



30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

### **Feast of St Peter and St Paul**

Yesterday (29/6) was the feast day of two very important saints of the church, Peter & Paul. The school attended Mass in church - pupil participation was excellent and the singing was beautiful. Thank you to the (very) small band of parents and grandparents who attended. We appreciate the constraints of the working day but, if you ever are able to attend a school mass, it would send a wonderful message to the children about the central importance of the Eucharist in our lives.

### **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: Mabel (Rec), Aeron (Y3), Chiara (Y1), Connie (Y1).

### **Mini Vinnies Sleepout**

It's 'Summer Sleep Out' weekend! On Saturday night our Mini Vinnies are challenging St Nicholas pupils to do one of the following:

- Sleep OUT. Experience what it might be like to be homeless by sleeping outside (perhaps in the back garden) in a tent or, if you're very brave, with only a cardboard box for shelter. How many family members are brave enough to join in?
- Sleep OVER. Show your support for homeless people by sleeping over somewhere other than your usual bed. Perhaps on the bedroom floor or on the sofa? How many creature comforts can you go without?
- Sleep WITHOUT. Take part on a smaller scale but whilst still showing your support. Sleep in your normal bed but go without something such as your favourite cuddly toy or your glass of warm milk.

***If your child takes part in any of these activities, please take some photos and send them to [enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk) so that we can showcase what you're doing on our Twitter feed.***

Of course the primary aim of the sleepout is to raise money for the amazing work done by the St Vincent de Paul society. Sponsorship for any of the above activities can be paid at this link. We have set a modest £210 target - please help us to smash it!

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-nicholas-catholic-primary-school-1685017297570>

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

[Click here for the Wednesday Word](#)

### **INSET day**

A reminder that this Thursday, 6th July, is an INSET day as set by our academy. All schools in the St John Paul II MAC will be closed to pupils as all staff in the MAC attend an INSET day at Bishop Walsh Catholic School. St Nicholas reopens as normal on Friday 7/7.

### **Music concert - well done**

Well done to the pupils who played in the music concert after school today. This was a short performance designed to show the progress they have made this year.

### **Sacramental meetings - a message from Father Allen**

Parents of children in the current Year 2 and Year 5. A reminder of the meetings for parents and children celebrating Holy Communion, Reconciliation for the first time, or receiving Confirmation, at St Nicholas during the academic year 2023/24. These meetings are at **9am on July 8<sup>th</sup> and 5pm July 9<sup>th</sup>**. Please choose whichever suits you

best. Please come to the church where Fr Allen will meet with parents, and from where children will be taken to meet with Deacon John and others in the Benedict Room. The meetings will last about 60 minutes including a time of prayer that the children will help prepare.

### Staffing News 2023/24

On Wednesday of this week (5/7) pupils will experience 'move up morning' where they will move into their new classroom and spend the morning completing various activities with their new teaching team for next academic year. Teachers and teaching assistants for the 2023/24 academic year have been assigned to the following classes:

Year group in 2023/24	Teacher	Teaching Assistant/s
Mr N. Porter - Executive Principal (non class based)		
Mrs C. Noble-Barton - Head of School (non class based)		
Miss K. Smith - Assistant Head (non class based for 2.5 days per week)		
Mrs R. Burling-Finn - SENDCO (class based at St Nicholas 1 day per week, non class based at St Nicholas for 1.5 days per week, based at St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary School for the remainder of the week.)		
Reception	Mrs E. Bowen	Mrs G. Connor
Year 1	Miss R. Guest	Mrs S. Vale
Year 2	Mrs J. Burton (Mon-Weds) Miss K. Smith (Thurs - Friday)	Miss E. Beamond
Year 3	Miss Z. Rehman	Mrs H. Maguire
Year 4	Miss N. Godfrey	Mrs H. Maguire Mrs A. Trappett
Year 5	Mrs S. Minchin	Mrs C. Shepherd Mrs A. Trappett
Year 6	Mr I. Reid	Mrs A. Rayment

You may notice some new names in the table above and some who are missing. At the end of this academic year we say 'au revoir' to **Miss K. Gamlen** who has taught Y5 this year as she departs for a very exciting round the world trip. Miss Gamlen will be travelling to many different countries, working along the way and having an amazing time - we look forward to seeing the photos!

We also say goodbye to **Mrs J. Griffiths** who has come to the end of her contract at St Nicholas. Mrs Griffiths has taught in Year 3, Year 5 and Reception during her time with us; she won't be a stranger though as she will be doing some part time teaching at another school within our academy community.

After the recent birth of her beautiful baby boy, **Mrs J. Filipiuk** has decided not to come back to work so as to spend more time with him. Mrs Filipiuk has worked as a teaching assistant in our Year 3 and Year 1 classes and has worked with many pupils from across the school.

After a prolonged period of illness, **Mrs C. Timmis** has decided to leave her post as lunchtime supervisor. Mrs Timmis has been at St Nicholas for more than ten years and we thank her for her service to our school.

There will be an opportunity to say goodbye to these members of staff during our Leavers' Assembly at 2pm on Friday 21st July.

Following a successful recruitment process, we are delighted to announce that we have appointed Miss Smith (current Y6 teacher) as our Assistant Head from September 2023. Miss Smith will be supporting and assisting Mr Porter & Mrs Noble-Barton with the strategic leadership of our school. Miss Smith will be based in class for 2.5 days per week and out of class for the remainder of the week.

As you will see from the table above, Mrs Burling-Finn will also be having a change of role from September. Mrs Burling-Finn will be SENDCO at both St Nicholas and St Peter and St Paul. Mrs Burling-Finn will continue to be contactable through enquiry@ and will continue to offer high quality SEND support to the pupils of St Nicholas; the experiences she will gain at St Peter and St Paul will only serve to help broaden her SEND experience and therefore benefit the pupils of St Nicholas. Mrs Burling-Finn will also be doing some teaching in our Y3 class.

We welcome three new teachers to our school. Miss N. Godfrey is an experienced teacher from another Catholic school in the city; Miss Z Rehman & Mrs E. Bowen are recently qualified teachers who have huge amounts of energy and enthusiasm to start their teaching career at St Nicholas.

All current and future teachers will meet for their transition meetings shortly to ensure a smooth handover from one class to another. Looking forward to a positive end to this academic year and a very happy & successful 2023/24.

**Attendance**

Every week we print each class' attendance in the newsletter. The class (or classes) with the highest attendance can negotiate a small reward with their class teacher such as some extra playtime or IPAD time. Let's see what attendance was like this week:

Class	Attendance for w/c 26.6.23
Reception	100%
Year 1	97.5%
Year 2	97.92%
Year 3	96.67%
Year 4	96.25%
Year 5	89.58%
Year 6	97.18%
<b>Well done to the winners - Reception!</b>	

**Wear Red for 'Choose Love' Refugee Charity - Thank you!**

[Alice Cunningham is fundraising for Choose Love - Prism the Gift Fund \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/Alice-Cunningham)

On Monday, pupils were resplendent in their red accessories as they took part in Alice's 'Choose Love' fundraiser. At the time of writing, Alice had raised an incredible £547 for her summer read-athon. Thank you very much to all who donated to this amazing refugee charity; it's not too late to donate as the link above is still live.

**PFA Summer Fayre Events**

It's very sad that the PFA have had to take the decision to cancel the Summer Fayre. Please think about whether you might be able to support the PFA moving forward as they look to encourage more volunteers to help with events - your PFA needs you!

**Year 3 'Going Forth' celebrations - Friday 7th July**

Year 3 parents/carers please see the parentmail sent out by Mrs Noble-Barton on Thursday (29/6) about this.

**Sports' News**

**Sports Day**

On Friday 23rd June, St Nicholas held its annual sports day at Braemar Road Playing Fields. All of the children from each year group competed in a range of events including sprints, relays, egg and spoon, hula hoop, skipping and many others. The children all competed to the best of their abilities and, looking at the smiles on their

faces, they all really enjoyed the day. Thank you parents for your support and thank God for the clement weather!

### **Rounders**

On Thursday 22nd June, St Nicholas Year 5 and 6 boys rounders team competed in the Sutton Schools rounders tournament. It was their first foray into the sport and, although they didn't come out victorious, they enjoyed competing and displayed a lot of enthusiasm and skill. Well done.

### **Tri-Golf**

On Tuesday 27th June, St Nicholas Tri-golf team competed in the Sutton Schools tournament. The competition involved the players taking turns to complete different golfing skill events such as chipping the ball and hitting targets. Over 20 children took part from across Key Stage 2 and their excitement was palpable. Although we didn't come away with any silverware, the children all had a lot of fun and represented the school marvellously.

### **Football - champions!**

On Wednesday 28th June, the 7-a-side football team took to the pitch against Christ the King School. This was the last league game of the season. Both teams had won all 4 of their previous games so it was the match to determine who would be the league winners. The score at full-time was 1-1, with a fantastic goal from Frankie Badland, assisted by Finn Brennan. We had superior goal difference going into the game so the draw meant we were **league champions**. This is the first time we have won the league in at least 14 years and so, as you can imagine, the celebrations were rife. The whole team must be commended on the way they have been great ambassadors for the school throughout the entire season.

### **Return of reading books - PLEASE HELP**

Over the last academic year, we have invested thousands of pounds in new reading materials, particularly in support of the RWI phonics scheme. **Unfortunately, lots of these books have not been returned to school.** They can only be purchased in bulk, ten at a time, which is a huge expense for us. Please could you have a look at home for any books, phonics and other, that need to be returned to school. All of our books have the St Nicholas stamp in. Phonics teachers will now be monitoring the return of books and we will be charging £2.50 for each missing book.

### **Amazon wish list**

Many thanks to all of the parents who have kindly donated books from our wish list. Your contribution to our growing love of reading at St Nicholas is greatly appreciated. For anybody who would like to purchase a book for children to enjoy, the links are as follows:

[Reception](#) [Year 1](#) [Year 2](#) [Year 3](#) [Year 4](#) [Year 5](#) [Year 6](#)

### **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>.

### **June's word of the month**

Our **[word of the month is scintillating.](#)**

There has been so much going on! What a scintillating half term we have had so far. The following children have effectively used this month's word in their writing:

Jacob in Y6 wrote: "I have created many scintillating masterpieces."

Maja in Y6 wrote: "I have made many glamorous, scintillating clothes by hand."

### Phonics home links

Miss Beamond's green group: [ar](#) [or](#) [air](#)

Mrs Griffiths and Mrs Vale's pink group: [ay](#) [ee](#) [igh](#)

Miss Guest's purple group: [ir](#) [ou](#)

Mrs Connor's orange group: [ea](#) [oi](#) [a-e](#)

Mrs Burling-Finn's purple group: [ir](#)

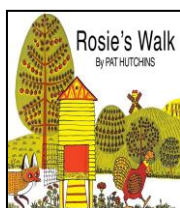
Miss De Barr's yellow group: [oi](#) [o-e](#) [i-e](#)

Mrs Shephard's blue group: [er](#) [tious](#) [cious](#)

Miss Smith's grey group: [ment](#) [ance](#)

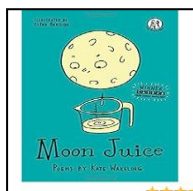
### Staff book recommendations

For KS1, Mrs Vale recommends... *Rosie's Walk* by Pat Hutchins



Rosie the hen is going for a walk, but she'd better watch out - there's a very sneaky fox hot on her tail feathers!

[Click to purchase](#)



For KS2, Miss Smith recommends... *Moon Juice* by Kate Wakeling

Meet Skig, who is meant to be a warrior (but is really more of a worrier). Meet a giddy comet, which skids across the sky with its tail on fire. Put a marvellous new machine in your pocket, which promises to solve all of your life's problems.

[Click to purchase](#)

### Dates for your diary

Tues 4/7	New Starters lunch
Tues 4/7	National Dental Survey - Y6
Weds 5/7	'Move up morning' at St Nicholas
Thurs 6/7	MAC INSET Day - school closed to pupils
Fri 7/7	Year 3 'Going Forth' day
Mon 10/7	Catholic Schools Athletics Competition @ Alexander Stadium
Weds 12/7	Year 6 secondary transition day
Mon 17/7	4.30pm Leavers' Mass for Y6 and their families
Fri 21/7	Whole school Mass at 10am in church
Fri 21/7	2pm Leavers' Assembly
Fri 21/7	Last day in school for pupils - end of academic year 2022/23

God bless,  
Mr Porter  
Executive Principal

Mrs Noble-Barton  
Head of School