



SAINT NORBERT'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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Mission Statement: To live, love and learn in the footprints of Jesus.

5th September 2023

Dear Families,

New school year

I would like to welcome all of our families back to school for the start of this Advent Term. May I extend a special welcome to our new families; I do hope that you will feel part of our school community very quickly.

On our first day back together, the children have all settled in very well. If you have any questions or want to discuss any aspect of your child's education or wellbeing, please contact the school office or email me directly on adawson@stnorbertscrowle.co.uk as soon as possible. Similarly, if there are any changes in your family circumstances, it is important to let me know so that I can provide the most suitable support for your child. Please keep us updated should there be any medical needs about which we should be aware.

Should you need to speak with your child's Class Teacher regarding any aspect of your child's education, please contact the school office. Alternatively, Teachers are also available at the school entrances from 8:20am-8:30am and at the end of the day. If a longer discussion is required, we can arrange a convenient time for this. Please avoid emailing teachers directly as they may not have the opportunity to check for messages until a later date.

Parking and waiting outside school

Parking vehicles on or opposite the yellow lines outside school is a road traffic offence and can be a danger to children. Please consider parking a little further away and walking the last part of your journey. I would also ask you to avoid waiting too near the crossing patrol so that children have a good view before crossing the road.

It was children themselves who asked for us to remind parents and visitors not to block the main school entrance on Fieldside. Planned improvements to the school site over the coming months should improve things further.

Morning entry to school from 8:20am

Children in the Early Years should arrive at the entrance situated in Saint Norbert's Church car park. However, please do not use the church driveway as this is a private residence. Children in Key Stages One and Two should arrive through the pedestrian gate situated on Fieldside.

We manage morning entry in this way so that Teachers are accessible should you wish to pass on a message or speak with them before teaching begins promptly at 8:30 and we are then able to re-secure the school site.



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Leaving school at 3pm

Children in the Early Years will leave school through the gateway situated in Saint Norbert's Church car park, where parents have been granted permission to wait. Class Teachers will supervise children in Key Stages One and Two leaving at staggered times (youngest first) through the pedestrian gate situated on Fieldside. If older children have younger siblings, they may leave through the church car park to meet you instead if you wish to arrange this with them.

We manage the end of the school day in this way so that we are able to re-secure the school site promptly before the beginning of after-school clubs.

Uniform

At the end of the summer term, I thanked you for continuing to support our long tradition of simple and smart uniform, which is explained to all families upon accepting a place at Saint Norbert's. Our primary aim is to enable children to focus on learning, rather than becoming preoccupied with their appearance in school. If any part of our uniform has proven to be inaccessible for you, perhaps through cost for example, please do contact me - in confidence - and I will try to find a way to support.

Please do label your child's clothing and footwear so that we have some chance of locating items which may go missing.

As the weather is likely to remain warm for some time, children may use their summer or winter uniform until October half-term. Full details of our uniform can be found on our website and thank you - once again - for your understanding.

Relationships and Health Education

Classes will soon be restarting Relationships and Health Education as part of our PSHE curriculum and in accordance with our school policy. We have used the 'Life to the Full' programme (Ten:Ten) for several years now, having consulted previously with parents and stakeholders.

If you wish to gain a better understanding of what is to be covered, please do visit the Online Parent Portal, which contains:

- An overview of the programme ('Life to the Full')
- Guidance for parents on the content of lessons
- Activities that can be undertaken at home to support the delivery of the programme

To access the portal, please visit: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>.

Username: st-norbert-dn17

Password: scooby-snack

We have also chosen to deliver some optional aspects of the programme for upper Key Stage Two (Class 5) which include Sex Education and which we believe to be important. Parents are entitled to withdraw their child from sex education which goes beyond the National Curriculum for Science; should you wish to do this, please contact me either through the school office or via adawson@stnorbertscrowle.co.uk by Friday 15th September. Thank you.

Birthdays

We enjoy acknowledging children's birthdays and pray for them on – or as close to – this date in our classes and whole-school assemblies (collective worship). However, we are unable to distribute foods such as birthday cakes or sweets as we must be mindful of individual food allergies in school. I would therefore ask that you do not send any birthday 'treats' into school. Additionally, I must advise you that we can take no responsibility for the distribution of party invitations.

Rights Respecting School

We have promoted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child for a number of years now; this new academic year will be no different. As 'duty bearers', we recognise the important role that we play in helping children to learn about their rights.

You can find out more about the Rights of the Child by visiting the UNICEF website: <https://www.unicef.org/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>.

Poverty Proofing

We aim to 'poverty-proof' our school day; we recognised that poverty can create significant barriers for children and can have a harmful impact on their chance to thrive. Our intense focus on the Convention on the Rights of the Child encouraged us to look carefully at factors which could potentially affect children's overall chances of success. As a result, this means we are committed to ensuring that we do not unfairly disadvantage any child or family financially.

Where there may be a cost to participating in school life, we aim to keep this as low as possible or remove it altogether; we provide all stationery, for example, to minimise back-to-school costs.

Should any aspect of school present a financial burden for you, please speak with me – in confidence – so that we can look for solutions together. Similarly, if you feel that we have overlooked an opportunity to do even more, please do let us know.

Bags2School

Please note that our next Bags2School collection will take place on Monday 9th October.

Shining Stars

The first session of our toddler group – Shining Stars – will take place on Thursday 14th September, in the school hall, from 1pm to 2:45pm.

Yours sincerely,



A Dawson