



# 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.*



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Friday 12th December 2025

### VIRTUES AND VALUES

#### Virtue of the term

Hope

#### Value of the Month

Honesty

### LET US PRAY

Lord, we look forward to  
Christmas with  
excitement and hope and  
joy. Help us to share the  
good news with others.  
Amen.

### ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

#### Subsidiarity and Solidarity CST



## A MESSAGE FROM MRS WITHERS

Our EYFS children have enjoyed a magical week. Their trip to the Rapunzel pantomime was full of laughter, singing, and wide-eyed excitement as they experienced live theatre. Back at school, they shone brightly in our Hey Ewe! nativity, sharing the Christmas story with confidence and joy. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and enthusiasm.

This week, Year 1 have exploring the importance of angels in the Nativity story. They learned the word messengers and started to make links between the Gloria and the words spoken to the shepherds on the hillside. The children became messengers themselves, sharing the wonderful news of Jesus' birth. The children have made amazing progress in their writing, thinking processes and independence this term and Miss Whyles is very proud.

Year 2 have shone brightly this week as they took to the stage to share the much-loved Nativity story with parents, families and the whole school. Their ability to learn and memorise lines so confidently has been exceptional, and they performed with real clarity, expression and pride. Alongside their spoken parts, the children impressed us with their actions and dance routines, all carefully rehearsed and delivered with enthusiasm. Their beautiful singing helped to bring the most precious story of all time—the birth of Jesus—warmly to life. We were especially proud of their outstanding behaviour and the joy they showed in developing their roles even further, adding small ad-libs and moments of improvisation that made each performance uniquely special. Their commitment was unwavering: they performed in both afternoon shows and then returned again in the evening to give yet another wonderful performance.

Year 3 have had a fantastic week. In math's, the children have been strengthening their multiplication and division skills, focusing on multiplying and dividing by 4. In English, we continued exploring our class book The Pebble in My Pocket and the children impressed us with the excellent factual questions they created in preparation for their letter writing.

I was especially proud of them at swimming this week. Having supported them since their Year 2 sessions, it's wonderful to see just how much progress they've made through their hard work and determination. To end the week, the children had a brilliant time at the pantomime. Well done, Year 3 another superb week!

This week, Year 4 have been enjoying their learning in all sorts of creative ways! They've been exploring how to draw cartoons with Jim Smith, discovering new techniques and adding plenty of personality to their characters. The class have also been busy practicing for the upcoming carol concert, filling the hall with festive energy. In English, the children let their imaginations run wild as they invented wonderfully nonsensical words for their Jabberwocky-inspired poems. A fun and expressive week all round!

In Year 5 this week we have been learning about William the Conqueror in our History lessons. Last week we explored what happened at the Battle of Hastings and this week we have learned about the Domesday book and why William chose to create it. We found it very interesting to see how similar it was in many ways to the census of today.

This week Year 6 have been working on letter writing in English. They have planned a letter that they are writing to their future self in 15 years' time. They have been thinking about what they hope to have achieved in the future and the type of person that they will have become.

As we move into Week 3 of Advent we think about family and community. As the third week of Advent begins, our homes and hearts glow with the promise of peace and joy. Take a moment with your family to light the pink candle on your Advent wreath, share stories of gratitude, and let the anticipation of Christmas bring warmth and laughter to your everyday life. Joy is the theme of Week 3 in Advent! This week, challenge yourself to spread kindness and cheer in your community. Whether it's a simple message of encouragement, a small act of generosity, or a smile to a friend, let the spirit of Advent inspire you to create joy around you.

We have enjoyed pantomimes, nativity rehearsals and carol concert preparation and we still have so much more to squeeze in, may you all find joy this weekend and moments of peace amongst the hustle and bustle.

Mrs Withers x

### GOSPEL REFLECTION OF THE WEEK



This is the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, or Joy Sunday. For this reason we light the pink candle on our Advent wreath, which symbolises joy.

Now that Christmas is getting closer the light is getting brighter with three candles lit. John the Baptist was getting excited to hear of the marvellous things that Jesus was doing. Why did he send his followers to Jesus? What did his followers see and hear? How would they have felt as they witnessed all these miracles happening?

**Discipleship - Joy**

Think of something you can do for someone else to bring them joy and find time to make it happen this week.

**Joy**

This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday and it means 'Rejoice'. Joy is more than just happiness; it's a deep and lasting feeling that comes from knowing God and living in His love. It helps us to see the good in everything, even when things are tough. Joy is found in prayer, in serving others, and in our journey through Advent. It's a choice to trust in God's plan for our lives and to find hope in his promises.

Participation CST

**ATTENDANCE**

**Well done Year 2 for this week's highest scoring attendance! School Average this week 96.6%**

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 - 93.8%  
Year 1 - 98.5%  
Year 2 - 95.6%  
Year 3 - 98.4%  
Year 4 - 99.3%  
Year 5 - 97.8%  
Year 6 - 92.6%

**PUPIL OF THE WEEK**

Below are pupils that have lived out the St. Norbert's Learners Code. Look Closely at the certificate to see what your child has excelled in being a model of this week!

**Foundation: Aurora**

**Year 1: Neila**

**Year 2: All of Year 2**

**Year 3: George**

**Year 4: Blanka**

**Year 5: Zachary**

**Year 6: Konstantin**

**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.

A huge thank you to Butkus family for their extremely kind donation of handmade woollen hats for families who may need them.

**SAFEGUARDING****Dealing with Hoarding - Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board**

Hoarding is far more common than many people realise, and it can have a significant impact not only on the individual but also on the people around them. For professionals working in education, health, housing or safeguarding, understanding hoarding is an essential part of recognising self-neglect and supporting those who may be struggling behind closed doors.

**Five Key Points at a Glance**

- Hoarding is a form of self-neglect, often linked to emotional, cognitive or health-related factors rather than simply untidiness or choice.
- There is no single cause of hoarding, and each person's situation requires patience, empathy and an understanding of their individual history and triggers.
- A hoard is disorganised and inaccessible, unlike a structured and purposeful collection. This distinction is important when assessing risk.
- Clearing a hoard without engagement can be harmful, increasing mistrust and rarely leading to long-term change.
- A person-centred, multi-agency approach is essential, ensuring safety while respecting autonomy and supporting meaningful, sustainable progress.

You can learn more by following the link below:

<https://www.osab.org.uk/post/?permalink=hoarding--self-neglect--day-4-of-safeguarding-adults-week>

Andrew Hall Article

**Useful Websites**

[Young Minds](#)

[Place 2 Be](#)

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

[Our Time](#)

## READING CORNER

### Every Child a song

When you were born, a song began... So begins this lyrical and unique non-fiction picture book by award-winning children's author Nicola Davies. With tenderness and a good deal of heart, Nicola introduces young readers to the universal rights that every child is entitled to under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Using the metaphor of song, the book opens with the arrival of a newborn and its unique 'song', then pans out to explore all the essential things that every song needs to thrive - love, protection, a home, a name, the chance to explore and learn. In the latter half of the book, the issues of child labour, exploitation and war are sensitively introduced to emphasise that we all must play our part in championing children's rights and offering support to those who need it most.

With beautiful and deeply moving watercolour illustrations by award-winning artist Marc Martin, this is a book that encourages children, and the adults in their lives, to speak up for young people all around the world, and to treat one another with compassion and kindness.



### My name is a gift

When Sitara is born, she fits in Daddy's hands. And, when she is still so tiny, Daddy and Mummy give her her first ever gift: her name, which means 'shine like a star'. Daddy and Mummy also have pet names for Sitara: Daddy calls her Bheeti when she's tired and needs a cuddle; Mummy calls her Bahadir when they go out adventuring together. However, when she gets older, Sitara realises that not everyone can say her name right, and when they get it muddled, it makes her sad. Names are such an important thing, and hers has been given to her with so much love and thought. Luckily, Sitara finds that when she takes the time to explain how to say her name properly, all her friends are happy to learn it. And, in return, Sitara knows to ask to make sure she is saying everyone else's name right, too. This touching and warm picture book is a lovely celebration of family as well as Muslim family traditions of fathers gifting their children a name. It also makes a gentle point of the importance of - and politeness attached to - getting someone's name right, with a sweet little activity page at the end where the owner of the book can record their own name, what it means, and who gave it to them.

## STAR BADGE AWARDS

### Year 4

Silver: Oscar

Gold: Luca, Vlad

Platinum: Caroline

Platinum+1: Leo, Blanka

Platinum+3: Erin

### Year 5

Platinum +1: David

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

As we approach the end of term, we have already been able to celebrate the joys of the season with the EYFS/KS1 nativity this week 'Hey Ewe'. It was wonderful to welcome our families to celebrate the children, who put on a fantastic performance of singing, dancing and acting. We are all incredibly proud and thank the staff for their hard work and dedication to ensure it was such a success.

## DIARY DATES

Remember to check the school website Events Calendar

### Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Carol Concert KS2

5pm start - St Norbert's Church

### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Santa Fun run 2.15pm

(Families welcome)

Last day of Term

### Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January

Inset Day - No children in school

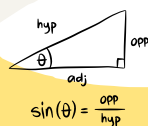
### Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

Children back to school

On Thursday, the whole school enjoyed our annual trip out to the Panto to see this year's performance of Rapunzel. As ever the children were a credit to the school and thoroughly enjoyed the humour and fun. Thank you to all the adults who were able to volunteer and join us for this event.

Next week, we have the Carol Concert at 5pm at church. We do hope you will be able to join us and support KS2.

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](#)

