



## St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School

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Executive Principal: Mr N Porter

*Love, live and learn with Jesus Christ.*

Dear Parents & Carers,

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### Remembrance

As November is the month of Holy Souls, we continue to pray for our beloved dead. The remembrance board in our entrance area is growing and is a beautiful tribute to our deceased loved ones. If you wish to pay a visit to the board to spend a moment in quiet prayer, you are welcome to do so after drop off or before pick up.

***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. Let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.***

### Wednesday Word

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

[Click here for the WEDNESDAY WORD](#)

### Virtues Wristbands

This half term we are focusing on living out the Gospel Virtues of **ATTENTIVE & DISCERNING**. Pupils are growing to be **attentive** to their experience and to their vocation; and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.

The following pupils have been seen or heard living these virtues this week and have received a virtues wristband: Francesca (Y3), Sienna (Y3), Freddie T (Y1), Isla (Y3) & Nancy (Y3).

### Reading records

We are passionate about every child enjoying reading at St Nicholas and one way that you, as parents and carers, can support this is by ensuring that your child reads at home. Whilst your child is participating in the phonics programme in KS1, they will read their phonics book only and their reading for pleasure book, which they cannot yet read themselves, is for parents/carers to read and enjoy with your child. Once your child finishes the phonics programme, they will bring home a reading book for pleasure that they can read themselves. We have invested lots of time and money into our classroom libraries and each has a selection of books that are varied and age appropriate. Your child should be reading this book every day for at least 15 minutes. **Once they have read this, please sign and date their reading record. Their reading record will then be checked by the class teacher.** If you have any concerns about your child's reading, please note them in the diary and the class teacher will respond. If your child is not reading at home, teachers will address this with them and, in the first instance, they will be encouraged to find a book that interests them. If the problem persists then parents will be contacted. We hugely appreciate your support with this.

### Rudolph Run - raising money for Birmingham Hospice (formerly John Taylor)

As we have done in previous years, we will be supporting the Birmingham Hospice (formerly John Taylor) by taking part in the annual Rudolph Run.

Hettie the Hedgehog has visited the children to introduce the fundraiser and explain how important the money that they raise is in supporting patients in their hospices.

*'By raising £53 this December, your school could pay for a bereavement support session for someone who has lost a loved one; £157 would cover the cost of an OT home visit to help aid independence or even just £20 will pay for a teddy bear containing a voice recording of a terminally ill person which can be treasured by loved ones when they have died. Let's take the reins and help local families living with a terminal diagnosis, by providing the support they need to have the best Christmas possible!'*

Every child will be taking part by running laps around the playground wearing their reindeer antlers and you can sponsor your child by using our [Just Giving page](#).

We totally understand the financial pressures that this time of year can bring but even a small donation can make a huge difference.

### Parent helpers for trips

We are very grateful to any parent who attends a school trip as a parent helper; we know that you are busy and appreciate your support. Just a quick reminder that when you attend a trip as a helper, you are an extension of the staff team and a crucial part of the Risk Assessment process. This means that you will be briefed before the trip on how best to help **all children** and that you will be required to work with other children aside from your own. In fact, at times, you may not even be placed on a coach or in a group with your own child. Thank you for your understanding of this.

One more small request, our office staff are getting a lot of phone calls & emails offering help as soon as the date of a trip is published. It would help us greatly if you would wait until a parentmail has gone out asking for help and respond to this; this means that we can keep track of who has offered and we can work within the RA process to ensure that we have the correct number of adults. Thank you in advance.

### Achievement Assembly

Please note that there will be an Achievement Assembly, Irish Dancing Club or Hurling Club on Friday 24/11 to enable the hall to be set up for the Christmas Fair. All three events will resume on Friday 1/12.

### PFA Christmas Fair 25th November

Our PFA volunteers are working very hard to set up a wonderful Christmas Fair in the school hall on Saturday 25/11 from 2pm-4pm. Please try to attend, there will be various stalls, food & other festive activities. Father Allen has kindly agreed to suspend the parking cameras for the duration of the fair so the church car park can be used. Let's all get into the festive spirit!

**A reminder that 22/11 is Silly Sock Day in return for bottle donations for the fair.**

\*Date for your diary! The next PFA meeting will be held in the school hall at 5pm on Tuesday 5th December. All are welcome!

### Christmas Bake Off - a message from the PFA

To get us all in the Christmas Spirit, we are inviting children to present us with their best Christmas bakes for the Christmas Fayre! It can be a cake, cupcakes or even a gingerbread house! The entries will need to be brought into school on the morning of **FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER**, ready to be judged and sold at the Christmas Fayre the next day! We will need you to label the bake with your child's name, year group and all the ingredients used as we do have children with allergies - therefore **NO** nuts, fresh cream or fresh fruits to be used please! The best bake will win a **HUGE** prize of a one to one cake decorating masterclass with our own award winning cake artist, Daisy and Fred! Let's baaaaake!

### Year 6 Curriculum Workshop & SATs overview - Thursday 23/11/23

A quick reminder that parents of Y6 pupils are invited to the school hall from 9am to 10.30am this Thursday (23/11). Mrs Noble-Barton will present an overview of the statutory assessment arrangements for the end of KS2 and then the pupils will join us for some curriculum sessions led by Mr Reid. If you can not attend this then please consider sending a grandparent or other relative. We look forward to seeing you there.

### 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](mailto:mathschallenge@stnicholassutton.org.uk) and earn two merit marks!

### Space Monster Challenge

Space monsters have landed on our planet!  
Some of the monsters have 2 eyes and some have 3 eyes.  
There are 28 eyes altogether.



How many monsters have 3 eyes?  
How many monsters have 2 eyes?

## INSET Days

We have two INSET days left for this academic year, they will be:

- Monday 15th April
- Thursday 4th July

## Centrestage Recital - 30th November 2023

Any child who takes Centrestage lessons through school is invited to take part in a recital on Thursday 30/11/23. Parents are also invited to attend. The recital begins at 4pm and lasts for approximately 45 minutes in the school hall. Pupils involved will not be dismissed at 3.30pm, they will have a final 30 minute rehearsal with Centrestage staff. If your child takes part in Centrestage but cannot attend the recital, please drop us an email to enquiry@ to let us know. Thank you.

## Dates of EYFS/KS1 Nativity Plays & KS2 Advent Prayer Services

- EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 will be performing their Nativity play on **Tuesday 12th December at 9.15am and Wednesday 13th December at 9.15am**. Ticket information will be sent closer to the time. Two tickets per family (can be taken as 1 per performance if desired) will be made available to you.

Feedback from our recent Catholic Life, RE & Collective Worship parent survey has shown us that many of our parents would like to join in the prayer life of our school even more. This is fantastic! To this end, please see below invitations from KS2 to join them in Advent prayer:

- Parents & grandparents of pupils in Years 3 and 4 are invited to join them in an Advent Prayer Service **at 2.30pm on Tuesday 19th December**. This is not a ticketed event.

- Parents & grandparents of pupils in Years 5 and 6 are invited to join them in an Advent Prayer Service **at 2.30pm on Thursday 21st December**. This is not a ticketed event.

## This week's attendance

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

Year group	% attendance for w/c 13.11.23
Reception	98.75%
Year 1	95.42%
Year 2	99.17%
Year 3	97.08%
Year 4	96.67%
Year 5	92.5% BELOW 95%
Year 6	96.67%

Well done to Year 2 who are this week's winners. You can negotiate a reward with Mrs Burton.

## Young Voices

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](#)

## Word of the month

# abandoned

Definition: completely leave; desert

*Deep in the murky, abandoned forest stood an ancient tree with a gnarled trunk and intertwined branches – it looked as lonely as starless sky.*

### Synonyms:

Deserted, forsaken,  
stranded, rejected,  
unoccupied,  
uninhabited



### Antonyms:

Inhabit, use, frequent,  
keep, claim.

## 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

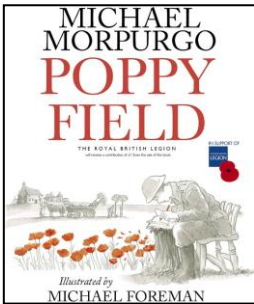
Group	Reading	Writing	Words to read
Mrs Bowen's lilac group	<a href="#">d t i n</a>	<a href="#">d t i n</a>	<a href="#">Fred talk - d</a> <a href="#">Fred talk - t</a> <a href="#">Fred talk - i</a> <a href="#">Fred talk - n</a> <a href="#">Fred games</a>
Mrs Connor's lilac group	<a href="#">s m d t i</a>	<a href="#">s m d t i</a>	<a href="#">Fred talk - s</a> <a href="#">Fred talk - m</a> <a href="#">Fred talk - d</a> <a href="#">Fred talk - t</a> <a href="#">Fred talk - i</a> <a href="#">Fred games</a>
Miss Beamond's purple group	<a href="#">ay ee igh</a> <a href="#">ow oo oo</a>	<a href="#">ay ee igh</a> <a href="#">ow oo oo</a>	<a href="#">Ken's cap</a> <a href="#">Fred talk</a> <a href="#">Red words</a>
Miss Guest's pink group	<a href="#">ow oo oo</a>	<a href="#">ow oo oo</a>	<a href="#">Fred talk</a> <a href="#">Red words</a> <a href="#">Tab the cat</a>
Mrs Trappett's and Mrs Vale's orange group	<a href="#">i-e o-e u-e</a>	<a href="#">i-e o-e u-e</a>	<a href="#">I think I want to be a bee</a> <a href="#">Red words</a> <a href="#">Fred talk</a>

Mrs Maguire's yellow group	<a href="#">i-e o-e</a>	<a href="#">i-e o-e</a>	<a href="#">The duckchick</a> <a href="#">Off sick</a> <a href="#">Red words</a> <a href="#">Fred talk</a>
Mrs Shephard's blue group	<a href="#">i-e o-e</a>	<a href="#">i-e o-e</a>	<a href="#">The poor goose</a> <a href="#">Red words</a> <a href="#">Fred talk</a>

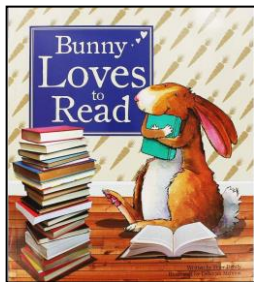
### Staff book recommendations

A special recommendation by Mrs Noble-Barton for the season of Remembrance (suitable for all pupils):

*Poppy Field* by Michael Morpurgo



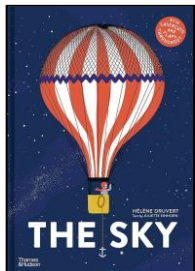
In Flanders' fields, young Martens knows his family's story, for it is as precious as the faded poem hanging in their home. From a poor girl comforting a grieving soldier, to an unexpected meeting of strangers, to a father's tragic death many decades after treaties were signed, war has shaped Martens's family in profound ways - it is their history as much as any nation's. They remember. They grieve. They honour the past. [Click to purchase](#)



Recommendation for KS1 by Mrs Connor *Bunny loves to read* by Peter Bentley

Buster Bunny loved books. He read stories of princes, and pirates and witches and wizards...he read book about trains and dinosaurs too. You read so many books your head will explode. A wonderful picture book with a fun message for young children to enjoy.

[Click to purchase](#)



Recommendation for KS2 by Miss Smith *The Sky* by Helene Druvert

This gorgeous, large-format book is filled with clever cutouts that take readers on a soaraway journey up, up and away through the clouds, through the atmosphere and to the planets, the stars and beyond. On the way they'll learn about birds, insects and pollination, witness a tornado and an eclipse, and see all kinds of flying machines.

[Click to purchase](#)

### Dates for the diary

22/11/23

Silly Sock Day - bottle donations to PFA Christmas Fair

23/11/23

Year 6 Curriculum Workshop - 9am to 10.30am

23/11/23

Year 5 theatre trip

(Sat) 25/11/23

PFA Christmas Fair in school hall - 2pm to 4pm

30/11/23

4pm - Recital involving all pupils who take 'Centrestage' lessons

5/12/23

KS1 theatre trip

5/12/23

5pm - PFA meeting in the hall

7/12/23

Reception Class Curriculum Workshop - 9am to 10am

12/12/23

EYFS & KS1 Nativity Play at 9.15am - TICKET ONLY

13/12/23

EYFS & KS1 Nativity Play at 9.15am - TICKET ONLY

15/12/23

Last Achievement Assembly of the term

19/12/23

Years 3 & 4 Advent Prayer Service - parents invited - 2.30pm

21/12/23

Years 5 & 6 Advent Prayer Service - parents invited - 2.30pm

22/12/23

End of Autumn Term - last day in school for pupils

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS W.B 25/12/23 & 1/1/24**

8/1/24  
23/2/24  
15/4/24  
4/7/24

Start of Spring Term - pupils back in school  
Young Voices concert  
INSET Day - school closed to children  
INSET Day - school closed to children

**PFA events**

25/11/23  
20/12/23  
5/7/24  
-

Christmas Fair from 2pm-4pm  
Christmas Disco from 3.30pm-5pm  
Summer Festival from 4pm-6pm

God bless,  
Mr Porter  
Executive Principal

Mrs Noble-Barton  
Head of School

Miss Smith  
Assistant Head



**St. John Paul II Multi Academy**

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