



SAINT NORBERT'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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

23rd September 2024

Dear Families,

Poverty Proofing

You will know by now that we continue our work to 'poverty-proof' our school day; this has been a longstanding effort at Saint Norbert's, with us having first started back in 2016. In the broadest sense, and as a Rights Respecting School, we aim to ensure that families do not have to make sacrifices so that children are able to access and benefit from our full 'offer' (Article 28, Convention on the Rights of the Child – 'every child has the right to an education').

Our hope is:

- that school will be a 'level playing field';
- that no family will experience any anxiety about school life because of financial concerns;
- to better understand the 'pressure points' on families from your perspective and support where possible;
- that all children will enjoy the same opportunities to succeed, regardless of financial context.

If any aspect of your child's education causes you concern because of financial pressure on you or your family, please telephone me or call in to school if you prefer. I can assure you of my discretion and will do what I can to support.

I look forward to sharing further updates with you regarding our 'poverty proofing' work throughout the year.

Lunches

If your child normally has a school lunch, it is your responsibility to make his/her meal choice beforehand using the link provided by the office. If no selection has been made, your child will be provided with the main meal option for the day – no further information will be required from you. Thank you – your cooperation will support our continued efforts to work efficiently.

Homework

Thank you for supporting your child with his/her homework. Tasks or activities are set by Class Teachers on Fridays, with an expectation that these are completed by the following Thursday, unless advised otherwise.

By default, we upload a sheet giving the week's homework instructions to our learning platform, DB Primary. If you or your child have any problems accessing the week's homework, please inform the Class Teacher who will be able to provide a paper copy. Please note that, wherever possible, we are trying to keep printing and photocopying costs low.



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Harvest Celebration

We would like to invite you to join children from Reception (Class 2) and Classes 3, 4 and 5, who will be celebrating Harvest together on Friday 18th October. Doors will open at 1.30pm for a 2pm start. Entrance will be through the doors at the side of the school hall. Due to the limited space and a high volume of ticket requests over previous years, tickets must be limited to two per family - in the first instance - and will be issued on a 'first-come, first-served' basis.

If you would like to order tickets, please complete the link which accompanies this letter confirming whether you would like one or two tickets. Once all families who wish to attend have received their tickets, any reserve tickets left will be made available. Please note that ticket allocations are by family and not by child – i.e. if you have two children in school, please do not order four tickets. Please note: children and babies are not permitted to sit on adults' knees. If you wish to bring them to the Celebration, please include them in your ticket order.

Our Celebration this year will again support our local Foodbank and we hope that a representative from the Foodbank will be able to attend. We will be organising a collection during the Celebration, should you wish to make a cash donation. Alternatively, and if you prefer, we are also setting up a Foodbank collection point in school from Monday 14th October for one week; donations of items from the list below can be made:

UHT long-life milk, cereals, pasta sauces, tinned potatoes, tinned vegetables, tinned meats, rice pudding, tinned fruit, instant coffee (small jars), packets or tins of custard

The Friends of St Norbert's will be serving tea, coffee and biscuits before the Celebration begins when the doors open at 1.30pm.

Bags2School Collection

The Friends of St Norbert's have organised the next Bags2School Collection for Wednesday 9th October. Your child has been sent home with a collection bag today should you wish or be able to donate any unwanted items of clothing. Please note that Bags2School no longer accept soft toys, towels, bedding or curtains. In addition, school or work uniforms cannot be donated.

If you wish to donate any items, please bring these to school on the morning of Wednesday 9th October. Although we appreciate all donations, please do not bring things into school before the Wednesday morning as we have limited storage space. If you need more bags, these are available through the school office; any carrier bag, dustbin bag or other suitable bag will also be acceptable.

Should you have any St Norbert's uniform that your child no longer uses, Mrs Coggrave, our brilliant PTA Chair, organises a second-hand uniform stall and would be happy to accept any donations. Thank you.

Reminder Friends of St Norbert's AGM and Meeting

The AGM of the Friends of St Norbert's PTA takes place at 3pm on Thursday 3rd October. All families are very welcome to attend. If you would like your child to be placed in the Out of School Club for the duration of the meeting, please let the office know. No charge will be made for this time.

Election of Officers for the coming year will take place at the AGM. If you would like to be considered for one of the positions, please complete the form sent with my letter of 16th September.

We very much look forward to seeing you there and especially welcome any parents new to our community.

Open-Door Policy

I hope that children enjoy their time at Saint Norbert's and achieve their full potential. If there is any aspect of your child's education that you would like to discuss, please speak with his/her Class Teacher or make an appointment to speak with me if you prefer. If you *tell* us about an issue you might be experiencing, we stand a much better chance of being able to rectify this and move forward.

Yours sincerely,



A Dawson