



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 19th December 2025

VIRTUES AND VALUES

Virtue of the term

Hope

Value of the Month

Honesty

LET US PRAY

Lord, you sent an angel to
reveal the coming of your
son. Give us hope and
help us to be ready to
hear when he will come
again.
Amen.

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

Subsidiarity and Solidarity CST



A MESSAGE FROM MRS WITHERS

Our EYFS children have been busy showcasing their musical talents, performing their end-of-topic songs to the whole school. They also received a special virtual message from Santa and even had a surprise visit from him! The highlight was singing "Santa Got Stuck Up the Chimney"—a festive treat for all!

This week Year 1 embarked upon their bridge making project in DT. They were highly engaged and resilient throughout the whole process, referring to their designs, recalling learning in previous lessons and helping each other out with tricky bits. All the bridges successfully fulfilled the brief by Miss Whyles and managed to be free standing and able to take the weight of the king and his horse. Well done Year 1.

Year 2 this week we have been developing and improving our Design Technology water devices and structures using cylinders and triangular prisms. We have strengthened our structures and discussed how we can improve them. In our RE we have been reflecting on the Advent Nativity story and how we can be prepared and more loving towards each other.

Wow, Year 3 – what a fantastic term you've had! Well done for all your hard work across your learning. Your letters inspired by 'The Pebble in My Pocket' were superb, and you made amazing progress in swimming this term too. The music showcase and carol concert were truly wonderful a huge thank you to everyone who came along to support and enjoy the music and singing.

Year 4 have had a wonderful week full of festive learning and reflection. We thoroughly enjoyed taking part in our whole-school Advent retreat, giving us time to pause and think as we prepare for Christmas. We also loved performing and celebrating together at the Key Stage 2 Carol Concert – the children sang beautifully and made us very proud. In class, we have been busy getting creative by writing our own imaginative versions of Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll, using playful language and made-up words to bring our poems to life. What a joyful and inspiring week!

This week in Year 5 we have been working hard to finish our DT project, making aprons. We have finished hemming our pieces using running stitches or back stitches and have attached the pieces together to complete our final product. We then spent time evaluating our work, taking into account what went well and how we would change the product if we were to do it again. We have worked really well on this project, built some great skills and have been pleased with our final product.

This week Year 6 have been busy with many Christmas related activities! From the KS2 Carol Concert to the Advent Reconciliation Service. However their favourite event by far was the Advent Retreat Day where they had time to be still and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas- everyone loved the time to meditate on the crib scene and pray together. It was a very spiritual and magical moment.

Staffing Update: After we return in January Miss Bools will be working four days a week teaching Year 6 Tuesday-Friday, Mrs Hibbert will be teaching the Year 6 class each and every Monday.

As we enter this final week of Advent, our focus shifts to Love, the culminating theme of the season. The four candles of our Advent wreath are now all lit, a full circle of light reminding us of the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ brings into a dark world.

This week, the Nativity story draws our attention to Mary and Joseph. Mary's willing "fiat" or "let it be" to God's plan, and Joseph's obedient "yes" in the face of fear and anxiety, serve as powerful examples for us. They remind us that responding to God's call often means stepping outside our comfort zones and trusting in a destiny we can't fully control. The central message is God's profound, selfless love in sending His only Son to Earth for our salvation (John 3:16). This is not an abstract concept but a transformative force that brings peace and hope amidst the chaos of our world.

May you all enjoy Hope, Peace, Joy and Love this Christmas and we will see you all next year in 2026!

Mrs Withers x

GOSPEL REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

God sends a special messenger to Joseph in his dream, just as when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her she would have a child. What did Joseph need to be told by this messenger? What was his response? We, too, are called to trust God and to do what is asked of us, just as Mary and Joseph did. This week is the last Sunday in Advent and so we light the last violet candle on our Advent wreath.



Discipleship - Love

Think of someone who you love this week and make an effort to show and tell them that you love them.

Love

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.

Participation CST

ATTENDANCE

Well done Year 5 for this week's highest scoring attendance! School Average this week 96.7%

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 - 92.6%
Year 1 - 94.6%
Year 2 - 95.2%
Year 3 - 93.8%
Year 4 - 95.2%
Year 5 - 96.7%
Year 6 - 91.9%

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: Laurynas

Year 1: Violet

Year 2: Greta

Year 3: Eubrey

Year 4: Hazel

Year 5: Evie

Year 6: Levon

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.

Thank you to Mrs Gedney and Mrs Dalton for donating their time to wrap Christmas presents for some of our children.

Also a big thank you to all of our Volunteers who help and support the school all year round. We are so very grateful.

**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:

[Andrew Hall Article](#)

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

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

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

**Useful Websites**

[Young Minds](#)

[Place 2 Be](#)

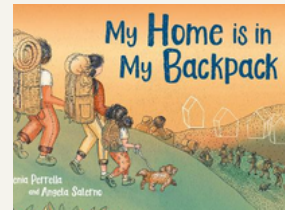
[Mentally Healthy Schools hub by Heads Together](#)

[Our Time](#)

Noah's New Home

A tale of home and healing, Noah's family have taken a journey no one should have to make. They arrive in a different country as refugees. While settling into their new house, Noah misses his Baba, Jida and their old home. When a fireworks display brings back both happy memories and difficult moments of their journey and arrival, his family and their new community support him in facing his fears and feeling hopeful for the future.

This timely and heartfelt story is a deeply emotional exploration of the lasting impact of the refugee experience and the tragedy of war.



My Home is my backpack

Clara and her family are forced to leave everything behind in this poignant but hopeful story of forced migration, told through the eyes of a young refugee.

"We all carry our special homes with us – in our backpacks and pockets, and in our hearts."

Every day Clara and her family walk a long way. Sometimes they talk and joke, sometimes they must hide and keep silent. At night, in their village of tents, Clara visits her new friends to hear about their special homes: the things that light up the darkness for them. But Clara hopes someday soon their journey will end, and she can put down her backpack and find a safe place for her special home to stay.

STAR BADGE AWARDS

Year 4

Bronze: Eliza F

Silver: Nico, Oliver

Gold: Layla

Platinum+1: Natalie, Cera, Tiago

Platinum+2: Alexander

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Thank you to all those who were able to celebrate the Carol Concert with us at church on Tuesday evening. The ambience and Christmas spirit within church was beautiful and the children performed wonderfully.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas, hope you have time to rest and spend valuable time together as a family. We look forward to welcoming you back in the new year on Tuesday 6th January.

DIARY DATES

Remember to check the school website Events Calendar

Monday 5th January

Inset Day - No children in school

Tuesday 6th January

Children back to school

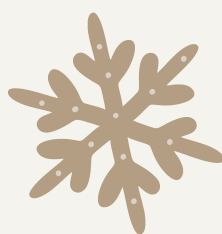
Epiphany Mass at church 9:30am

Wednesday 7th January

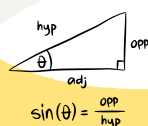
Weights and Measures Foundation and Year 6 classes

Wednesday 21st January

Year 5 Class Celebration of the Word - Parents Welcome 2:50pm



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](#)



Advent Retreat

On Thursday 18th December, the whole school gathered together for an Advent retreat led by our Lay Chaplain, Mrs Wright. Together, we began our day with a Celebration of the word based on the liturgical distinction between Advent and Christmas. We considered how we can prepare our hearts and minds throughout the season of Advent for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Throughout the morning, each class had a turn taking part in a meditation about the Christmas story which reminded us all that Jesus is the true reason for the season. These meditations were led beautifully by our Chaplaincy Team members. Our main mission activity throughout the morning was to complete heart themed artwork which helped us reflect on two important things; the first was how we can prepare our own hearts for the coming of Jesus and the second was how we can look ahead to 2026 and our Bishop's next priority which will be Missionary Discipleship. The Word of the Week this week is joy, and this retreat day truly was a perfect way to share joy at the end of what has been a busy term.

