



*Love, live and learn with Jesus Christ.*

---

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

**God who Speaks**

**"As you wish that others would do to you, do so to them." Luke 6.**

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes, hearts and minds to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our work and the courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our school. Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year!

**Safeguarding**

All staff at St Nicholas are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. **If you ever have a safeguarding concern about any pupil, please do not hesitate to contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads. Our DSLs are Mr Porter, Mrs Noble-Barton & Miss Ramsden.**

Each half term, a member of the safeguarding team from across the St John Paul II MAC will compose a 'Safeguarding Newsletter' on an important and pertinent topic which will be shared with you via Parentmail. These newsletters are designed to inform and empower you to further guide and protect your child/ren. The first of these newsletters has been written by Mrs Noble-Barton and will be sent out next week.

**Mass**

On Friday 10th September, there will be a whole school Mass to mark the start of the new academic year. This will take place in church at 9.15am. All adults will be required to wear a mask as will all pupils in Key Stage 2 under the church's Risk Assessment. If you have a mask that you could send in for your KS2 child to wear this would be greatly appreciated.

Parents are more than welcome to attend this Mass. You must wear a face covering and you will be asked to sign in under track and trace when you arrive. We look forward to being able to celebrate the Eucharist as a school family.

**Collection arrangements from Monday 6th September**

We will no longer be operating staggered start and finish times for the school day. From Monday 6th September, pupils in each year group should **arrive at school no earlier than 8.50am and no later than 9am.**

**Collecting a child from Reception, Year 1 or Year 2:** as before COVID restrictions, please walk through the infant gate and collect your child from their outside classroom door (Reception and Year 1) or from the KS1 playground (Year 2).

**Collecting a child from Years 3, 4, 5 or 6:** there are some changes to the way we will be dismissing KS2 pupils. At 3.30pm the Key Stage 2 gate will be opened and you will be invited to collect your child from the playground. Years 3-6 will be lining up with their teachers and will be ready for you to collect. Once your child's teacher or TA has dismissed them to you please leave the playground area promptly so that it doesn't become congested. If you wish to chat with other parents this can be done at the front of school and not on the playground.

The aim of this new system is to ensure that there is enough room for KS2 staff to be sure that they are dismissing pupils safely.

Staff members from all year groups are tasked with dismissing pupils safely. We ask for your patience and cooperation with this. Thank you.

### **Attendance**

The start of a new school year is a great opportunity to remind you that we strive for high levels of attendance for each pupil at St Nicholas. The correct place for a child to be on a school day is at school unless they are unwell.

Government guidance classifies any pupil with attendance lower than 90% as a 'persistent absentee'. 90% attendance is roughly equivalent to having half a day off per week and translates to four weeks of missed education each academic year.

We closely monitor pupil attendance and will be communicating with parents if a pupil's attendance slips below the 90% mark.

If you need help or support with your child's attendance, please speak with Mr Porter or Mrs Noble-Barton.

### **Uniform**

We are looking forward to seeing pupils looking smart in their uniforms for the beginning of this academic year. Summer uniform can be worn until October half term after which winter uniform must be worn.

Please note that footwear should be black, sensible and not a trainer.

It is very helpful if your child's uniform has their name written, sewn or stamped into it. I'm sure you can appreciate the difficulty of looking for a lost item of uniform when it is unnamed!

If your child is taking part in a P.E. based after school activity, please note that **school P.E. kit must be worn**. Pupils will then get changed back into their uniform before being dismissed. If the club is taking place outside during colder weather then pupils can wear their school jumper over their P.E. shirt and a pair of plain, navy joggers.

Pencil cases and stationery can be brought from home if pupils wish but this is not a necessity as equipment will be provided. Please note that KS2 pupils who use pens must not use biro. Blue 'Berol' handwriting pens will be provided.

### **Year 3 and Year 6 - enrolling your child for Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation**

If your child is in Year 3 or Year 6 please ensure that you have completed the appropriate application forms at <https://www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk/confirmation.html> or <https://www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk/first-holy-communion.html>. The timetable for preparation for all sacraments can also be found on the Parish website.

### **Friday afternoon Celebration Assemblies**

We are very much looking forward to resuming these special Celebration Assemblies 'in person' from Friday 17th September. They will take place each Friday afternoon at 2.45pm.

In order to keep numbers to a minimum, please only attend the assembly if your child is receiving a certificate (of course other family members are also invited).

You will receive a Parentmail on a Wednesday afternoon if your child is receiving a certificate that Friday. It will not be possible to 'roll over' certificates for another week.

If you have a certificate, medal or trophy from outside of school which your child would like presented in assembly then please ensure this is brought to the school office, in a labelled bag/envelope, by the end of Wednesday for assembly that week. If you wish to email any details to be read out in assembly then please email [assembly@stnicholassutton.org.uk](mailto:assembly@stnicholassutton.org.uk). Thank you.

### **Boldmere library Summer Reading Challenge**

A reminder from our local library that the Summer Reading Challenge finished on Saturday 11th September. If your child has been reading and reviewing books over the summer please encourage them to take their reviews to the library before this date. Boldmere library is now open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:30am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm.

### **Wednesday word**

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/summer-holidays?pid=MTA101634&v=35.16>

**Dates for your diary**

2nd September INSET Day - school closed to children  
3rd September INSET Day - school closed to children  
**Monday 6th September** First day of Autumn Term for pupils  
W.b. 6th September Reception Class home visits  
10th September Whole school Mass in church at 9.15am  
W.b. 13th September Reception Class in part time  
W.b. 20th September Reception class start full time  
24th September School photographers in to take class photos

God bless,

Mr Porter  
Executive Principal

Mrs Noble-Barton  
Acting Head of School

Miss Ramsden  
Acting Vice Principal

