St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

We try to follow Jesus by loving each other and caring for God's world.

Wisdom, Love, Might, Let there be Light!

NEWSLETTER ~ 12th December 2025

Last day of Term ~ Friday 19th December 2025

School finishes early at 1:30pm



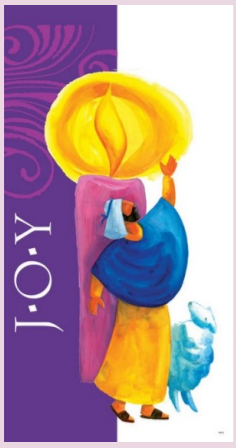
"The Good News is being announced to the poor; and happy are those who do not lose faith in me."
Matthew 11: 2-11 ~ Third Sunday of Advent: JOY

This week, Nursery, Reception and KS1 performed their Christmas plays. Thank you to our staff for their direction and all our families for coming and supporting the children. We are very proud of their wonderful singing and acting.

Year 5 were invited to Ormiston Victory Academy to watch their performance of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', and our school choir visited Gray's Fair Court to share JOYOUS carols and Christmas cheer to the residents of our local care home.

Today KS2 had their Carol Service at St. Walstan's church. Thank you to Mr Wright and the staff for helping with the organisation and rehearsals.

Now it feels like we have properly started Christmas preparations and can appreciate all the JOY it brings.



1 ~ What do you like best about Christmas that brings you JOY?
2 ~ How else can you find JOY in your life?
3 ~ What words and actions help you spread JOY to others?

Heart of Gold Award

The 'Heart of Gold' Award acknowledges the outstanding kindness and thoughtfulness of our children.
Anyone can nominate a Heart of Gold, so please let us know if you think someone really deserves the praise.

This week the award goes to:
Chinenye ~ Henn



Wednesday Word ~ CHRIST

Buying presents, decorations and planning our Christmas meal are all good ways of preparing for Christmas. But through all these preparations we do need to keep in mind the real reason for all these festivities. It's important that we spend some time preparing ourselves too.

Please see the link for this half term's *Wednesday Word* **Christmas Holiday Booklet**: click here





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Assistant Head:
Amy Casey

Chair of Governors:
Joseph Zammit

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St. Augustine's News

Rudolph Run Brings Festive Cheer to Our School!



On Thursday, 4th December, our school field was filled with excitement as the children took part in the **Nelson Journey's Rudolph Run**. With red noses and plenty of festive spirit, the pupils enthusiastically ran laps around the field, showing determination and joy throughout the event.

The Rudolph Run is a wonderful way to combine fun and fitness while supporting a great cause. Nelson's Journey works to help children and young people who have experienced the loss of a loved one, and we are proud to contribute to their important work.

A Huge Thank You!

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the parents and families who supported the event, by being so generous with the donations. Your generosity helps make a real difference in the lives of children who need support during difficult times.

We raised the grand total of £1200.61



St. Martins Homeless Shelter Donations

This year, we are proud to support St. Martin's Homeless Shelter as our chosen charity.

Donations can be made via WisePay: On your child's homepage, please click onto General Payments to make the donation

Your donation will help provide essential support and resources to those experiencing homelessness, giving them the opportunity to build a better life in Norwich and Norfolk.

SCAN ME

St. Augustine's News

Christmas Performance



Nursery and Reception

Our youngest stars lit up the stage with their innocence and charm, reminding us of the simple joys of Christmas through songs and smiles.

KS1

Brought heart-warming performances that showcased their growing confidence and creativity—a wonderful way to spread festive cheer.

Gray's Fair Court

The year 5&6 choir members visited Gray's Fair Court, where they shared the gift of companionship and music with our local community, bringing happiness and warmth to all.

Advent Service

Our Key Stage 2 pupils visited St Walstan's Church for a beautiful Advent Service, taking time to reflect on the meaning of this special season. It's a wonderful opportunity for prayer, music, and community as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.







St. Augustine's Notices

Christmas Post Box

The School Christmas Post Box is open from

Monday 8th December
to
Wednesday 17th December!

Children can post their festive cards over the next two weeks.



Please make sure every card clearly includes the

NAME & CLASS

so we can ensure they reach the right person.

Spread some holiday cheer and get posting!

School Choir Advent Performances

The School Choir will be performing at their usual events this Advent season.

17th December 2025 at 10:00pm
Costessey Baptist Church

We would like to invite you to attend this performance, as there is much more room in the Baptist church for this concert than there is at St. Walstan's for the Carol Service.

Please also bring your singing voices, for audience participation! .



Knights of Saint Colomba
Nativity Scene Painting Competition

Two competitions:
Infants ~ KS1: Y1, Y2 (ages 5-7 yrs)
Juniors ~ KS2: Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 (ages 7-11 yrs)

Painting competition rules:

- Must be a painting
- Must be a scene from the Nativity story
- Free hand drawing (no tracing)
- Paper size A4-A3 on own choice of paper
- Must include the Bible Chapter & Verse (written within the painting or on the back)



Deadline:
Monday 15th December 2025

Cash prizes for the winners!

The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun

The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun (BNHF) activity programme provides holiday activities for children and young people aged 5-16 (or 4 if your child is in reception) in Norfolk.

The UK Government's funding for the programme has been extended for a further 3 years, after 5 initial years of their support.

Children who receive benefits-related free school meals can claim free spaces on the activities, whilst paid spots are available on many activities for those who don't.

If you feel your child/ren could benefit from a free place but are NOT entitled to Free School Meals, please contact us to discuss applying for an Awarded Place. More info on this CLICK HERE

Find out more about this in Active Norfolk's FAQ section.

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun

Images by freepik.com

FOSA News

Please contact Louise Dhorajiwala, FOSA Secretary, on 07743 863675 if you would like to join the FOSA events helpers WhatsApp group.

We have also set up a FOSA Facebook Page where we hope to advertise all events and share upcoming information.
https://www.facebook.com/groups/8171783059576512/

FOSA need ad-hoc volunteers for upcoming events. You will only ever be needed for part of an event to enable you to enjoy the event with your family! To put your name on the volunteer list please contact Louise on: 07743863675.



Next FOSA Meetings:

Thursday 22nd January 2026 at 6:00pm

Thursday 26th February 2026 at 6:00pm

Christmas Bazaar total

We raised the grand total of £1078.91



Thanks
Look What Your Support is Making Happen!

A big **THANK YOU** to all our amazing Friends of the School! Because of your generosity, this year we're funding:

- **Year 6 Leavers' Hoodies** – because leaving in style is a must!
- **Book Bags for our new starters** – starting school with a splash of excitement!
- **Coaches for school trips** – adventures made easy and fun!
- **Brand-new library books** – fueling imaginations one page at a time!





Your support makes a real difference to every child in our school.

Want to join the fun or help with future events? We'd love to have you on board!

St. Augustine's Family Prayer Group ~ Every Month from 2:00pm-3:00pm

All families of St. Augustine's are invited to attend a parent and guardian led prayer session. Prayer sessions aim to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection, followed by tea and coffee and a chance to meet other families.

Any questions, please contact Gabriella: g.notaricosta@gmail.com

Next Prayer Meeting Date:
Monday 12th January 2026 at 2:00pm





Images by freepik.com

St. Augustine's Notices

Volunteers Sought to Support School Admission Appeals

The Diocese of East Anglia Schools' Service is seeking volunteers to serve as school admission appeals panel members, helping ensure parents' rights are upheld when a child is not offered a place at their preferred Catholic school.

Panel members play a vital role in considering cases where parents wish to challenge a refusal of admission. Each hearing typically lasts between 20 and 30 minutes, although some may take longer depending on their complexity. During the busy summer term, multiple appeals may be scheduled on the same day, and volunteers may occasionally be asked to sit for two or even three consecutive days. Importantly, panel members are always able to decide their own availability, making this a flexible opportunity suited to those available during school hours.

Appeals may be heard in person or via video conferencing, and volunteers can express a preference for the type of hearings they are comfortable with. All panel members will receive training from the Diocese.

To ensure a balanced and fair process, each panel is made up of both lay members, people without professional involvement in education, and education members, people with experience working in or understanding schools. Individuals cannot sit on panels for schools with which they have a personal connection, for example being a parent, governor or staff member.

Anyone interested in volunteering or finding out more is invited to contact:

Helen Bates ~ Assistant Director (Schools' Service)
Diocese of East Anglia,
21 Upgate,
Poringland,
Norwich.
NR14 7SH

Email: ssc@rcdea.org.uk or Telephone: 01508 495509

Join the movement → www.smartphonefreechildhood.org

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xsw9HdM_MZw

We want to support a global community of families delaying smartphones — and this video is made to help spark those conversations with children.

It's fast, fun, and full of the big ideas:

- How smartphones changed the world
- How they're designed to grab your attention
- The hidden superpowers you unlock by waiting
- Real teens on why smartphones aren't all they're cracked up to be



Watch it together – it's short, fun, and the perfect way to spark the conversations kids really need.

Further information can be found here:
https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/

If you are interested in starting a group to co-ordinate with parents, then please find the Norfolk Smartphone Free Childhood page **here**

St. Augustine's Dates

2025 / 2026	School Closes (Last day children attend school)	School Opens (First day children come back)
Christmas Holidays 2025	Friday 19th December 2025 **School finishes at 1:30pm**	Tuesday 6th January 2026
Spring Half Term 2026	Friday 13th February 2026	Monday 23rd February 2026
Easter Holidays 2026	Friday 27th March 2026 **School finishes at 1:30pm**	Monday 13th April 2026
Summer Half Term 2026	Friday 22nd May 2026	Monday 1st June 2026
Summer Holidays 2026	Friday 17th July 2026 **School finishes at 1:30pm**	---

EVENT	DATE and TIME
Choir Performance at Costessey Baptist Church *Families and Friends welcome*	**Wednesday 17/12/2025 at 10:00**
Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day	**Wednesday 17/12/2025**
LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM **SCHOOL CLOSES AT 1:30pm**	**Friday 19/12/2025**

New Art and Crafts Club

Day Time	Club	Provider	Information
Monday **3:15~4:15pm**	Football	Pav's Team	Great for teamwork, coordination and fitness.
Tuesday **3:15~4:15pm**	Dodgeball	Pav's Team	Fun, energetic, and great for reflexes and teamwork.
Wednesday **3:15~4:15pm**	Mini Makers Art & Craft Club	Madison	Children will explore exciting art and craft projects, learn new skills, and let their imaginations run wild.
Thursday **3:15~4:15pm**	Football	Pav's Team	Great for teamwork, coordination and fitness.
Friday **3:15-4:15pm**	Girls Football	Pav's Team	Great for teamwork, coordination and fitness.