



Love, live and learn with Jesus Christ.

5th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Gospel Virtues for this half term 'Learned and Wise'

At St. Nicholas School we are growing to be learned, finding God in all things; and wise in the way we use our learning for the good of everyone.

This half term, pupils will be discussing what it means to be 'learned' and 'wise'. There is an endless amount of noise in our society, many voices which present themselves as 'fact' but this half term will be learning how God's message is the only truth and showing wisdom in how we apply that truth.

God Who Speaks

As we celebrate All Souls' Day and think ahead to Remembrance Day, let us be reminded today that the power of Our Lord is stronger even than death.

"But God will destroy death forever. The Lord God will wipe away every tear from every face." Isaiah 25:8

Message for the children - Reading at home - bring in your leaves!

Remember to bring in your leaf once you have completed a book at home. We are looking forward to building up our beautiful reading trees in the classroom! Whilst you are reading, remember to fill in your vocabulary bookmarks with any intriguing vocabulary you want to remember and use in your own writing.

Wednesday Word

Please follow the link below to read this week's Gospel in a child-friendly manner:

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/gift?pid=MTA101634&v=42.6>

Remembrance

During November we pray for the souls of those who have died. We also pray for those who have died or suffered injury through war. Today we celebrated Mass as a school community to pray for the faithful departed.

Year 5 is leading our Poppy Appeal across school to raise money for the Royal British Legion.

On Thursday 11th November the whole school will gather in the hall to join virtually with other schools from our Academy for a service of remembrance taking place at Abbey Catholic School. Some members of our Chaplaincy Team will be attending this service in person.

During collective worship we will be saying the 'Eternal Rest' prayer: ***Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.***

Term dates - end of summer term 2022

In line with Birmingham City Council, Directors have agreed that, for all schools in the St John Paul II MAC, **the last day of the summer term will now be Thursday 21st July 2022**, not Friday 22nd July 2022 as previously published. This is due to the additional bank holiday which has been agreed on Friday 3rd June 2022 in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Our schools will already be on their summer half-term holiday on this day. The additional one day holiday will therefore be taken on Friday 22nd July 2022, meaning that the Summer Term 2022 will now end on Thursday 21st July 2022.

Long hair

Please note that as a health & safety measure we require all pupils with long hair to wear it tied back for school. This applies to both girls and boys. If your child's hair is not long enough to tie back but falls into their face when working, it might be helpful to wear it pushed back from their face.

KS2 lunchtime provision

Over the next few weeks, pupils on the key stage 2 playground will have the opportunity to work with external sports coaches during several lunchtimes each week. As part of our commitment to providing structured, meaningful playtimes we are investing in this resource on a trial basis until Christmas.

PFA

A huge thank you to Mrs Sarah Hale, chair of our PFA, for using PFA money to pay for some new Guided Reading books across the school. This will have a real impact on pupil progress.

If any parent is interested in supporting the PFA in any way, please contact Mrs Hale on: 07790099467

'The Queen's Green Canopy' - plant a tree for the Jubilee 2022

In 2022 Queen Elizabeth II will become the first British monarch to celebrate 70 years of service as she celebrates her platinum jubilee.

If you are green fingered and wish to get involved in a project to mark this event, visit [Plant a Tree for the Jubilee - Woodland Trust](#) to see how you can support The Woodland Trust in their tree planting initiative.

Spanish Club for Years 1 and 2

Kidslingo (an external company) offers a 30 minute Spanish lesson to any pupil in Years 1 or 2 on Wednesday lunchtimes. There are spaces available. If your child would be interested please see the attached flier.

Free event - 'Nature's Nurture' from University of Birmingham - follow the link for more information

Saturday 6th November, 10.30am - 12pm, admission FREE

Nature's Nurture: how natural playgrounds nourish developing minds

This event has been created for parents or carers and their children to attend together.

We know that outdoor play improves our children's health and wellbeing. But research shows that it also sparks their curiosity, allows them to take risks and improves their focus and memory. In this workshop, families will find out why nature is the best nurturer, discover some simple activities that can be done in their garden, park or local woodland and take home an outdoor craft activity.

Victoria Saunders, Lecturer in Primary Teacher Education in the School of Education, leads this informative and practical session, sharing empowering advice and tips on free, easy and enjoyable activities that can have a big impact on all aspects of a child's well-being.

This workshop is presented as part of The Air We Breathe, a brand new public programme at The Exchange bringing together cutting edge research from across the University of Birmingham. From a hydrogen train to a sci-fi forest, discover how the University is delivering clean air both here in Birmingham and around the world.

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/events/events/natures-nurture-how-natural-playgrounds-nourish-developing-minds.aspx>

Dates

19th November	Virtual SEN coffee morning - (Please contact the office)
30th November	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 trip to Midlands Arts Centre
6th December	Feast of St Nicholas - Mass at 10am in church
6th December	Y4 celebration of FHC day - official p/graphers in school
9th December	Provisional date for PFA Christmas Disco straight after school
14th & 15th December	EYFS & KS1 Nativity play - ticket only

God bless,

Mr Porter
Executive Principal

Mrs Noble-Barton
Acting Head of School

Miss Ramsden
Acting Vice Principal