



Love, live and learn with Jesus Christ.

28th October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wednesday Word - please follow this link to enjoy this weekend's Gospel as a family [Click here for the Wednesday Word](#)

Gospel Virtues - who received a wristband last week?

Last half term we were learning to be more COMPASSIONATE and LOVING. The following children have received wristbands as they have been seen living out these virtues around school: Alexander (Rec), Orla (Y3) & Beau (Y3).

This half term we move on to a new pair of Gospel virtues which are FAITH-FILLED & HOPEFUL. Wristbands at the ready!

Whole School Mass

We will be celebrating Mass as a whole school in church on Tuesday 1st November at 1.30pm. This is to mark the Solemnity of All Saints. You are most welcome to join us.

Remembrance

As we are soon to enter the month of November, our focus turns to remembering the dead and praying for their souls. During the course of November, each child will be given the opportunity to give a prayer intention for someone who has died by writing their name on a slip of paper and placing it on the prayer focus in the entrance area. This will slowly build up a 'wall of remembrance' throughout the month. If your child would like to bring in a photo of someone who has died or an order of service from a funeral, this can be included in the display. If you wish to include anyone then please speak to Mrs Noble-Barton during the course of the month.

Poppy Appeal

Year 5 will once again be leading the Poppy Appeal in our school and, in doing so, raising money for the Royal British Legion. Poppies and associated items will be sold during w/c 7th November. Year 5 pupils will visit each classroom once per day. Suggested donation amounts will be sent out next week.

BEAM



St Nicholas has been lucky enough to partner with Beacon Family Services to participate in their 'BEAM' programme. 'BEAM' stands for 'Beacon Emotional Attunement Model'. During the course of recent weeks, all staff have undertaken training from Beacon around how to become more attuned to the feelings of our pupils in order to help children to regulate and manage their emotions. Staff have learned about the neuropsychological theories which underpin the BEAM model as well as the value of therapeutic language and therapeutic play.

Over the course of the second half of this term, the language of the 'BEAM' model and the short games associated with it, will be introduced into every classroom in the school. The aim is that adults are able to 'check in' with pupils at key points during the day to see how they are feeling and to help pupils who may be struggling. A common language will be used to describe how pupils (and adults) are feeling. This is a long term project which we aim to be involved with for at least the rest of this academic year and so your support is crucial. One of the Beacon Family Services leaders will be leading a session for St Nicholas parents later this year to help you further develop your knowledge of the programme and to use the same language at home. Exciting times!

INSET Days

Please note that Monday 21st November is an INSET day which has been set centrally by the St John Paul II MAC.

Tuesday 3rd January 2023 is an INSET day and so the first day of the Spring Term for pupils will be Wednesday 4th January.

PFA Disco - thank you!

The PFA Disco held on Friday 14/10 was a great success! Thank you to Mrs Hale, Mrs Norton, Mrs Dunn and their band of trusty PFA helpers. Also a huge thank you to the staff who stayed behind to help out.

Harvest Collection - thank you!

During October we have celebrated the season of creation and given thanks to the Lord for the wonderful Earth He has gifted to us. As part of this celebration, pupils have thought about the unfair distribution of wealth and resources and prayed for those who are struggling to make ends meet. Our Harvest Collection for Bethany Foodbank was an excellent example of the Catholic Life of the school in action. Thank you on behalf of the food bank.

Family, sibling & individual photographs - Tuesday 1st November

Academy Photography will be in school on the above date to take individual and sibling photos. If you have children who are **not in this school** and you would like to have a photograph together, please arrive at 8.30am on Tuesday 1/11. If all siblings attend St Nicholas, then sibling photos will be taken during the school day. All children will also have an individual shot.

Prospective Parents' Sessions

Do you have a child who is due to start school in September 2023? If so, you may want to attend our Prospective Parents Open Sessions. There are four slots to choose from (listed below) and each session will feature a short talk from a senior member of staff followed by a tour of the school. You will receive a pack containing key information and documents and there will be ample opportunity to ask any questions you may have about our school and about the admissions process.

If you wish to attend, please telephone the school office on 0121 355 2649 to book your place.

The dates are as follows:

Monday 14th November at 9.15am

Tuesday 15th November at 1.30pm

Wednesday 16th November at 11am

Thursday 17th November at 2.30pm

If you know anyone who has a child ready for school in September 2023, please pass on this information to them. Thank you.

Parent Questionnaires

Many thanks to those parents and carers who have returned the questionnaire which was handed out at Parents' Evening. Those year groups with rearranged Parents' Evenings will have the opportunity to fill one in. Your thoughts and opinions are appreciated so please do return your questionnaire if you haven't already. It will take us some time to process and analyse them before publishing a summary in a later newsletter. Some parents will be contacted separately about their comments. Many thanks.

Year 5 Greek Day

A reminder to Year 5 parents that Monday 31st October is 'Greek Day'. Looking forward to seeing the costumes!

Pupil Profile Meetings

If your child has a SEND Pupil Profile, you will have been sent an appointment to attend a Pupil Profile Review on Tuesday 1st November. Please attend this as it is an important appointment to review your child's progress. If you are unable to attend, please contact Miss Finn (SENDCO) urgently via enquiry@ so that your appointment can be rearranged. Thank you.

Work in school

During the summer holidays and this half term break, there has been some work going on in school. The room which was called 'The Library' has been stripped and painted. Many of the books which were housed there have been moved into classrooms as each classroom now has its own age and topic appropriate library. The room has been partitioned to create two rooms one of which is a PPA/meeting room and the other a teaching space for phonics, music lessons and small group activities. The Sensory Room is now up and running and Mrs Noble-Barton's office now looks less like a kitchen as the old cupboards have gone and it has had a lick of paint! We are also in the process of tidying up the 'quad' garden area to move towards this being a prayer garden. Thank you to everyone involved in helping with these projects. With both limited space and limited budget, there has been a lot of goodwill!

Merit Marks

Starting from this half term we will be making some small changes to the way pupils collect Merit Marks. We have learned from our BEAM training that having reward/behaviour charts 'on show' in a classroom can be detrimental to pupils' self-esteem. Therefore, we have decided that each pupil will have their own, personalised 'Merit Mark collection card' which they must keep safe in their tray. When a child is awarded a Merit Mark, they will take this card to an adult who will record the Merit Mark on the personalised card. When a child has completed a whole collection card (20 Merit Marks) they will qualify for a certificate in Friday assembly.

Phonics - home video links

Reception - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/JFD6xPmY/OAcKFB28> and
<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/P61xOf3f/PNNmQOfk>
Red group - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/18SRYOE8/yqLPYeqS>
Green Group- <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/qBoWPzjr/s9RpF5fz>
Purple group- <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/QrGBJKyI/LIsj08u6>
Pink group - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rb6eV30h/rHlDwOip>
Yellow group - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rb6eV30h/rHlDwOip>

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 1/11 Individual photographs
Weds 2/11 Severn Trent Water Workshops
W/c 7/11 & W/c 14/11 Year 3 swimming (Tues-Fri each week) more details to follow
Weds 9/11 Reception class Parents' Evening rearranged from Thursday 20/10
Mon 21/11 INSET Day - school closed to pupils
Tuesday 13/12 EYFS & KS1 Nativity Play - 9.30am - ticket only
Wednesday 14/12 EYFS & KS1 Nativity Play - 9.30am - ticket only
Tuesday 3/1/23 INSET Day - school closed to pupils
Wednesday 4/1/23 First day of Spring Term for pupils

God bless,

Mr Porter
Executive Principal

Mrs Noble-Barton
Head of School

