



SAINT NORBERT'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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

4th September 2024

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, as well as new or returning staff; I do hope that you will all 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 do contact the school office or send an email to admin@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 also 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 maintain a good view before crossing the road.

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
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Leaving school at 3pm

Many parents wait to collect their children – particularly those in Key Stage Two – near our School Crossing Patrol, Mr Besser. If you wish to collect your child in the school playground, the school pedestrian gate will be opened from 2:55pm. Teachers in Classes 3, 4 and 5 will bring children out onto the playground via the entrance located close to the school office. Please note, however, that they will not be able to bring children to the school gate at the end of the day.

If you are collecting children from the Nursery or Reception classes, please wait in Saint Norbert's Church car park; these children will leave school through the side gate near the parish hall. If you have children in both the Early Years and the upper school, older siblings will also be instructed to meet you in the church car park unless you have made alternative arrangements (i.e. for your older child to walk home alone).

I must ask please that you make your way out of the school grounds as soon as possible so that we can re-secure the school site with minimal delays before after-school clubs begin. I must also ask that you do not allow your child to play on the school field at the end of the day, please.

Uniform

Thank 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. We are also seeking to continue our longstanding work to 'poverty-proof' our school and a simple but consistent uniform is one way to reduce pressure on families. 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.

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 (celebrations of the word). 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 are a 'Gold' level Rights Respecting School. As all adults are 'duty bearers', we therefore 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.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>.

Poverty Proofing

For many years, we have aimed to 'poverty-proof' our school day; we recognised that financial anxiety 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 has 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 still be a cost to participating in school life, we aim to keep this as low as possible or remove it altogether. 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.

I would strongly encourage you to resist any pressure to buy any expensive materials or resources; we provide all stationery, for example, to minimise back-to-school costs. Children frequently drop water bottles, for example, and we often find that the least expensive options provide the most 'bounce'.

Bags2School

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

Shining Stars

To prioritise the deployment of staffing so that we can support individual pupil needs, I have decided to temporarily pause our Shining Stars toddler group. I apologise for any disappointment this may cause and thank you in advance for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A Dawson".

A Dawson