



Together with Christ, we love, live & learn.

St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School

Jockey Road, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US

E: enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk

T: 0121 355 2649

W: www.stnicholassutton.org.uk

Executive Principal: Mr N. Porter

Head of School: Mrs C. Noble-Barton

Dear Parents & Carers,

Friday 4th September 2026



Welcome back to 2026/27!

Welcome back to a brand-new school year. We hope you had an excellent summer and found time for rest, family and sunshine. We have loved welcoming the children back this week; it has been wonderful to see them reunited with friends, settling confidently into their new classes and already working with great focus.

A very special welcome to our new EYFS children, who have completed two full days already and have made a fantastic start. We also welcome Mr McNicholas, who joins us as our Year 6 teacher and Maths Lead and Mrs Jones, who will be with us for the year as an Inclusion Assistant.

We look forward to working closely with you throughout the year as we continue to grow as a St Nicholas community of faith.

Please take a moment each week to check the diary dates section at the bottom of this newsletter. It is updated regularly and will help you keep track of the wonderful events coming up this term.

A quick reminder that MCAS and the weekly newsletter are our official communication channels. While year-group WhatsApp groups can offer friendship and support among parents, they are not used for school communication, so please continue to check MCAS and the newsletter for accurate information.

Reflection: Gospel Virtues for Autumn 1 - COMPASSIONATE & LOVING

This half term at St Nicholas, we are inviting the children to grow in the virtues of being **Compassionate and Loving**. These virtues help them to notice the needs of others, respond with kindness and choose words that bring peace rather than hurt.

As pupils move through the new school year, they are learning to be **compassionate** by paying attention to those who may need help, showing patience when someone is finding things difficult, and recognising that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

They are learning to be **loving** by using gentle, forgiving words, including others in their play, and caring for God's creation during the Season of Creation.

We hope these virtues shape the way our whole community treats one another; with open eyes, kind hearts, and a willingness to act with love. Why not ask your child about the virtues and how they will be living them?



Wednesday Word

Please follow the link below to enjoy this week's Gospel as a family:

[Click HERE for the Wednesday Word](#)



'Discerning Disciples' - new RE curriculum

This year, every school in the Archdiocese of Birmingham is beginning to teach the new Discerning Disciples Religious Education curriculum. It is a rich, Scripture-rooted programme that helps children grow in faith, deepen their understanding of Catholic teaching and recognise how they can live out Gospel values in their daily lives.

Our staff have already taken part in extensive training and we are very much looking forward to starting delivery next week. The curriculum is structured around six branches, from *Creation and Covenant* to *Dialogue and Encounter*, giving children a clear, progressive journey of learning.

We are excited to begin this new chapter in RE and to support your children as they grow as thoughtful, compassionate and active disciples within our St Nicholas community.

St. John Paul II Multi Academy

Registered Office: c/o Maryvale Institute, Old Oscott Hill, Birmingham. B44 9AG.

E: enquiry@sjp2.net | T: 0121 827 8664 | W: johnpaulii.co.uk

Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Ms T. Cotter

Company House Registered No. 08706247





Together with Christ, we love, live & learn.

St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School

Jockey Road, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US

E: enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk

T: 0121 355 2649

W: www.stnicholassutton.org.uk

Executive Principal: Mr N. Porter

Head of School: Mrs C. Noble-Barton

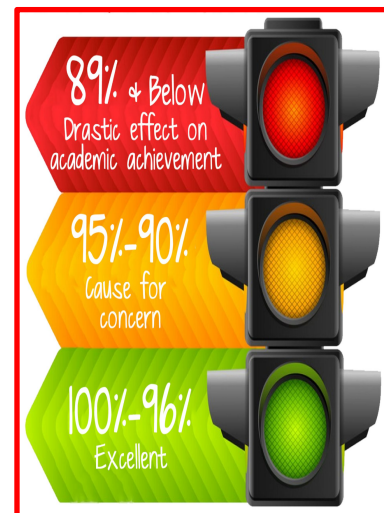
Attendance at St Nicholas

Our whole-school attendance last academic year was **96.7%** compared to 93% nationally, which is an excellent achievement. Thank you for your continued commitment to your child's attendance. We know that the vast majority of you understand how important good attendance is and you do everything you can to make sure your child is in school every day. Our attendance is very strong, and we want to keep it that way.

Within DfE guidance, schools are required to monitor attendance closely, look for patterns, and offer support to families where attendance becomes difficult. This year, we are encouraging all pupils to aim for a minimum attendance of 97%. We fully recognise that genuine illness cannot be helped and we never want children in school when they are very unwell, but we do ask that attendance is prioritised wherever possible. Last year, we noticed an increasing number of holidays being taken during term time. As a reminder, term-time holidays cannot be authorised and they have a significant impact on learning and progress.

We monitor attendance throughout the year and will contact you if your child's attendance falls below 95%, so that we can work together to improve it. **Please note that the DfE classifies any child with attendance below 90% as persistently absent. Our aim is to support families early, prevent pupils from slipping below this level, and work in partnership through letters, meetings and practical help where needed.**

Thank you for helping us ensure that every child at St Nicholas can thrive through excellent attendance.



Uniform and Appearance – Thank You

Thank you for sending your children back to school looking so smart this September. It has been wonderful to see pupils arriving in full uniform, ready for learning and showing pride in being part of St Nicholas. A quick reminder about hair expectations. We have noticed a small number of pupils with coloured hair or with shaved "tram lines". These styles are considered extreme and are not permitted. As stated in our uniform policy, *"the school does not allow fashionable or extreme hairstyles because they are inappropriate for school, serve as a distraction... and are not in-keeping with the smart appearance of our school uniform."*

Hair should be a sensible, blended style with no patterns, no visible shaved lines, and no added colour. Long hair must be tied back with plain accessories (for girls AND boys with long hair).

Thank you for your continued support in helping all children come to school, ready to learn and representing St Nicholas with pride.



Secondary School Applications – Important Information for Year 6 Parents

A reminder to all Year 6 families that you must complete the online Birmingham City Council application form for secondary school places by 31st October. This is a statutory deadline, and late applications are processed after all on-time submissions.

You are required to list six school choices, so it is a very good idea to visit any schools you may be interested in. Below are some upcoming open evenings to support your decision-making:

- **Bishop Walsh – Wednesday 23rd September**
- **Cardinal Wiseman – Monday 14th September**
- **St Edmund Campion – Tuesday 15th September**

St. John Paul II Multi Academy

Registered Office: c/o Maryvale Institute, Old Oscott Hill, Birmingham. B44 9AG.

E: enquiry@sjp2.net | T: 0121 827 8664 | W: johnpaulii.co.uk

Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Ms T. Cotter

Company House Registered No. 08706247





Together with Christ, we love, live & learn.

St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School

Jockey Road, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US

E: enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk

T: 0121 355 2649

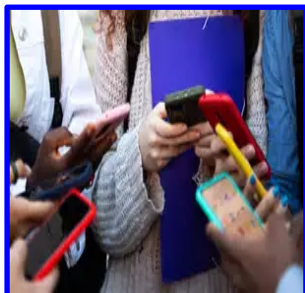
W: www.stnicholassutton.org.uk

Executive Principal: Mr N. Porter

Head of School: Mrs C. Noble-Barton

Please note that faith schools require a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) to be completed and returned directly to the school, along with proof of Catholic Baptism. If you complete the council form but do not submit the SIF, your child will be ranked as non-Catholic, which may affect their priority for a place.

Mrs Noble-Barton is happy to offer advice at any time, we are here to support you as you prepare for this next step in your child's journey.



Smartphone Ban Parent Workshop – coming up soon!

As we move into the new term, a reminder that our Parent Workshop on the recently announced Smartphone Ban is now just around the corner. This session is designed to empower and support parents of children of all ages, helping you understand the proposed national changes, how they may affect young people, and how to approach conversations at home with confidence.

The workshop will take place on Thursday 17th September at 6.30pm in the school hall.

It is open to all families from EYFS to Year 6, and we hope many of you will join us for this important and informative session.

PFA News

We are delighted to share an update on our Parent & Friends Association. Following the recent stepping down of **Mr Matteo Belardi** from the role of PFA Chair, we extend our sincere thanks to him for his highly successful tenure and the energy, organisation and commitment he brought to the role.

We are thrilled to announce that **Mrs Emma Condon** and **Mrs Michelle McGarvie** have now taken on the position as Co-Chairs. We are very grateful to them both for stepping forward, and we look forward to the next chapter of the PFA in their safe and capable hands.

You will find some PFA dates in the diary section below; please do take a look and add them to your calendar.

Gifts from God Assemblies

Our **Gifts from God** assemblies for the Autumn Term will take place on **Friday 18th September 2026, Friday 2nd October 2026, and Friday 16th October 2026**. If your child is receiving a certificate from school, you will receive an MCAS message from Mrs Noble-Barton on the Wednesday before the assembly. If you are sending in a medal, trophy or certificate from outside of school that your child would like to have presented, please bring it to the school office by Thursday morning at the latest, ensuring it is in a clearly named bag or container. All Gifts from God assemblies begin at 2.45pm. Due to space restrictions, we kindly ask that families only attend if their child is receiving an award. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Attendance

Let's see which class had the highest attendance this week...

Year group	Attendance for w/c 31/8/26
EYFS	100%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	100%





Together with Christ, we love, live & learn.

St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School

Jockey Road, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US

E: enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk

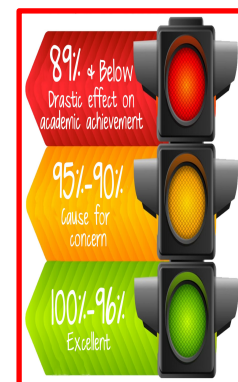
T: 0121 355 2649

W: www.stnicholassutton.org.uk

Executive Principal: Mr N. Porter

Head of School: Mrs C. Noble-Barton

Year 3	100%
Year 4	99.17%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	100%
Well done to this week's winners...EYFS, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y5 & Y6! You can negotiate a <i>small</i> reward with your teacher next week. Let's see if we can have such good attendance across a whole week! You can do it!	



Dates for the diary

Please continue to check this section frequently as it is subject to change.

New academic year - 2026/27

Tuesday 15th September	5.45pm Phonics Information Evening - for parents of pupils in EYFS & Year 1. In the school hall.
Wednesday 16th September	2.30pm - Years 5 & 6 to Mass in church - parents/grandparents welcome
Thursday 17th September	Parent Workshop on the Smartphone Ban –6.30pm, School Hall.
Friday 18th September	2.45pm Gifts from God assembly - you will get an email on Wednesday 16/9 if your child is receiving a school certificate.
Monday 21st September	9am - Year 6 Curriculum Workshop in school hall - all parents invited (can you send a grandparent or other relative if you're not available? A great chance to work with your child and experience the teaching techniques used in class.)
Wednesday 23rd September	9am - Year 1 Curriculum Workshop in school hall - all parents invited (can you send a grandparent or other relative if you're not available? A great chance to work with your child and experience the teaching techniques used in class.)
Wednesday 23rd September	2.30pm - Years 3 & 4 to Mass in church - parents/grandparents welcome
Friday 25th September	5.30pm to 7.30pm - PFA New Starters' Disco - the only disco of the year where parents can stay, meet each other and have a



Together with Christ, we love, live & learn.

St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School

Jockey Road, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US

E: enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk

T: 0121 355 2649

W: www.stnicholassutton.org.uk

Executive Principal: Mr N. Porter

Head of School: Mrs C. Noble-Barton

	boogie! Tickets will be on sale from the PFA shortly.
Monday 28th September	9am - Year 4 Curriculum Workshop in school hall - all parents invited (can you send a grandparent or other relative if you're not available? A great chance to work with your child and experience the teaching techniques used in class.)
Friday 2nd October	9am - Year 5 Curriculum Workshop in school hall - all parents invited (can you send a grandparent or other relative if you're not available? A great chance to work with your child and experience the teaching techniques used in class.)
Friday 2nd October	2.45pm Gifts from God assembly - you will get an email on Wednesday 16/9 if your child is receiving a school certificate.
W/c 5th October & W/c 12th October	Harvest Collection across the school - please be generous as we will be supporting a local foodbank!
Tuesday 6th October	Year 6 class trip to Oscott College for 'Laudato Sii - Care for Creation Workshop' - walking there & back, packed lunch needed, consent form will be sent closer to time.
Wednesday 7th October	9am - Year 2 Curriculum Workshop in school hall - all parents invited (can you send a grandparent or other relative if you're not available? A great chance to work with your child and experience the teaching techniques used in class.)
Monday 12th October	9am - Year 3 Curriculum Workshop in school hall - all parents invited (can you send a grandparent or other relative if you're not available? A great chance to work with your child and experience the teaching techniques used in class.)
Thursday 15th October	9am - EYFS Curriculum Workshop in school hall - all parents invited (can you send a grandparent or other relative if you're not available? A great chance to work with your child and experience the teaching techniques used in class.)
Friday 16th October	2.45pm Gifts from God assembly - you will get an email on Wednesday 16/9 if your child is receiving a school certificate.
Monday 19th October	2.15pm Whole school Harvest Mass in church - parents & grandparents welcome
Tuesday 20th October PHOTO DAY	Families, siblings and individual photographs - all pupils having their photo taken, sibling groups in school taken, those with pre-school children or children who don't attend St Nicholas will be invited to come in at 8.30am if they want a photograph. All





Together with Christ, we love, live & learn.

St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School

Jockey Road, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US

E: enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk

T: 0121 355 2649

W: www.stnicholassutton.org.uk

Executive Principal: Mr N. Porter

Head of School: Mrs C. Noble-Barton

	photos available to purchase afterwards.
Wednesday 21st October	Parents' Evening in school hall (bookings will open closer to the time).
Thursday 22nd October	Parents' Evening in school hall (bookings will open closer to the time).
Friday 23rd October	INSET day - school closed to children. End of Autumn 1. Break up for half term.
October half term - school closed to children during w/c 26/10/26	
Friday 13th November PHOTO DAY	Class Photographs
Tuesday 15th December	EYFS, Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity Play in the school hall @ 9.15am - ticket information TBC
Wednesday 16th December	EYFS, Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity Play in the school hall @ 9.15am - ticket information TBC

INSET Days 2026/27

The scheduled INSET Days for the 2026/27 academic year are:

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Friday 23rd October 2026

Monday 4th January 2027

Monday 22nd February 2027

Monday 12th April 2027

Friday 2nd July 2027

St John Paul II Multi Academy Schools – Term Dates 2026/27

Our MAC term dates follow **Birmingham City Council (BCC)** dates.

Autumn Term 2026

- Term starts: Tuesday 1 September 2026
- Half-term: Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October 2026
- Term ends: Friday 18 December 2026

Spring Term 2027

- Term starts: Monday 4 January 2027
- Half-term: Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February 2027
- Term ends: Thursday 25 March 2027

Summer Term 2027



St. John Paul II Multi Academy

Registered Office: c/o Maryvale Institute, Old Oscott Hill, Birmingham. B44 9AG.

E: enquiry@sjp2.net | T: 0121 827 8664 | W: johnpaulii.co.uk

Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Ms T. Cotter

Company House Registered No. 08706247





Together with Christ, we love, live & learn.

St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School

Jockey Road, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US

E: enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk

T: 0121 355 2649

W: www.stnicholassutton.org.uk

Executive Principal: Mr N. Porter

Head of School: Mrs C. Noble-Barton

- Term starts: Monday 12 April 2027
- Half-term: Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2027
- Term ends: Wednesday 21 July 2027

Mr Porter

Mrs Noble-Barton

Miss Smith

Executive Principal

Head of School

Assistant Head

