



*Love, live and learn with
Jesus Christ.*



St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School

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Executive Principal: Mr N Porter

Dear Parents & Carers,

Friday 22nd December 2023

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas

We made it! As the Autumn Term draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the kind gifts, cards and words which you have given to staff over the past week. Huge thanks also for your support throughout this term. Everyone at St Nicholas wishes you a happy, peaceful and holy Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord.



We will see all pupils back in school at 8.50am on Monday 8th January 2024.

Whole School Mass - 8/1/24

You are most welcome to join us as we gather as a school to celebrate Mass for the Baptism of the Lord on Monday 8th January at 1.30pm in church.

Times and dates of local Masses

It's easy to get carried away with the secular traditions of Christmas and lose sight of the real meaning - the fact that God took flesh as a tiny baby in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago.

Please ensure that celebrating Holy Mass as a family is at the heart of your Christmas celebrations.

Below you can find the dates and times of Christmas Masses at St Nicholas and other local parishes:

Parish	Christmas Eve vigil for 25th	Christmas Day
St Nicholas, Boldmere	3pm 6pm 9pm	9am 11am
Holy Trinity, Four Oaks	5pm 7pm 10pm	9am 11am
Holy Cross, Walmley	5pm 9pm	8.30am 10.30am
Abbey, Erdington	6pm Midnight Mass	8am 10am 12 noon

Staffing

This week we bid a sad and fond farewell to Mrs Jane Burton and Mrs Jane Nutbrown. Thank you for the cards & gifts you showered them with; this was a testament to how well loved they were in our school community. We wish both ladies the very best for the future.

We welcome Mrs Cally Sotgiu to our school office. Mrs Sotgiu will be working alongside Mrs Matthews for two terms in the first instance, we look forward to welcoming her to our team.

Miss Smith & Mrs Burling-Finn will teach Year 2 from Spring 1. Miss Beamond will be away for the duration of the Spring Term completing a teaching placement at another school - we will miss her but we will welcome her back in the Summer Term!

DSL email address

A reminder that if you need the assistance of a school DSL for a serious safeguarding matter, you can reach us through dsl@stnicholassutton.org.uk

Remember, if you have a concern about a child you can call CASS on their emergency number: 0121 675 4806.

Applications for Reception 2024

The deadline for this is Monday 15th January. A reminder that if you are applying for St Nicholas (and your child is a Catholic), you must return the supplementary information form alongside your supporting documents to the St Nicholas school office. This can be done by attaching them to an email and sending it enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk or bringing them to the school office when we return on 8/1. This includes siblings of pupils already in the school.

Wednesday Word

Please follow the link below to enjoy this week's Gospel as a family:

[Click here for the WEDNESDAY WORD](#)

Reverse Advent Calendar & other charitable giving

Thank you so much for your continued support for the various charities we choose to support in school. This half term we have donated your reverse advent calendar goods to a wonderful project looking after vulnerable young adults in the city. We have also hit our 'Rudolph Run' target of £500. This will be an incredible help to Birmingham Hospice. THANK YOU!

Year 5 Alton Castle Parent Information Session - Wednesday 10th January 2024

Please join Miss Smith for a virtual session to give you more information about the Year 5 residential to Alton Castle. The Zoom link is below - the meeting starts at 5pm and will last for approximately 30 minutes.

A reminder that the dates of the residential are Wednesday 24th - Friday 26th April.

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/85469242215?pwd=6RbXizYANz1jMmkekXAA2qvu08qx8B.1>

EYFS & Year 6 Height & Weight Checks

The school nurse will be running the height and weight checks for Reception class and Year 6 on Wednesday 24th January, a form has been sent to you via Parentmail. Please only call the school office if you are opting out meaning you **do not** want your child to participate in the measurement programme.

Phonics resources and information for parents/carers

In order to give you the most accurate and up to date information regarding your child's phonics progress, an overview sheet will be put into their reading record when they begin learning within a new coloured phonics band. This is important as it will give you the list of words and sounds that your child already knows and those that they will be learning during their upcoming phonics lessons. There is now a shared parent folder where you can access a plethora of resources to support your child's phonics learning at home as well as following the links included on the weekly newsletter - [Phonics resources for parents](#)

NB: You will need a goooglemail account to access the shared folder. Each pupil has one and it can be accessed in the following way.

Start by typing gmail or goooglemail into your search engine.

Your child's log in is as follows:

The year that they enrolled at St Nicholas

The initial of their forename

Their surname@stnicholassutton.org.uk

Examples:

Reception: 23ksmith@stnicholassutton.org.uk

Year 1: 22ksmith@stnicholassutton.org.uk

Year 2: 21ksmith@stnicholassutton.org.uk

Your child's password is: Stnicholas1

This week's attendance

Let's find out which class/es had the best attendance this week.

Year group	% attendance for w/c 18.12.23	
Reception	88.33%	BELOW 90%
Year 1	95.83%	
Year 2	88.75%	
Year 3	91.67%	
Year 4	91.67%	
Year 5	97.08%	
Year 6	88.33%	BELOW 90%

Congratulations to our festive winners - Year 5! You can negotiate your reward with Mrs Minchin after Christmas.

Lighthouse Preschool

Places are still available for pre school children. If you are interested, please contact Carole Baird on 07590411118.

Maths challenge

Thank You to everybody who has been taking part in the challenge - it's great to see maths being enjoyed by the whole family! If you would like to take part, please email Miss Smith at mathschallenge@stnicholassutton.org.uk and earn two merit marks!

Counting Beads Challenge

Abbie had between 30 and 50 beads.
She counted the beads in fours and had 2 left over.

She counted them in fives and had 1 left over.



How many beads did Abbie have?

Word of the month

As we approach a new year, we would like to hear your suggestions for our word of the month as we want children's vocabulary to be as meaningful as possible. If you would like to make a suggestion, please click on the following link. Thank you. [Word of the month suggestions 2024](#)

Young Voices

A reminder that the next choir session will be after Christmas on Wednesday 10th January.

Your Young Voices tickets have been sent via Parent Mail.

If your child is part of the Young Voices choir, please use this link to access the music room. Here, you will find backing tracks, lyric videos and the song sheets.

[Young Voices music room](#)

Amazon wish list

'A book is a gift you can open again and again' - Garrison Keillor

Many thanks to everybody who has contributed to our growing classroom library at St Nicholas - it is greatly appreciated. If you would like to purchase a book for school for your child and their friends to enjoy, the wish lists below have been updated. Thank you.

Reception

[Year 1](#)

[Year 2](#)

[Year 3](#)

[Year 4](#)

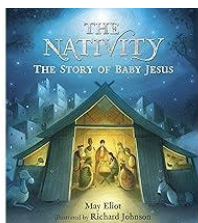
[Year 5](#)

[Year 6](#)

Phonics home links

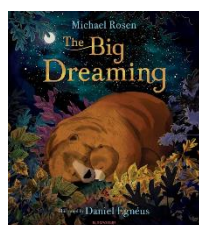
Group	Reading	Writing	Words to read
All reception children	Blending 1 Blending 2 Blending 3	b d	Word time 1.5 Word time 1.5 (1)
Miss Beamond's purple group	ow oo oo ar or air	ow oo (zoo) oo (look) ar or air	Fred talk Red words In the sun
Miss Guest's pink group	ar or air	ar or air	Fred talk Red words In the night
Mrs Trappett's and Mrs Vale's orange group	tious/cious	tious/cious	Fred talk Red words Haircuts
Mrs Maguire's yellow group	oa ew ire ear ure	oa ew ire ear ure	Fred talk Red words Robin Hood
Mrs Shephard's blue group	oa ew ire ear ure	oa ew ire ear ure	Fred talk Red words Our house

Staff book recommendations



A special recommendation for Advent from Mrs Noble-Barton, suitable for EYFS and KS1. *The Nativity by May Eliot*

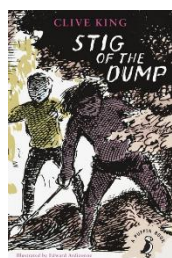
The greatest story ever told is born again in this beautiful new retelling of the nativity. The traditional feel and charming illustrations make it the perfect introduction to the Christmas story for little ones just discovering it for the first time. [Click to purchase](#)



For KS1, Miss Smith recommends... *The Big Dreaming by Michael Rosen*

The Cold is coming, and it's time for Big Bear and Little Bear to get ready for the Big Sleep: for bears sleep all winter long, and wake up in the spring. But Little Bear is worried. What if they run out of dreams during the Big Sleep? And so, Little Bear sets out bravely to find enough dreams to see them through the long winter. On his journey, he discovers dreams of happiness; dreams of homecoming; and dreams of hope. But with the Cold approaching fast, will Little Bear make it back home in time for the Big Dreaming? [Click to purchase](#)

For KS2, Mrs Rayment recommends... *Stig of the Dump by Clive King*



The Thing sitting in the corner seemed to be interested. It got up and moved towards Barney, into the light. Barney was glad to see it was Somebody after all. Funny way to dress though, he thought, rabbit-skins round the middle and no shoes or socks. Barney spends a lot of time by himself, and often goes wandering off alone. One day he is exploring by the edge of an old chalk-pit, when it gives way. Finding himself in some sort of cave, Barney is astonished to discover a 'somebody' living there: somebody with a lot of shaggy hair and two bright black eyes, wearing a rabbit skin and speaking in grunts. Barney names him Stig, and the two quickly become best friends. Of course nobody believes Barney when he tells his family all about Stig. But Barney doesn't care. He and Stig

are far too busy having a brilliant series of unforgettable adventures. [Click to purchase](#)

Dates for the diary

CHRISTMAS	HOLIDAYS	W.B	25/12/23	&	1/1/24
8/1/24					Start of Spring Term - pupils back in school
8/1/24					1.30pm Whole School Mass in Church (Baptism of the Lord)
10/1/24					Year 1 Curriculum Workshop (9am - 10.30am)
10/1/24					Year 5 virtual parent information session (Alton Castle)
30/1/24					Year 6 trip to St Chad's Cathedral
30/1/24					Year 4 Curriculum Workshop (9am - 10.30am)
23/2/24					Young Voices concert
15/4/24					INSET Day - school closed to children
4/7/24					INSET Day - school closed to children
PFA events					
22/1/24					PFA Meeting in the school hall at 5pm - ALL WELCOME
5/7/24					Summer Festival from 4pm-6pm
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God bless,
Mr Porter
Executive Principal

Mrs Noble-Barton
Head of School

Miss Smith
Assistant Head