lincolnshire



Stay Safe  
Partnership



@StaySafe  
Partner

Contact for info: [SSP@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:SSP@lincolnshire.gov.uk) <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/staysafepartnership>

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wishing you all a restful and blessed Christmas. We look forward to seeing you in the new year.