



21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

### **End of year Mass**

This morning we celebrated Mass as the whole school in church to mark the end of this academic year. During the Mass, Father Allen challenged us to use the six weeks of our holidays to live out the virtues listed in the reading we heard during Mass. These are:

Compassion

Kindness

Humility

Gentleness

Patience

Love

**What would our lives (and the lives of others) be like if we lived out these virtues? A challenge for us over the holidays.**

### **Gospel Virtues**

This week pupils have been introduced to the focus Gospel Virtues for this half term: INTENTIONAL & PROPHETIC.

The following pupils have been awarded wristbands this week as they have been seen living the focus virtues: Ethan (Y1), Georgia O (Y1), Annie (Y6), Adam B (Y6) & Ethan (Y1).

### **Goodbye and Good Luck**

Today we said an emotional goodbye to our Year 6 class as they completed their last day as primary school pupils. Year 6 led us in a fantastic Leavers' Assembly which had laughter, drama and lots of tears! We say to Year 6 'goodbye' and 'good luck'. We will pray for you as we hope you will for us.

For many families, today marks the end of their association with our school as their youngest or only child finishes. So we say a particular farewell to:

*The Brennan family, The Comerford family, The Doogan family, The Douglas family, The Fowler family, The Holland family, The Jackson family, The Lavin family, The Maer family, The Mullally family, The O'Rourke (Jacob) family, The Paul family, The Tunstall family, The Walmsley family & The Walsh family.*

Elsewhere in school, we say goodbye to the O'Reilly Kee family who are starting a new adventure; we will miss them greatly. We also say goodbye to Jonathan in Year 2 and Ava in Year 3 who won't be returning to us in September. All of these pupils take with them our love & prayers. Keep in touch!

### **Thank you**

On behalf of all staff of St Nicholas school please accept our thanks for the many kind cards, gifts and good wishes which staff have received at the end of this academic year. There is never any need or expectation for gifts but receiving thanks and good wishes means the world to us. Thank you.

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

[Click here for the Wednesday Word](#)

### DSL email address

A reminder that we have a dedicated email address for anyone to share safeguarding concerns to ask for information or advice from a school DSL. You can contact [dsl@stnicholassutton.org.uk](mailto:dsl@stnicholassutton.org.uk) at any time, including during school holidays.

Please note, this email address is not for immediate action. If you think that a child is in immediate danger you must take action by contacting Children's Advice and Support and Service on 0121 308 1888 (0121 675 4806 out of hours) or dialling 999.

### INSETs 2023/24

The following INSET days have been set for next academic year:

Monday 4th September

Tuesday 5th September

Friday 27th October

Monday 6th November

Thursday 4th July

### Summer Reading Challenge

Each year, St Nicholas takes part in the Summer Reading Challenge, where children are encouraged to read six books of any genre throughout the summer holidays. It's the UK's biggest reading for pleasure programme for children aged 4 to 11, delivered via public libraries. Children can set a reading goal and borrow books of their choice during the summer, collecting special stickers and incentives. Library staff and volunteers will help children to discover new books that suit their interests and reading level and run a programme of free themed activities in the library. Children who complete the Challenge are presented with a certificate and a medal.

For children who took part in 2022:

77% read more over the summer holidays

75% improved their reading skills

71% felt more confident about their reading

To take part, please visit Boldmere library or go online to: [www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk). For further information, please visit <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/school-zone-src>.

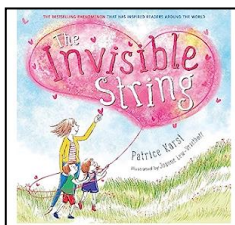
### Reading rewards

Congratulations to Jacob in Year 5 and Hugo in Year 2 who took part in Miss Smith's reading challenge - they completed 21 different reading activities throughout the year - amazing! Another congratulations to Niamh (Y4) and Connie (Y1) who won the recommended reading tree raffle for writing a book they had read and enjoyed on a leaf to share with their friends. All 4 pupils received an Amazon gift voucher.

### Phonics home links - Six weeks can make a huge difference!

Please see the separate document sent out via Parent Mail with links to the Virtual Classroom.

### Staff book recommendations



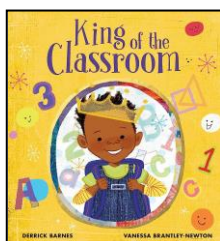
For new reception children,

**Mrs Bowen recommends... *Invisible String* by Patrice Karst**

"That's impossible!" the children insist, but still they want to know more: "What kind of string?" The answer is the simple truth that binds us all: *An Invisible String made of love. Even though you can't see it with your eyes, you can feel it deep in your heart, and know that you are always connected to the ones you love. Does everybody have an Invisible String? How far does it reach? Does it ever go away?*

[Click to purchase](#)

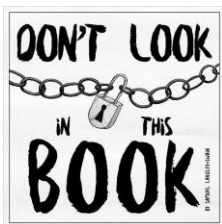
For soon to be Year 1 children,



**Miss Guest recommends... *King of the Classroom* by Derrick Barnes**

Starting kindergarten is a big milestone - and the hero of this story is ready to make his mark! He's dressed himself, eaten a pile of pancakes, and can't wait to be part of a whole

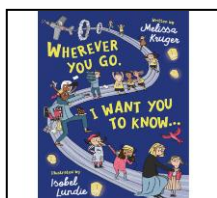
new kingdom of kids. The day will be jam-packed, but he's up to the challenge, taking new experiences in stride with his infectious enthusiasm! And afterward, he can't wait to tell his proud parents all about his achievements and then wake up to start another day. [Click to purchase](#)



For soon to be Year 2 children,

**Mrs Burton and Miss Smith recommend... *Don't Look in this Book* by Samuel Langley-Swain**

"Don't Look in this Book! Well, maybe just this once! Discover a world of imagination; from aliens to arctic ninjas, and everything in between! [Click to purchase](#)



For soon to be Year 3 children

**Mrs Rehman recommends... *Wherever you go, I want you to know* by Melissa Kruger**

Kids love to dream about what they might do when they grow up: jobs they might have, places they might go, people they might meet. As children embark on life's journey with all their potential and aspirations, use this beautifully illustrated, rhyming storybook to tell them your biggest dream - that whatever they do and wherever they go, they will love and

follow

Jesus.

[Click to purchase](#)

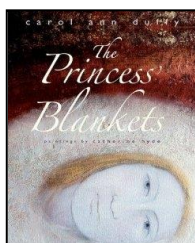


For soon to be Year 4 children

**Miss Godfrey recommends... *The Land of Roar* by Jenny McLachlan**

When Arthur and Rose were little, they were heroes in the Land of Roar, an imaginary world that they found by climbing through the folding bed in their grandad's attic. Roar was filled with things they loved - dragons, mermaids, ninja wizards and adventure - as well as things that scared them (including a very creepy scarecrow... Now the twins are eleven, Roar is just a memory. But when they help Grandad clean out the attic, Arthur is horrified as Grandad is pulled into the folding bed and vanishes. Is he playing a joke? Or is Roar... real?

[Click to purchase](#)



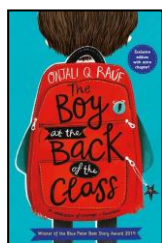
For soon to be Year 5 children,

**Mrs Minchin recommends... *The Princess' Blankets* by Carol Ann Duffy**

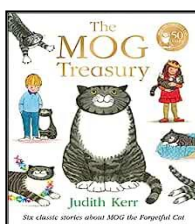
A princess cannot get warm, no matter what is done for her. A stranger with cold eyes brings her the earth's blanket, the forest's blanket, the ocean's blanket and more, but nothing can warm the cold princess. Then, one day, a musician wanders into the land, and her heart melts with warmth and love. [Click to purchase](#)

For soon to be Year 6 children

**Mr Reid recommends. . *The Boy at the Back of the Classroom* by Onjali Q Rauf**



There used to be an empty chair at the back of my class, but now a new boy called Ahmet is sitting in it. He's nine years old (just like me), but he's very strange. He never talks and never smiles and doesn't like sweets - not even lemon sherbets, which are my favourite! But then I learned the truth: Ahmet really isn't very strange at all. He's a refugee who's run away from a War. A real one. With bombs and fires and bullies that hurt people. And the more I find out about him, the more I want to help. That's where my best friends Josie, Michael and Tom come in. Because you see, together we've come up with a plan... [Click to purchase](#)

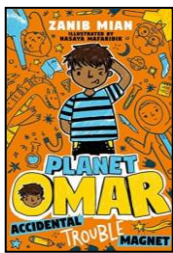


For KS1 children

**Mrs Burling-Finn recommends... *The Mog Treasury* by Judith Kerr**

Everyone's favourite family cat first appeared fifty years ago and is loved by children everywhere for her funny and warm-hearted escapades. From the creator of *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* comes six delightful family adventures about a really remarkable cat! Mog the Forgetful Cat is the classic picture book story of a very forgetful cat, her family, and a very

exciting adventure, and you can celebrate fifty years of Mog with this beautiful hardback story collection of her funniest family adventures. [Click to purchase](#)



For Years 3 & 4

**Mr Porter recommends... Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet by Zanib Mian**

My parents decided it would be a good idea to move house AND move me to a new school at the same time. As if I didn't have a hard enough time staying out of trouble at home, now I've also got to try and make new friends. What's worse, the class bully seems to think I'm the perfect target. At least Eid's around the corner which means a feast (YAY) and presents (DOUBLE YAY). Well, as long as I can stay in Mum and Dad's good books long enough...

[Click to purchase](#)



For Years 5 & 6

**Mrs Noble-Barton recommends... Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce**

Liam is too big for his boots. And his football strip. And his school blazer. But being super-sized height-wise has its advantages: he's the only eleven-year-old to ever ride the G-force-defying Cosmic roller coaster - or to be offered the chance to drive a Porsche. Long-legged Liam makes a giant leap for boy-kind by competing with a group of adults for the chance to go into space. Is Liam the best boy for the job? Sometimes being big isn't all about being a grown-up.

[Click to purchase](#)

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

