



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 1st December 2023

Advent

This weekend we mark the beginning of the Season of Advent. During the Achievement Assembly today, Mrs Noble-Barton challenged all children to attend Mass during each of the four weekends during Advent. We do so many secular activities to prepare for Christmas such as shopping, putting up the tree, wrapping presents etc. What do we actually do to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ at Christmas? If Mass hasn't been a regular part of your weekend, why not use this Advent season as an opportunity to fulfil yourself spiritually by going to Mass.

Feast of St Nicholas

A busy week! This coming Wednesday (6th December) is the feast day of our patronal saint, Nicholas. The whole school will be attending Mass in church at 1.30pm - you are most welcome to attend. To celebrate their first St Nicholas Day, Mrs Bowen has invited pupils in EYFS to wear an item of red with their school uniform on this day, a colour associated with St Nicholas.

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. Emily, Skye & Lene-Kate will get a wristband next week for their great efforts today.

Year 6 girls' cake sale - well done!

Thank you for supporting the cake sale run by Lene-Kate, Emily & Skye today. They raised a brilliant £172.90 for Crisis at Christmas. These girls are truly living out our Gospel Virtues by being attentive to the needs of others and discerning in their actions to help.

Staffing news

It is with sadness that we announce that two much loved members of staff will be leaving St Nicholas at the end of this term.

Mrs Jane Burton has been a class teacher at St Nicholas for 14 years and is currently teaching Year 2 Monday-Wednesday. Mrs Burton will be taking a break from teaching (she's too young to retire just yet!) for personal reasons. We wish her the very best of health & happiness. Mrs Burton has taught many pupils across the school and shows love & care to the pupils and staff of the school.

Year 2 parents have been communicated with separately regarding the arrangements for Year 2 from the Spring Term.

Mrs Jane Nutbrown has worked in our School Office for a total of 8 years. Mrs Nutbrown has run the school office with precision, compassion and humour; she has expertise in admissions and many other areas of school administration. We wish her the very best as she moves on to a new chapter in her life which includes becoming a Grandma!

Reverse Advent Calendar

As part of our Advent preparations we will be seeking to look after those more vulnerable than us during the Advent and Christmas seasons. We will again be doing our 'Reverse Advent Calendar' where, instead of getting a present, we GIVE one. Please be as generous as you can afford to be. Items can be brought into classrooms. The collection schedule is as follows:

Week	Year group/s responsible for donating	Items needed
PLEASE DON'T SEND ANYTHING PERISHABLE!		
W/c 4th December 2023	EYFS & Year 1	Toiletries (deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo, shower gel, sanitary items etc)
W/c 11th December 2023	Years 2, 3 & 4	Tins & packets (tinned food, meat, soup and packets of pasta, tea, coffee etc)
W/c 18th December 2023	Years 5 & 6	Treats (mince pies, Christmas pudding, chocolates, wine, new toys)

Thank you in advance for your donations which will go to Bethany Foodbank.

Rudolph Run

[Just Giving Link - Rudolph Run](#)

This Thursday (7/12), all pupils will be donning their antlers and doing as many laps of the playground as they can for our annual 'Rudolph Run'. This is to raise money for Birmingham Hospice who do great work across their two sites looking after terminally ill patients and their families. If you feel that you can give to this, please follow the link above. Please do not send money in with pupils. Thank you.

Medications

Just a reminder that if your child requires medication to be administered during the school day, this can only be done ONCE per day by the office staff. Our office staff kindly agree to take on this responsibility so as to help working parents; many schools do not administer medication. If you are not at work or are working from home, please consider coming down to school at the time the medication is due and administering it yourself. You must fill in and sign a medical form for any medications being administered in school. Thank you.

Christmas Accessory Day - Friday 8th December - £1

A member of our school community who wishes to remain anonymous has brought to our attention the wonderful work of Edward's Trust [Edward's Trust | Helping children and families facing loss and surviving bereavement.](http://edwardstrust.org.uk) (edwardstrust.org.uk) who provide holistic bereavement support for adults, young people and children coping with loss. In order to support this charity, we will be charging £1 for **Christmas accessory day on Friday 8th December**. Pupils are invited to wear christmas hair bands, badges, hats, socks, tinsel etc with their uniform. All monies raised will go towards this amazing charity.

EYFS & Year 6 Height & Weight Checks

The school nurse will be running the height and weight checks for Reception class and Year 6 on Wednesday 24th January, a form has been sent to you via Parentmail. Please only call the school office if you are opting out meaning you **do not** want your child to participate in the measurement programme.

PFA Meeting - Tuesday 5th December - POSTPONED

Firstly, a huge thank you to our PFA and staff volunteers who made the Christmas Fair run perfectly last week. This was a really enjoyable event for families and raised a good amount of money for the PFA.

The PFA was due to meet on 5/12/23 but this has been postponed and a new date will be sent out in the New Year.

Parking in the Sutton Park Hotel pub car park

We have been made aware of some changes to the parking arrangements in the pub next door. They are having some construction work done to extend their patio which will reduce their parking area and mean that there will no longer be an 'in and out'. The landlady of the pub visited school this week to express her concern that she often sees children riding scooters and playing in the pub car park with relatively little supervision after school. They are also changing their parking restrictions with the 15 minute 'free' period being removed.

This week's attendance

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

Year group	% attendance for w/c 27.11.23
Reception	96.67%
Year 1	97.33%
Year 2	96.67%
Year 3	93.00% BELOW 95%
Year 4	95.67%
Year 5	95%
Year 6	93.33% BELOW 95%

Well done to Year 1 who are this week's winners! You get to negotiate a reward with Miss Guest.

Centrestage - a successful recital

On Thursday 30th November, Centrestage School of Speech and Drama mounted their annual Speech Recital at St Nicholas Catholic Primary School. The Speech students performed a selection of poems based around the theme of 'Celebrations'. The poems covered a huge variety of celebrations including Christmas, Mothers' Day, Halloween and more. The pupils put on a wonderful performance, and they all demonstrated great skill in projection, modulation, and expression. It takes a lot of confidence to stand up on a stage and perform, and we were very proud of all the pupils involved.

If you are interested in your child improving their public speaking skills and overall confidence, please contact us at admin@centrestageschool.org.uk. We still have a few places available.

Lighthouse Preschool

Places are still available for pre school children. If you are interested, please contact Carole Baird on 07590411118.

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.

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 and earn two merit marks!

Sweet Sorting Challenge

Use 14 sweets every time.

1. Make each jar hold two sweets or five sweets.

2. Make each jar hold twice as many sweets as the one before.

3. Make each jar hold one less sweet than the one before.

The graphic shows three sets of jars. The first set has four jars, each containing two sweets. The second set has three jars, each containing five sweets. The third set has four jars, each containing one sweet. A decorative border of colorful sweets is at the top.

Dates of EYFS/KS1 Nativity Plays & KS2 Advent Prayer Services - 9.30am

- EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 will be performing their Nativity play on **Tuesday 12th December at 9.15am** and **Wednesday 13th December at 9.30am**.

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.

Word of the month

idyllic

Definition: extremely pleasant without any dangers or difficulties

Opening the curtains with excitement, the young child was mesmerised to see the idyllic blanket of snow covering his garden.

Synonyms: Perfect, ideal, wonderful, peaceful, unspoiled, charming, heavenly

Antonyms: Imperfect, unpleasant, unattractive, flawed

The card features a photograph of a snowy garden scene.

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](#)

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](#)

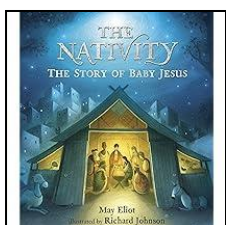
[Year 5](#)

[Year 6](#)

Phonics home links

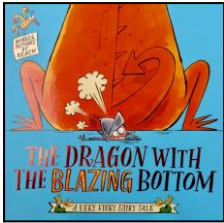
Group	Reading	Writing	Words to read
Mrs Bowen's lilac group	u b f e l	u b f e l	u b f e l Reading words Spelling words
Mrs Connor's lilac group	k u b f e	k u b f e	k u b f e Reading words Spelling words
Miss Beamond's purple group	air ir ou	air ir ou	
Miss Guest's pink group	ay ee igh	ay ee igh	Tab's Kitten
Mrs Trappett's and Mrs Vale's orange group	er ow ai	er ow ai	Follow me! Fred talk Red words
Mrs Maguire's yellow group	are ur	are ur	Tom Thumb
Mrs Shephard's blue group	aw are ur	are ur	Hairy fairy Fred talk Red words

Staff book recommendations



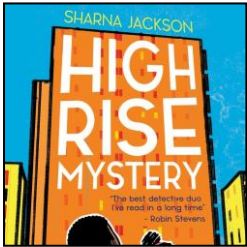
A special recommendation for Advent from Mrs Noble-Barton, suitable for EYFS and KS1.
The Nativity by May Eliot

The greatest story ever told is born again in this beautiful new retelling of the nativity. The traditional feel and charming illustrations make it the perfect introduction to the Christmas story for little ones just discovering it for the first time.
[Click to purchase](#)



For KS1, Mrs Rayment recommends... *The Dragon with the Blazing Bottom* by Beach

Sir Wayne's dragon has lost his flame. Are his teeth TOO clean? Is his tongue TOO pink? Perhaps his diet is to blame. Not to worry - Sir Wayne has a meal plan of EPIC proportions, including a big lump of lava, one burning bush, some sparklers and fireworks - the ones that go 'WHOOOOSH'. Oh, and one VERY mouldy old piece of cheese - almost as green as the snot from a sneeze... What could possibly go wrong?! [Click to purchase](#)



For KS2, Mrs Minchin recommends... *High Rise Mystery* by Sharna Jackson

The detective duo everyone is dying to meet! Summer in London is hot, the hottest on record, and there's been a murder in THE TRI: the high-rise home to resident know-it-alls, Nik and Norva. Who better to solve the case? Armed with curiosity, home-turf knowledge and unlimited time - until the end of the summer holidays anyway. [Click to purchase](#)

Dates for the diary

5/12/23	EYFS & KS1 theatre trip
7/12/23	Reception Class Curriculum Workshop - 9am to 10am
12/12/23	EYFS & KS1 Nativity Play at 9.30am - TICKET ONLY
13/12/23	EYFS & KS1 Nativity Play at 9.30am - 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	Start of Spring Term - pupils back in school
23/2/24	Young Voices concert
15/4/24	INSET Day - school closed to children
4/7/24	INSET Day - school closed to children

ADVANCE NOTICE: Monday 2nd September 2024 and Tuesday 3rd September 2024 will be INSET Days.

PFA events

20/12/23	Christmas Disco from 3.30pm-5pm
5/7/24	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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