



17th February 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

End of Spring 1

As we come to the end of the first half of the Spring Term, we reflect on the fact that we are halfway through this academic year. It is wonderful to see the academic, social & spiritual progress that children continue to make. Wishing you a restful half term break. We will see all pupils on Monday 27th February.

Saying 'goodbye' and 'hello'

Yesterday was bittersweet as we said goodbye to two members of our school community.

We wish Mrs Finn-Taylor well as she departs St Nicholas for a job in a private school. We thank Mrs Finn-Taylor for all she has done for the pupils of our school and pray for health and happiness for her and her family.

One of our Y5 pupils, Darragh, also said goodbye yesterday as he leaves St Nicholas to embark on an adventure with his family as they move to Ireland! Darragh is a wonderful young man and we wish him all the best for the future - keep in touch!

After half term we welcome Mrs Burton (Mon-Weds) & Ms Green (Thurs-Fri) into our Y2 class.

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

[Click here for the Wednesday Word](#)

Gospel Virtues

During this half term we are focusing on becoming more ELOQUENT and TRUTHFUL. The following pupils have earned eloquent & truthful wristbands this week: Isla (Y2), Milo (Y2), Clara (Y6), Finn B (Y6) & Elspeth (Y1). Next half term we will turn our focus to the Gospel virtues of LEARNED and WISE.

Ash Wednesday (22/2/23)

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent and, this year, falls in half term. **Masses at St Nicholas Church will take place at 10am and 7pm on this day** - it would be wonderful for all children to attend Mass and receive their ashes.

During Lent, the pupils of St Nicholas will be taking part in daily acts of worship led by Dan & Emily of 'One Life Music'. As the first few days of Lent fall in half term for us, Dan & Emily have made the first clips available to be watched from home - the links are below. Please watch these with your child or as a whole family and reflect on what you will be doing during this Lenten season to prepare yourself for the death and resurrection of our Lord.

<https://youtu.be/UKLX4y7w5CI> (To be watched on Ash Wednesday - 22.2.23)

<https://youtu.be/i6iM-Jliq20> (To be watched on Thursday 23.2.23)

https://youtu.be/da_h2OusfM8 (To be watched on Friday 24.2.23)

Internet Safety - Roblox

Attached to this email you will find a parent guide to **Roblox**. We have noted during class RSHE discussions this week, an increase in the number of pupils who are using Roblox. Parents and carers must be aware of the fact that any member of the public can upload games to this platform and that there is a direct messaging function which can be disabled. Please see the attached guide for advice.

Recommended reading tree

The leaves on the recommended reading trees are growing and it is wonderful to see our children enjoying such a wide range of texts. Spare leaves are available from class teachers - each time your child enjoys a book for pleasure, please note this down on a leaf and this can be added to our classroom trees.

Administering medications to children during school time

We appreciate that, from time to time, pupils may need medication to be administered by school staff. In an effort to help you keep your child's attendance up, members of school staff (specifically Mrs Nutbrown & Mrs Matthews in the school office) agree to take on the responsibility of giving prescribed medication to children. Please do all that you can to ease the burden on our office staff. You can do this by:

- Ensuring that you have filled in a medications form which you can obtain from the school office. Please be as specific as possible on this form about dosage, timings and storage of medication.
- Making sure that medication has a pharmacy label clearly showing your child's name
- If you are able to come to school to administer medication then please do, so particularly if this needs to be done more than once in the school day

There are quite a few schools in the local area who do not ask their staff to give out medication; they have a rule whereby parents have to come to school to give medication to their own children. We do not want to follow this route as we know that this would be difficult for working parents so please do all that you can to help us in this matter. Thank you.

Pyjama Day for Rare Dementia Support - thank you

Last Friday's pyjama day raised £174.53 for Rare Dementia UK. Thank you for your support and thanks to Darcey in Y4 for organising.

DEC - Turkey & Syria appeal

Tuesday's 'wear red' fundraiser raised nearly £200 to go towards the appeal set up for those affected by the earthquake in Turkey & Syria. Thank you for your support and to Anna-Arissa in Y5 for organising.

World Book Day 2023

World Book Day celebrations will take place on Monday 6th March 2023. Reading will be celebrated with dance workshops linked to novels and a variety of activities during English lessons such as a 'teacher swap' where teachers read to a different class. Additionally, the Scholastic Book Fair will be open (Mon 6/3 -Fri 10/3) outside of school at 3:30pm. The £1 book token that children receive from school can now be used towards the purchase of books over £2.99 at the fair. Children are also invited to take part in our 'book in a box' competition; details of this were sent out earlier this week via parentmail.

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. A particular thanks to the Dunn family who have purchased a selection of books for the classroom libraries of Years 2 and 6!

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](#)

Campfire stories - Years 5 & 6 - Wednesday 1st March 2023

Following on from the success of 'stories after dark' with Years 3 & 4, it is now the turn of upper KS2 pupils. Children in Years 5 and 6 are invited back into school at 5:30pm on Wednesday 1st March 2023. We will light the campfire for children to sit around to share stories with their friends, have a cup of hot chocolate and toast some marshmallows. The teachers and reading ambassadors will read to them too. Your child will need to wear warm clothing and can bring a blanket if they wish too. They will need to be collected from the KS2 playground, via the KS2 gate at 6:45pm.

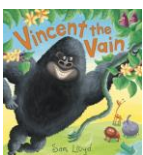
February's word of the month

February's word of the month is bewildering. Please encourage your child to use this to improve their writing and speech.

Staff Book Recommendations

For KS1, Mrs Noble-Barton recommends...

Vincent the Vain by Sam Lloyd



'Well, hello and welcome, I'm Vincent, that's me. The most gorgeous gorilla you'll ever see. All of me's fabulous, but the bit I love best ...is my gloriously hairy, furry chest!' When Vincent's celebrated chest hair starts to dwindle and fall out, his verve for life takes an unexpected sky dive, too. But his friends soon find a way to put the cheer back into Vincent's world view and the way he sees himself.

[Click to purchase](#)

For KS2, Mrs Shepherd recommends...

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett



When Mary Lennox is sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle, everybody says she is the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen. It is true, too. Mary is pale, spoilt and quite contrary. But she is also horribly lonely. Then one day she hears about a garden in the grounds of the Manor that has been kept locked and hidden for years.

And when a friendly robin helps Mary find the key, she discovers the most magical place anyone could imagine...

[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
Weds 22/2	Ash Wednesday - the beginning of Lent
Monday 27/2	Second half of Spring Term begins for pupils
Tuesday 28/2	Y1 curriculum workshop 9am
Thurs 2/3	Y1 trip to Warwick Castle
Thurs 2/3 & Fri 3/3	Internet safety workshops for the whole school
Friday 3/3	CAFOD Family Fast Day
Monday 6/3	World Book Day
Mon 6/3 to Fri 10/3	Book Fair in school
Tuesday 7/3	Y4 curriculum workshop 9am
Wednesday 15/3	Year 6 Confirmation Exhibition
Fri 24/3 @ 7pm	Sacrament of Confirmation being conferred by Archbishop Bernard Longley
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

To clarify, St Nicholas pupils' last day in school before breaking up for the Easter holidays will be Thursday 6th April as per the dates which have been long advertised on our school website. Pupils' first day back in school is Monday 24th April 2023. As ever, school term dates can be found here [Term Dates | St Nicholas \(stnicholassutton.org.uk\)](#)

God bless,

Mr Porter
Executive Principal

Mrs Noble-Barton
Head of School

