



Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

**Wednesday Word - please follow this link to enjoy this weekend's Gospel as a family**

[Click here for the Wednesday Word](#)

### **Gospel Virtues**

This half term we are trying to be ELOQUENT and TRUTHFUL. Mrs Noble-Barton was very impressed by the conversation in Year 5 during their PSHE lesson this week about the challenges and benefits of telling the truth. Our 'Eloquent & Truthful' wristbands are on order...a list of pupils who will receive them is growing by the day!

### **Young Voices Choir**

Huge thanks to Miss Gamlen and Miss Smith for giving St Nicholas pupils the chance to take part in 'Young Voices 2023'. This event was a great success; the children represented the school brilliantly and sang their hearts out. Thank you to the parents who came along to support us and a special thanks to Mrs Hale, Mrs Baynton & Mrs Mehrban for accompanying us. Choir will begin again soon - watch this space!

### **SATs Workshops - Years 2 & 6**

A reminder that parents of pupils in Y2 are invited to a SATs workshop starting at 9am on Tuesday 17th January.

Parents of pupils in Y6 are invited to a SATs workshop starting at 9am on Thursday 19th January.

These workshops are an opportunity for school staff to explain the end of Key Stage statutory assessment processes and for you to work with your children to experience the types of activities and techniques they use in class. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **American Themed Day School Lunch - Thursday 19th January**

If your child would usually have a packed lunch but would like to experience Mrs Kinsella's American Diner (Cadillacs optional) on Thursday, then please register them through ParentPay.

### **'Odd Sock Day' for Birmingham Children's Hospital - Friday 20th January**

Jasper in Y1 wishes to raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital. Therefore, this Friday (20th) will be 'Odd Sock Day'. In return for £1, pupils can wear their silliest, oddest socks **with their uniform**. Jasper was eloquent when he put forward his proposal and he has shown determination to help those who need it. Well done Jasper!

### **Stories After Dark - 31/1/23 (rearranged from November)**

Children will be welcomed back into school at 5:30pm on **Tuesday 31st January** to read stories by lamplight. They can attend in their pyjamas, have a cup of hot chocolate and a biscuit and share stories with their friends and teachers. Children need to be collected promptly at 6:45pm. Collection arrangements will be the same as school discos; please enter through the KS2 gate, collect your child from the school hall and leave through the front door. Thank you to Miss Smith for organising this and to school staff for helping out.

### **PFA Valentines Disco - Tuesday 14th February**

Calling all cupids! Our excellent PFA will be running a Valentines Disco on Tuesday 14th February. The disco will run from 3.30pm to 5pm. The PFA will be sending out ticket information soon.

### **Visit from authors**

As part of National Storytelling Week, we are very lucky to be welcoming some children's authors into school. On Tuesday 31st January, Nick Jones will be visiting Key Stage 1 and on Tuesday 7th February, Alex Bellos will

be visiting KS2. At both events, there will be an opportunity for children to purchase signed books as a memento of the day. Further details will follow.

### Sutton Stage School Flyer

Please find attached a flyer from a local stage school advertising their facilities.

### Reading records - PLEASE SIGN

As part of our reading pledge, all pupils who have finished the programme of phonics, will read 1:1 with an adult in school each week (this is in addition to their Guided Reading sessions). **Please ensure that your child comes to school with a signed reading record every week.** This doesn't need to be an onerous comment; a signature is fine!

We are seeing a high number of children with 'lost' reading records, reading books and spelling books. Please help your child to develop a reliable system to keep safe these key study items.

### January's word of the month

A new year brings a new month and a new word to support our growing vocabulary at St Nicholas. January's word is **arduous**. We look forward to seeing the children use this word to up-level their writing.

### Recommended Reading Tree

The Spring term is now upon us which means that your child will have brought home some yellow leaves to add to their classroom recommended reading tree. Each time your child reads a book for enjoyment, please remind them or help them to write the title of the book on a leaf so that they can recommend this text to their peers. Children in KS2 could also write a short blurb of the book.

Congratulations to Emily (Y2), Rosie (Y3) and Charlie (Y5) who have received a book voucher after winning the reading raffle, drawn by the reading ambassadors. Pop your leaves on the tree this term to be in with a chance of winning!

### Parents' Evening Dates - Spring Term

Some advance notice for your diary, Spring Term Parents' Evenings will be held on the following:

Tuesday 28/3                  Parents' Evening: first appointment at 3.45pm / last appt. at 6.15pm

Wednesday 29/3              Parents' Evenings: first appointment at 4.30pm / last appt. at 7pm

Appointments will go live closer to the time.

### Phonics - home video links

[Lilac 1](#) [Lilac 2](#)

[Red 1](#) [Red 2](#)

[Purple](#)

[Pink 1](#) [Pink 2](#)

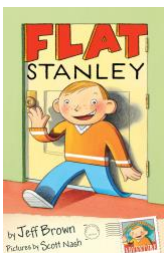
[Orange](#)

[Yellow](#)

[Blue 1](#) [Blue 2](#)

### Staff Book Recommendations

For KS1, Mrs Maguire recommends...



#### ***Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown.***

Stanley Lambchop is an ordinary boy with an extraordinary problem. One night, a giant pinboard falls on top of him leaving him completely flat. At first, Stanley enjoys the benefits of his strange predicament - it can be fun going in and out of rooms simply by sliding under the door. And it's a hoot being posted to your friends in California for a holiday. But it's not always easy being different, and, once the novelty begins to wear off, Stanley wishes he could be just like everybody else again. But how will he ever fill out?

[Click to purchase](#)



For KS2, Mr Porter recommends...

**Coming to England by Dame Floella Benjamin**

When she was ten years old, Floella Benjamin, along with her older sister and two younger brothers, set sail from Trinidad to London, to be reunited with the rest of their family. Alone on a huge ship for two weeks, then tumbled into a cold and unfriendly London, coming to England wasn't at all what Floella had expected.

[Click to purchase](#)

**Dates for your diary**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Friday 17/2    | INSET Day - school closed to pupils                                  |
| w/c 20/2       | Half Term - school closed to pupils                                  |
| Tues 14/2      | PFA Valentines Disco   |
| Weds 22/2      | Ash Wednesday - the beginning of Lent                                |
| Monday 27/2    | Second half of Spring Term begins for pupils                         |
| Thursday 2/3   | World Book Day   |
| Wednesday 15/3 | Year 6 Confirmation Exhibition                                       |
| Tuesday 28/3   | Parents' Evening: first appointment at 3.45pm / last appt. at 6.15pm |
| Wednesday 29/3 | Parents' Evenings: first appointment at 4.30pm / last appt. at 7pm   |
| Tuesday 4/4    | KS2 Passion Play performance 9.15am                                  |
| Wednesday 5/4  | KS2 Passion Play performance 9.15am                                  |

God bless,

Mr Porter

Executive Principal

Mrs Noble-Barton

Head of School



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