



SAINT NORBERT'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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

4th September 2026

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 all feel part of our school community very quickly.

On our first days back together, the children appear to have settled in very well and has been a joy for us to see and work with them again. If you have any questions, or wish 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 try to 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 – you can do this through your child's Arbor app (support from our office staff is available).

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 each day. If a longer discussion is required, we can arrange a convenient time for this. Please do not email teachers directly as they may not have the opportunity to check for messages until a later date.

Virtues to Live by

As a Catholic school, we focus on different 'Virtues to Live by' each term. This autumn or 'Advent' term, these are: Courtesy and Respect, Patience, Thankfulness, and Hope.

Parking and waiting outside school

As is usual at this time of year, I need to remind you that parking vehicles on or opposite the yellow lines outside school is a road traffic offence and can be a danger to children. Please do 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. Thank you for your understanding.

Morning entry to school from 8:20am

All children should arrive through the pedestrian gate situated on Fieldside. Unless using Breakfast Club, which opens from 7:45am, children should arrive from 8:20am, at which time they are registered. Lessons begin promptly at 8:30am and we then re-secure the school site by locking the gates.

Do please try to encourage your child to walk down into school independently if possible – this helps to reduce congestion in the playground at this busy time. Of course, if he/she is not ready for this yet, you are welcome to accompany him/her.

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 do decide to collect your child in the school playground, the school pedestrian gate will be opened from 2:55pm. Teachers will bring children out to meet you in the playground. Please note, however, that they will not be able to bring children to the school gate at the end of the day.

I must ask that you make your way out of the school grounds as soon as possible please, 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. Thank you for your understanding.

Children Walking Home

We allow children in Class 5 (Years 5 and 6) to walk home unaccompanied if there is nobody in the playground to collect them at 3pm. If you do not wish your Class 5 child to walk home on his/her own until further notice, please let the office know as soon as possible. Similarly, do please inform the office if there are to be any unexpected changes at the end of the day and we will either communicate these to your child or keep him/her safe until you arrive.

When children do walk home unaccompanied, they are advised to return to school if they have any problems and ring the buzzer on the gate to be re-admitted by school staff, who are on-site until 6pm.

Children from Class 4 and below should always be collected at the end of the day by a responsible adult (with password if applicable). Alternative arrangements – such as going with friends' parents, for example – should be communicated to the office before 3pm.

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 also 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 always 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.

Children may use their summer or winter uniform until October half-term – though many have understandably made the switch already because of the 'suddenly autumnal' weather! 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.

Homework

Please note that our priority this week will be to ensure that all children have been allocated – or directed to – reading books. As such, there will be no 'normal' homework set until next Friday 11th September and we will therefore endeavour to have distributed the new Homework Diaries before the end of next week.

Rights Respecting School

We are a proud 'Gold' level Rights Respecting School – indeed, the only school in North Lincolnshire to currently hold this award. 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'!

Breakfast Club and Goldstar After-School Club

Procedures for dropping your child off at Breakfast Club, or collecting from Goldstar, are as follows – our aim has been to maximise the time that staff spend in the setting with children.

When you arrive to drop your child off in the morning, please ring the buzzer located at the side of the pedestrian gate. Staff will be able to see and identify you on camera, from Breakfast Club, before opening the gate. You then have the option to accompany your child to the hall side door or allow him/her to walk down independently. A member of staff will greet your child on the playground either way – we simply ask that you do not leave the pedestrian gate until you know that your child has been received by school staff.

When you arrive to collect your child from Goldstar, please also ring the buzzer at the side of the pedestrian gate. Staff will identify you before opening the gate, asking for a password at this stage if applicable. Once the gate has been opened, **please make your way to the school hall side door**, where staff will greet you and complete the handover process. Upon leaving, simply ring the buzzer again and staff will reopen the gate for you.

If you are collecting children from any of our other usual after-school clubs, please wait at the pedestrian gate and the group leader will open this for you when it is time to collect your child.

After-School Clubs

If you have not yet done so, and you would like your child to take part in any of the Clubs available this term, please could you give your permission through Arbor as soon as possible so that places can be allocated:

From Monday 7 th September	Drama Club with Mr Dawson from 3pm to 4pm Children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 20 places initially – free of charge
From Monday 14 th September	Netball Club with Miss Tonge from 3pm to 4pm Children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 14 places available – free of charge
From Tuesday 8 th September	Coding Club with Mr Walker from 3pm to 4pm Children from Class 5 10 places available – free of charge
From Tuesday 8 th September	Chess Club with Miss Hutchinson from 3pm to 4pm; please use your Arbor App to sign your child up for this club. The cost for the first half-term is £24.50 to be paid in full on the Arbor App.

From Thursday 10th September

Year 6 Booster Club with Mrs Pitois from 3pm to 4pm
free of charge

Arbor

All bookings and payments should be made through Arbor. It is also essential that you log into Arbor and update your child's emergency contact details – please – to ensure that we have at least two emergency contacts registered; this will help us to contact you quickly in case of an emergency.

All communication from us will continue through Arbor by email, along with a notification letting you know that an email has been sent. Please ensure that your notification settings are 'on' so that you do not miss any important information which has been sent. Thank you.

If you have any questions about Arbor or difficulty in logging in, please bring your mobile to the office in the morning and Mrs Fletcher will be able to assist you.

School Lunches

If your child has moved into Class 4 (Year 3 and 4), they will no longer be eligible for Universal Infant Free School Meals. However, if you feel you may be eligible for Free School Meals, please see <https://www.northlincs.gov.uk/schools-libraries-and-learning/school-food-and-free-school-meals/> for the criteria and to apply. You never know and it is definitely worth checking.

The school kitchen provides a tasty and healthy school lunch with both hot and cold and vegetarian options available daily. Meal choices are made in advance and options are sent out weekly for you to make your child's choices. Should we not receive a choice form back from you, your child will be allocated the main meal of the day.

Please note that hot food should not be sent in to school as a packed lunch from home as we are unable to keep these at the right temperature to comply with Food Safety requirements. In addition, they may also cause burns or scalds as children are serving their own hot lunches at the table, decanting food from flasks into dishes etc. Thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,



A Dawson