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!



"And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'"
Matthew 3:13-17 ~ Baptism of the Lord

Welcome back and a happy new year!

This term, we welcome Miss Parr, as the new teacher starting in LKS2:Y3&4 Morpurgo class.

On our first day back, we celebrated together, the feast of The Epiphany with KS2 and our local parish at St. Walstan's, and later with KS1 in the school morning liturgy. We end Christmastide celebrations with The Epiphany, and the arrival of the wise men to offer Jesus special gifts.

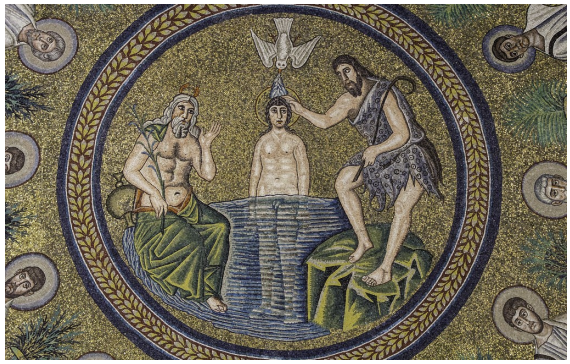
This Sunday is the feast day of the Baptism of the Lord. At Jesus' Baptism, the Holy Spirit appeared and a voice spoke from heaven. At Baptism we are all invited to make a new start, each and every day. With the start of this new year, we have the same opportunity to make a fresh start, choosing resolutions to help us grow to be better human beings.

As we come to the end of Christmastide, let's begin to make plans for a happy and peaceful 2026.

1 ~ What do you know about the sacrament of Baptism?

2 ~ How can you live more like Jesus as we begin this new year?

3 ~ Could you choose something to start together as a whole family?



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:

Ivana ~ Rossetti



Wednesday Word ~ NEW START

January is traditionally the month of beginnings – a time for making a new start. In Church this Sunday we celebrate a special feast – The Baptism of the Lord.

Please see the link for this week's *Wednesday Word*: click here



Head Teacher:
Rachel Swindell

Assistant Head:
Amy Casey

Chair of Governors:
Joseph Zammit

Office Team:
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Tracey DeVey
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St. Augustine's Notices

A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives



Parenting today can feel overwhelming — especially when childhood looks so different from what we grew up with. There's no manual, and it can be hard to keep up with the fast-changing digital world your child moves through every day. This guide aims to make those conversations easier and help you support your child with confidence.

Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner, has provided a useful website and resources to guide and support families. We hope you find it useful.

https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/

Attendance During the Bad Weather



Due to the current adverse weather conditions, we understand that some families may experience difficulties getting their children to school. As a result, we are being slightly more flexible with registers. Please do allow a little extra time for your journey and ensure you arrive at school safely. For any updates on emergency school closures please go to the following website Emergency Schools Closures - Norfolk County Council

Medical Appointments



Wherever possible, we kindly ask that medical appointments for your children are arranged outside of school hours or during school holidays. Thank you for your support with this.

Leave of Absence Requests & Information



Further information regarding absence and leave of absence requests can be found on our website:
Visit our webpage: **Parent Information > Absence**

Updating Contact Details



Please ensure that the school has your **most up-to-date contact details**, including telephone numbers, email addresses, and home address. Keeping this information current is vital so that we can contact you quickly in an emergency or pass on important school information.
If any of your details have changed recently, please update them as soon as possible via the school office.

Reporting School Absence

If your child is unable to attend school, please inform the school office as soon as possible on the **first day of absence**. This helps us ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils and allows us to keep our records accurate.



Absences can be reported by:

- **Telephone:** 01603 743317
- **Email:** office.office@st-augustines.norfolk.sch.uk

If your child will be absent for more than one day, please keep the school office informed **regularly**.
When reporting an absence, please provide a **brief outline of the reason** (for example, sickness bug, sore throat, fever). This information helps us monitor patterns of illness across the school. Please avoid stating only that your child is "sick", as we are required to record specific illnesses in the attendance register.
Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain good attendance and safeguard the wellbeing of our school community.

St. Augustine's Notices

After School Clubs

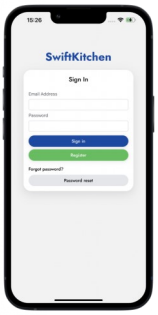
There are still places left in all the After School Clubs, if we do not get enough signing up for the clubs then we may lose them. If you would like your child to attend one of the clubs please go onto your Wi-sePay Account and sign up to make the payment.

More details regarding clubs that are taking place can be seen on the last page of this newsletter.





Important Update: New School Dinner Ordering System After February Half Term



We wanted to let you know that after the **February Half Term**, our school dinner ordering system will be changing from **Aspens Select** to **Swift Kitchen**.

Why the change?
Swift Kitchen offers several advantages that will make the process easier and more efficient for families:

- **User-Friendly App & Website** – Swift Kitchen provides a simple, intuitive interface for ordering meals, available on both mobile devices and desktop.
- **Real-Time Menu Updates** – Any changes to menus or pricing are updated instantly, so you always have the latest information when placing orders.
- **Improved Payment & Tracking** – The system allows for clearer visibility of your account balance and meal history, reducing confusion and missed payments.
- **Faster Ordering Process** – The streamlined design means fewer clicks and quicker checkout, saving you time.
- **Better Communication** – Swift Kitchen can send notifications and reminders, helping ensure orders are placed on time.

We believe this upgrade will make school meal management more convenient for parents and help reduce food waste by improving accuracy in orders.

Further details, including how to register and use Swift Kitchen, will be shared closer to the transition date.

Thank you for your support as we make this positive change!

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

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

St. Augustine's Dates

2025 / 2026	School Closes (Last day children attend school)	School Opens (First day children come back)
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
FOSA Meeting Staffroom	**6:00pm** **Thursday 22nd January 2026**
KS1 Candlemas in the School Hall ***~ Families & Friends Welcome***	**9:30am** **Friday 30th January 2026**
LKS2 Mass ~ The Holy Family at St. Walstan's ***~ Families & Friends Welcome***	**9:30am** **Friday 13th February 2026**

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

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.