



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 9th October 2026

VIRTUES AND VALUES

Virtue of the term
Friendship

Value of the Month
Friendliness

LET US PRAY

Dear Lord,
you offer your kingdom of heaven to
each of us. Help us to do things your way
so that we can share eternity with you.
Amen.

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

Subsidiarity and Solidarity CST



A MESSAGE FROM MRS WITHERS

Our EYFS children have had a wonderful week of learning and exploration. They discovered patterns through music and maths, enjoyed an exciting space-themed session with Jo Jingle, and learned about different stages of life. To finish, they used leaves creatively to design and make their very own animals.

We have had another busy and exciting week in Year 1! In English, we have been fine-tuning our instruction writing, and we have been so impressed with the progress the children are making in their writing skills. In phonics, we have started learning new graphemes, so please look out for flashcards coming home to help practise these. In maths, we have been using practical equipment and part-whole models to explore how numbers are made up of smaller parts, building important foundations for addition. In art, we have enjoyed creating our own Picasso-inspired Cubist portraits, experimenting with shapes, colours and facial features. We also had great fun in PE, combining running and dancing in the sunshine while developing our awareness of space and learning to look carefully to avoid bumping into others!

Year 2 have had another fantastic week of learning! In Maths, we have been developing our addition and subtraction skills, using different strategies to solve calculations and build our confidence with numbers. In English, we have been exploring the magical story *The Tear Thief* and using it as inspiration for our own writing. We have also become English Detectives, hunting for statements, questions and exclamations in different texts and learning to identify the correct punctuation. Why not challenge your child to spot these sentence types when reading at home? We were also delighted to share our class worship with parents and carers this week, where we explored the story of John the Baptist and reflected on the importance of water in our everyday lives and in Christian beliefs, including baptism. The children did a wonderful job sharing their learning, and we are very proud of their confidence and enthusiasm. Thank you to everyone who came along to support us! Please continue to support your child at home by reading daily, practising spellings and Common Exception Words, and working on addition and subtraction. Your continued support makes such a positive difference to your child's learning!

Year 3 have had a great couple of weeks in English, we have been finishing our narrative writing based on the book 'The First Drawing' and have started our new book 'The Street beneath my Feet' which the children have found fascinating. We have been practicing column addition method in maths and learning how to apply this to problem solving questions. In RE, we have been continuing to look at creation the children listened to the *Laudato Si* and thought about how they could be Good Stewards of creation, they had some lovely ideas. Finally in geography the children have been learning about topographical features and comparing land use in Spalding now and in the past. Well done Year 3 for a super two weeks! Remember it is our class worship this Wednesday 14th October.

It has been a busy and exciting time in Year 4! We have been enjoying *Farther* by Graham Baker-Smith. We have been developing our inference skills by looking carefully at clues in the words and illustrations to understand characters' thoughts, feelings and motivations. In maths, we have been building our confidence with adding and subtracting two 4-digit numbers. We have been using different strategies, including exchanging, and checking our answers carefully. The children have been learning about rainforests and why it is so important to protect them. We have explored how rainforests provide habitats for incredible wildlife, help regulate our climate and are important resources for people around the world. We have also been thinking about the impact of deforestation and what we can do to help protect these precious environments in science we have been investigating conductors and insulators. We discovered that some materials allow electricity or heat to pass through them easily, while others help to prevent it from passing through. We have enjoyed making predictions, carrying out investigations and explaining our results. Well done, Year 4, for your enthusiasm, curiosity and hard work!

This week in RE, Year 5 have been learning about Virtues and how they help us to live good and happy lives. They have been able to describe ways that they live out the Cardinal Virtues of Temperance, Fortitude, Justice and Prudence and the Theological Virtues of Faith, Love and Hope. They have also explored how these virtues link to the Ten Commandments and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

In year six we have been exploring the art work of collage artist, Robin Brookes. We have explored a range of her landscape art and have enjoyed learning about how she creates depth with different shades. We have planned our piece of artwork and art looking forward to creating our final piece next week.

On **Saturday 10th October**, we join communities worldwide in observing **World Mental Health Day 2026**. This year's theme emphasises the value of listening to shared experiences and lifting up real voices. In our Catholic school community, this connects deeply with our commitment to **Catholic Social Teaching (CST)**, particularly the principle of **Human Dignity**. We believe that every individual is made in the image and likeness of God, and caring for our mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being is a vital part of honoring that divine dignity.

By taking care of our minds and supporting one another, we live out the principle of **Solidarity**, recognising that we are all interconnected and responsible for the care of our neighbours.

Dear Lord,

Thank You for the gift of life and the unique dignity You have given to each of us.

When our minds feel crowded or anxious, grant us Your peace.

Help us to listen gently to one another, to speak with kindness, and to build a community where everyone feels valued and safe.

Bless our families with rest, comfort, and joy this weekend.

Amen.

Family Well-being Ideas for the Weekend

To help your family rest and recharge, here are a few simple, practical ideas to try at home together:

- **Creation Walk:** Spend time outdoors appreciating nature. Use this time to step away from screens, talk about your week, and enjoy God's creation together.
- **The "Gratitude Jar":** Find a jar or box and have everyone write down three things they are grateful for. Sharing things that bring us joy is a wonderful way to boost emotional well-being.
- **Mindful Listening:** Set aside 10 minutes for quiet reflection, reading, or listening to calming music. It provides a peaceful "brain break" for both adults and children.
- **Acts of Kindness:** Encourage children to do a small, hidden act of kindness for a family member, exploring how making others feel loved boosts our own happiness.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Withers x

GOSPEL REFLECTION OF THE WEEK



God gives each one of us an invitation to join him in his heavenly kingdom and the celebration of everlasting life. We must choose whether to accept the invitation or turn away from his loving offer.

The meal of bread and wine that Jesus shared with his disciples, and which we share in the Eucharist, is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet where there will be an abundance for all who accept the invitation. Recall instances when you have refused invitations and the excuses you have used to avoid going somewhere you didn't want to. What excuses do you make today for not doing things that you ought to do? Can you identify what invitation God extends to you today?

Respect

Make an effort to be respectful of the people and places that you encounter this week.

Respect

Respect is essential for all people. When we respect others, we are acknowledging their worth and dignity. We are also showing them that we value their opinions and feelings. Respect is a key ingredient in building strong relationships, and it is essential for creating a just and peaceful world.

Participation CST

ATTENDANCE

Best Class Attendance Last Week:
Y3 - 99.33%

Best Class Attendance This Week:
Y4 - 98.77%

Remember our school target is 96% 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.

THE HEART THAT SEES AWARD

A huge thank you to the Bates family who entered a competition to win the school a whole team football kit and won!!

These have now been ordered and we can't wait to show them off once they arrive.

**SAFEGUARDING****Safeguarding Spotlight – Understanding and Preventing Neglect**

At St. Norbert's keeping our children safe, happy, and thriving is at the heart of everything we do. This month, we're focusing on neglect – what it means, how to spot it, and how we can work together to prevent it.

Neglect happens when a child's basic needs for food, warmth, clothing, safety, education, and emotional care aren't met. It can be unintentional, but it can still have a lasting impact on a child's wellbeing and development.

We encourage all families to:

- Stay connected – Regularly check in with your child about how they're feeling. ★
- Meet basic needs – Ensure they have nutritious meals, weather-appropriate clothing, and a safe place to rest.
- Seek support early – If you're struggling, please reach out. Our staff can connect you with local services in Lincolnshire that offer practical help and advice.

If you ever have concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing, you can speak confidentially to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, or contact Lincolnshire Children's Services on 01522 782111.

Together, we can make sure every child feels cared for, valued, and safe.

Useful Websites

[Young Minds](#)

[Place 2 Be](#)

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

[Our Time](#)

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

As we embark on a new week, our school community is reflecting on two significant global events that invite us to look both upward at the wonders of creation and outward at the needs of our global family: World Space Week and the upcoming International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. While these two observances may seem worlds apart, they are deeply connected through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching, guiding us in how we care for our common home and one another.

During World Space Week, we marvel at the vastness of the universe and the incredible gifts of science and discovery. In the words of Genesis, we are reminded that God saw everything He had made, and indeed, it was very good. This links beautifully with the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Stewardship and Care for Creation. Looking out into the cosmos humbles us and deepens our responsibility to protect our own planet, ensuring its beauty and resources are preserved for future generations.

At the same time, as we approach the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, our gaze is brought firmly back to the immediate needs of our brothers and sisters. This aligns directly with the core CST principle of the Option for the Poor and Vulnerable. Our faith compels us not just to feel compassion, but to take action against injustice and inequality. True stewardship of God's creation means ensuring that the fruits of the earth, and human progress, are shared fairly so that every single person can live with the dignity they deserve.

By teaching our children to wonder at the stars while keeping their hearts grounded in charity and justice, we help them grow as compassionate global citizens. Thank you for your continued partnership in nurturing both their academic minds and their faithful hearts.

A Prayer for Our World

Heavenly Father,

We look up at the stars and marvel at the wonder of your creation.

Fill our hearts with awe for the universe you have made, and deepen our desire to be faithful stewards of the earth.

We pray for our global family, especially those facing the hardships of poverty and injustice.

Open our eyes to the needs of the vulnerable, and give us the courage to act with justice and love.

May our lives reflect your care for all creation and your deep love for every human person.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Family Weekend Activities

To help bring these themes alive at home, here are a few simple activities you can enjoy together as a family this weekend:

Stargazing and Stewardship Reflection: Take a few minutes on a clear evening to look up at the stars together. Discuss how tiny our planet is in the vast universe, and talk about one practical change your family can make this week to better care for the environment, such as reducing food waste or conserving energy.

The Basket of Abundance: Go through your kitchen cupboards or wardrobe together as a family. Choose a few non-perishable food items or high-quality warm clothes to donate to our harvest collection running until the 16th October, local food banks or charity shops. Use this as an opportunity to talk to your children about sharing our blessings and supporting those in our community who have less.

Create a Prayer Space: Set up a small prayer space or focus area in your home this weekend. You could include drawing pictures of the night sky, a globe or map of the world, and a candle. Gather around it to say a family prayer for scientists exploring space and for charities working to end poverty worldwide.

DIARY DATES

'NUN THE WISER'

Remember to check the school website Events Calendar

Wednesday 14th October

Y3 Class Celebration of the Word
2.50pm Parents/Carers welcome

Friday 16th October

Harvest Service
9.30am Parents/Carers welcome

Tuesday 20th October

3.30pm - 5pm Parent Showcase

Wednesday 21st October

Y5 Class Celebration of the Word
2.50pm Parents/Carers welcome

Thursday 22nd October

5.30pm Bingo Night

Thursday 22nd October

End of Term 1

Friday 23rd October

Inset Day - No children in School

Monday 2nd November

Term 2 Starts

Monday 2nd - Thursday 5th November

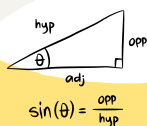
Y5/6 Bikeability

Why not have a listen to Tom Baptists latest Podcast, 'Word of the Week':
Click [HERE](#) to listen



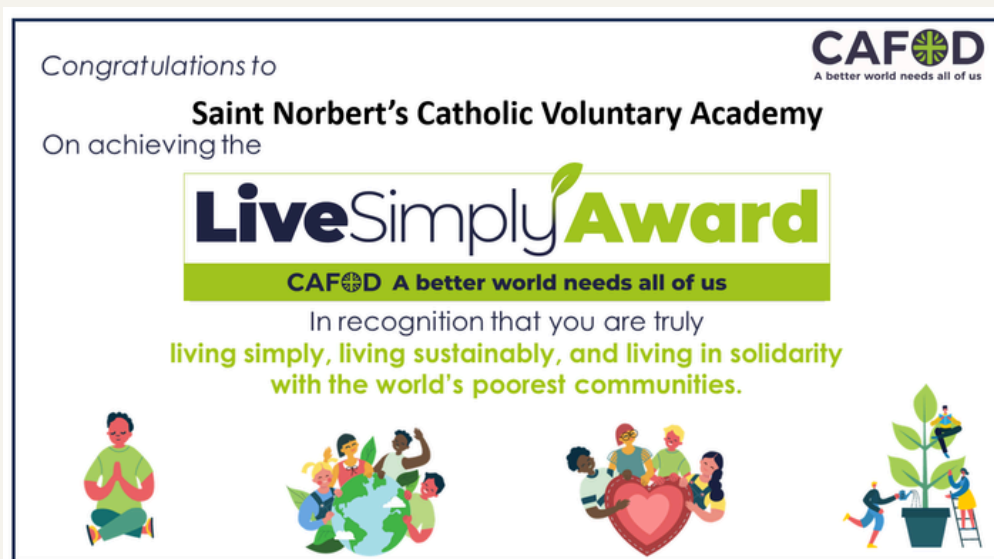
Children can access maths activities at home that we use in school.
Follow these links to find out more.

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



LIVE SIMPLY AWARD

After a long but rewarding journey, we are delighted to announce that our school community has been awarded the CAFOD Live Simply award in recognition of our work towards living simply, living sustainability and living in solidarity with the world's poorest communities. Our support of the world's poorest communities through our participation in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and to those in need within our local community through our commitment to Project St. Thomas has formed part of our actions towards this award. Our work as stewards of creation (e.g. through local litter picks and building bug hotels and bird feeders) has been one particular highlight which the children spoke about during the award process and their spirituality and prayerfulness was praised by our assessor. Thank you to everybody who has been involved in our Live Simply journey!



DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK 2026: CELEBRATING DIFFERENT WAYS OF THINKING

From **Monday 5th to Sunday 11th October 2026**, we are marking Dyslexia Awareness Week. Dyslexia affects approximately 1 in 10 people in the UK. It is a lifelong learning difference that primarily impacts reading, writing, and spelling. However, it is not a reflection of intelligence. In fact, people with dyslexia often possess incredible strengths in creative thinking, problem-solving, and innovation.

This week, we are celebrating those unique talents across our school community.

Signs of Dyslexia to Look Out For

Every child's experience is unique, but if you suspect your child might have dyslexia, common indicators can include:

- Reading or writing at a significantly slower pace than their peers.
- Inconsistent or unexpected spelling patterns (e.g., spelling a word right one day and wrong the next).
- Regularly confusing the order of letters or putting letters like 'b' and 'd' the wrong way round.
- struggling to remember a sequence of verbal instructions.
- Displaying high verbal intelligence but finding it difficult to express those same ideas in writing.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- **Focus on strengths:** Celebrate what your child is good at, whether that is sports, art, maths, or building things. Keeping their self-esteem high is the most critical first step.
- **Read together without pressure:** Use audiobooks or share the reading of a book (you read a page, they read a sentence) to keep stories fun and engaging.
- **Keep it multi-sensory:** When practicing spelling or phonics at home, try drawing letters in sand, using plastic magnetic letters, or writing on a whiteboard with bright colours.

Local Support and Resources in Lincolnshire

If you are worried about your child's progress, you do not have to navigate this alone. Excellent free local support is available right here in our county:

- **Talk to Us First:** Your first step should always be to speak with your child's class teacher or to Mrs Withers our school **Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCo)**. We can implement immediate classroom adaptations and screening options to support them.

ST NORBERTS OPEN DAY!

We would love for you to help us spread the word about our upcoming Open Day on Tuesday, 20th October 9:00am, 2:00pm, and 5:00pm!

Mrs Withers will be leading dedicated tours for prospective families during these times. If you know any families with children due to start school in September 2027, please encourage them to come along and experience everything St Norbert's Catholic Academy has to offer, providing a fantastic opportunity to see our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting in action and ask any questions.

In addition, we are hosting an Existing Parent Showcase from 3:30pm to 4:45pm on the very same day. We warmly invite our current families to bring their children along to explore the classrooms, meet the teaching team, and celebrate our wonderful school community together.

 Lincolnshire Primary Admissions Information

Applications for primary school places for September 2027 are managed centrally by the local authority:

Application Window: Primary school applications open on 16th November 2026.

National Closing Date: The deadline to submit your application is 15th January 2027.

How to Apply: Parents can apply online via the **Lincolnshire County Council Parent Portal** or make an application over the phone by calling **01522 782030**.

We look forward to welcoming you and showing you what makes our school community so special!



St Norbert's Catholic Voluntary Academy

FAITH • LEARNING • COMMUNITY

Follow us on
facebook 
Keep up with all the latest!

-  School news & events
-  Celebrating our students
-  Updates from our community
-  Be part of our journey



Scan me!

Like our page 

St Norbert's Catholic Voluntary Academy
on Facebook



Supporting your child's unique journey ♥

Practical, compassionate and personalised support for families, whether your child has ASD, ADHD, or you're just looking for help to understand their behaviour and needs better.

Hi, I'm Natasha. I'm a qualified SENDCo with lived experience as a parent of a child with ASD and ADHD. I support families of children aged 4–16 with ASD, ADHD and additional needs, and also provide guidance and practical support for families who don't have a diagnosis but are finding life challenging and want to understand their child's behaviour, communication and development better.

Because every child's needs are unique ♥

Helping you feel supported, informed and less alone ♥



Home + School Support

Practical routines and strategies



Behaviour Support

Positive approaches, understanding and consistency



Advocacy

Support with EHCPs and the education system



Morning Routine Support

Build calm, confidence and independence



Visual Timetables

Simple, clear and personalised

Services & Support ♥

- ♥ Home + school consultations
- ♥ Bespoke packages tailored to your family's needs
- ♥ Behaviour support
- ♥ Morning routine support
- ♥ Visual timetables

Free 10 minute consultation

Let's chat about your needs and see how I can help. ♥

Bespoke Packages ♥

Every child and family is different, so I create tailored support packages to suit your individual needs, goals and budget.

- ♥ Flexible and person-centred
- ♥ Practical and focused on real-life
- ♥ Support for every step of the journey

Together we can build brighter futures ♥



Find me on Facebook
Natasha SEND Support



Follow me on Instagram
@tashsendsupport



Get in touch
tash.binns@outlook.com

Natasha
SEND Support
♥



SUPPORTING FAMILIES ♥ EMPOWERING CHILDREN ♥ BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES



The Chairlady's

Charity Quiz night

10 October 2026

Project St Thomas Hall
St Thomas's Road
Spalding PE11 2XX

7pm -10pm

Drinks and snacks available

Charity Raffle

£5 per ticket

To book your table contact
samantha.bradley@sholland.gov.uk

The Chairlady's Charities,
Project St Thomas and Spalding Lions





ST NORBERT'S
CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY
ACADEMY



THURSDAY
22nd Oct 26



5.30PM - 7PM
Eyes Down
5.45PM



SCHOOL
HALL



TICKETS
£10
Available to buy
on Arbor



REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE



CHILDREN WELCOME