



29th April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Gospel Virtues

*At St. Nicholas School we are growing to be **curious** about everything and **active** in our engagement in the world, changing what we can for the better.*

During this half term we are learning to become more **CURIOUS** and **ACTIVE**. As ever, staff will be looking out for pupils who are living the Gospel virtues & they will be given a wristband and have their name in the newsletter.

May is the month of Mary

As we enter the month of May, we will be dedicating prayer & devotions to our blessed mother, Mary. Pupils will be experiencing daily liturgy from 'One Life Music' and they will have the opportunity to pray Marian prayers such as The Rosary.

Let us join together in prayer as we ask Our Lady to be with us and love us as she loved her Son: **Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

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

[Click here for the Wednesday Word](#)

Alton Castle

Year 5 had a very successful residential trip to Alton Castle this week. They took part in lots of adventurous activities all with a theme of 'discipleship'; this trip really marks the start of their journey towards the Sacrament of Confirmation next year. Huge thanks to Miss Gamlen, Mrs Maguire & Miss Beamond for going with Y5 and supporting them every step of the way.

Non-Uniform day - Friday 5th May

In order to join in with the celebrations around King Charles' coronation, there will be a non-uniform day on Friday 5/5. Pupils are invited to wear items of red, white and blue clothing - there is no charge.

REMINDER: Year 3 Curriculum Workshop - Thursday 4th May - 9am to 10.30am

Parents/carers of pupils in Y3 are invited to the school hall at 9am on the above date for this year group's Curriculum Workshop. This event is designed to give parents an opportunity to work with their children to experience some of the curriculum activities and teaching techniques that are used in class every day. It would be great if each child could be represented; if parents are unable to attend then please consider sending a grandparent or another relative if possible. Thank you.

Attendance

Please remember that attendance at school is **compulsory** and **very important**. We aim for an attendance rate of 95% for each child; a pupil having just 9.5 days off in an academic year would fall beneath this target. Persistent absence is defined as an attendance rate of 90% or below.

We appreciate that holidays can be cheaper during term time however it is important to weigh up the impact of missed time on your child's education and any other time which they may have had off school due to illness.

Pupil attendance will continue to be monitored closely and, in line with our attendance policy, parents will be contacted if their child's attendance falls below acceptable figures.

Lighthouse Club email address

Please note that Lighthouse Club have changed their contact details. The email address for contacting them is now: lighthousechildcare2023@outlook.com

Peripatetic music lessons

The school office will shortly be going through the process to secure music provision at St Nicholas for the 2023-24 academic year. If your child currently has peripatetic music lessons in school we will be writing to you to see if you wish these to consider next year. Pupils who don't take lessons this year will also be given the opportunity to sign up for next year.

Google Classroom

On Friday 19th May, we will be launching Google Classroom as our new homework platform and ceasing to use Purple Mash. The children will be introduced to this in school and there will be a video tutorial and information sheet for parents. We are also hosting two drop-in sessions on **Monday 22nd and Wednesday 24th May between 9:00am and 10:30am** for any parents experiencing issues using the new format.

Until Friday 19th May, homework will continue to be set on Purple Mash.

Sports' Day

This has been scheduled for Friday 23rd June (weather permitting) and will take place at Braemar Fields which can be accessed via Braemar Drive. KS2 events will take place in the morning and EYFS/KS1 events will take place in the afternoon. More details will follow closer to the time.

Payments for clubs

At St Nicholas we are committed to offering our pupils a varied diet of extracurricular activities and clubs to choose from such as sports' clubs, Coding Club, Pudding & Pie, Junior Einsteins, Spanish & Centrestage. Unfortunately, our office staff are having to spend a considerable amount of time chasing payment from some parents on behalf of the people/companies which supply these services. If you sign up your child to a club please pay the fees on time - these are often small businesses who rely on the payments to provide the services. Thank you.

Year 4 trip to Birmingham Central Library

Unfortunately, due to disruption on the train lines, Year 4 were unable to attend their trip to Birmingham library this week. However, they took the bad news in their stride and behaved sensibly and safely despite their disappointment. The trip has been rescheduled for **Wednesday 17th May 2023**. If there are any parent helpers available to accompany us, please let the school office know.

Amazon wish list

Many thanks to all of the parents who have kindly donated books from our wish list. Your contribution to our growing love of reading at St Nicholas is greatly appreciated. For anybody who would like to purchase a book for children to enjoy, the links are as follows:

[Reception](#) [Year 1](#) [Year 2](#) [Year 3](#) [Year 4](#) [Year 5](#) [Year 6](#)

April's word of the month

Year 5 most certainly had an **exhilarating** adventure at Alton Castle this week! We now look forward to May and our **word of the month is malevolent.**

How can this be incorporated into your descriptive writing?

Recommended Reading Tree

Our reading trees are blooming beautifully in our classrooms and act as a wonderful way of sharing books with each other. Your child will be sent home with some green leaves for the summer term and please continue to record the books that they have read for pleasure.

Phonics home links

[Red 1](#)

[Green 1](#)

[Green 2](#)

[Green 3](#)



[Purple 1](#)

[Purple 2](#)

[Purple 3](#)

[Pink](#)

[Orange](#)

[Yellow 1](#)

[Yellow 2](#)

[Yellow 3](#)

[Blue 1](#)

[Blue 2](#)

[Grey](#)

Staff Book Recommendations

For KS1, Miss Beamond recommends...

Shark Lady by Jess Keating



Eugenie Clark fell in love with sharks from the first moment she saw them at the aquarium. She couldn't imagine anything more exciting than studying these graceful creatures. But Eugenie quickly discovered that many people believed sharks to be ugly and scary-and they didn't think women should be scientists.

Determined to prove them wrong, Eugenie devoted her life to learning about sharks. After earning several college degrees and making countless discoveries, Eugenie wrote herself into the history of science, earning the nickname "Shark Lady." Through her accomplishments, she taught the world that sharks were to be admired rather than feared and that women can do anything they set their minds to.

[Click to purchase](#)

For KS2, Miss Smith recommends...

The Thief who Sang Storms by Sophie Anderson



The Island of Morovia is shaped like a broken heart. The humans live on one side of the island, and the alkonosts - the bird-people - live on the other. But it wasn't always this way...

Linnet wishes she could sing magic. But magic is forbidden and she has been banished with her father to the Mournful Swamp. She misses her old life, and dreams of reuniting with her friends.

When her father is captured for taking a precious jewel, Linnet must set out on a treacherous journey. Travelling through alligator pools and sinking sands with new friends, she learns how to be brave, and discovers something even more powerful than singing magic. Something that could save her father, and heal the broken heart of her island once more...

[Click to purchase](#)

Dates for your diary

Mon 1/5	May Day - Bank Holiday
Mon 8/5	King's Coronation - Bank Holiday
Tues 9/5 - Fri 12/5	KS2 SATs Tests (Y6) to be administered
Weds 17/5	Year 4 visit to Birmingham Central Library (rescheduled)
Fri 19/5	Photographers in to take Y6 individual and group leavers' photos
Tues 6/6	Year 3 visit to Birmingham Central Library
Weds 7/6 - Fri 9/6	Year 6 residential trip to Blackwell Adventure
Thurs 6/7	MAC INSET Day - school closed to pupils

God bless,

Mr Porter
Executive Principal

Mrs Noble-Barton
Head of School



St. John Paul II Multi Academy

Registered Office: c/o Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Earlsbury Gardens, Birmingham, B20 3AE

E: enquiry@sjp2.net | T: 0121 354 6270 | W: johnpaulii.co.uk

Catholic Senior Executive Leader (CSEL): Mr M Emery

Company House Registered No. 08706247

