



4th November 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

Faith-filled
&
Hopeful

Our new Gospel Virtues for Autumn 2 are 'FAITH-FILLED and HOPEFUL'. As ever, staff will be looking out for pupils living these virtues and will be giving them a wristband.

Henry in Year 2 has started us off this week by receiving the first wristband. Well done Henry!

Remembrance Wall

November is the month of remembrance. This week and or next week, your child will be bringing home a slip of paper on which they (or you) can write the name of a person or group of people who have died and who are to be remembered in our prayers. This may be a loved one, family member or friend or it could be a group of people such as the victims of war or of a specific incident or atrocity.

When your child brings this paper back into school, they will transfer the name from the paper onto a piece of white ribbon (staff in younger year groups will help with the writing). This ribbon will be displayed on our 'Remembrance Wall' which is in the entrance area. When the wall is complete, I will be inviting anyone who wishes to come and have a look and spend a moment of quiet prayer in front of the wall.

If you have any photos of loved ones or orders of service from funerals which you would like to be displayed, please drop them into the school office for the attention of Mrs Noble-Barton.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Poppy Appeal

Year 5 will once again be leading our Poppy Appeal this year. Representatives from Year 5 will visit each class every afternoon this week (Year 3 in the mornings due to swimming) to sell poppies and other Royal British Legion remembrance items such as poppy wristbands. Suggested donation for each item is £1. Please send money in a sealed envelope with your child.

Haircuts and uniform

As we are now in the second half of the Autumn term, all pupils should be in **winter uniform**. A reminder that this is:

Grey Trousers

Grey Skirt or Pinafore

Gold Polo Shirt with Logo

Blue Jumper, Sweatshirt or Cardigan with Logo

Dark Socks / Tights (not flesh coloured)

Please ensure that your child's haircut is suitable for school. There have been a few boys in Upper Key Stage 2 sporting 'tram lines' in their hair which is not suitable for school and not in agreement with our uniform policy. Please save these hairstyles for the summer holidays.

To remind you, our uniform policy states:

"...there must be no defined lines or patterns shaved into the hair and any transitions from short hair to longer hair (and vice versa) should be blended in so that no defined lines are created."

The uniform policy can be found on our school website: [Statutory Documents | St Nicholas \(stnicholassutton.org.uk\)](#)

Apple Watches

Pupils should not be wearing Apple Watches (or any similar android product) for school. This is akin to having a phone strapped to your wrist and so is not suitable for school.

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.

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.

Healthy Start Food Vouchers - are you eligible? Do you know anyone who might be?

Despite being eligible, many families in Birmingham are not registering for their Healthy Start food vouchers, entitling them to £4.25 of free food per week. This means thousands of pounds each week worth of free food is not reaching families who need it.

- To qualify for HS applicants must be 10+ weeks pregnant and/or have at least one child under 4 and be in receipt of benefits such as Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit.
- Healthy Start food vouchers can be exchanged for milk, infant formula, fruit, vegetables and pulses.
- For more information - Healthy Start Website - [Get help to buy food and milk \(Healthy Start\)](#)
- To find your local Healthy Start Vitamin collection site please use our postcode finder - [Healthy Start vitamin distribution sites | Birmingham City Council](#)

Word of the Month

The Reading Ambassadors have chosen **PRESTIGIOUS** as November's word of the month. Please see the attached poster. We would be really grateful if you could share this word with your child at home and teachers will encourage them to use it in school.

Miss Smith's Reading Challenge

Your child will be coming home with a reading challenge, a copy of which is attached. This is for them to fill in as they continue their reading journey this year at St Nicholas. They can do as many of the activities as they wish and for each completed activity, they will receive a merit mark. Children who complete the reading challenge by the end of the academic year will be invited to attend a prestigious afternoon tea in the summer term. Supporting materials are available on Purple Mash and indicated on the sheet. If you have any questions, please contact Miss Smith via enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk. Happy reading!

Adult book swap

You may have noticed the trolley of books that has appeared outside of school at the end of the day. This is for any adult collecting a child to borrow a book from. When you do borrow a book, please donate another so that our love of reading at St Nicholas can be shared by all!

Theatre Trips in December

KS1 pupils will be visiting The Midlands Art Centre on Thursday 8th December to see Raymond Briggs' 'The Bear'. This trip will take place during the afternoon and children will receive a packed lunch from the school kitchen.

KS2 pupils will be visiting The Lichfield Garrick on Friday 9th December to see Snow White. This trip will take place during the morning and children **will need a packed lunch from home.**

Many thanks to the parents who have volunteered to accompany us.

Phonics - home video links

Reception - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/k4jRoPpF/45mharIJ>

Green - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/YVBPeZe1/hu2SYFBO>

Purple- <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/GLgeeFQt/xOXHckQ2>

Pink- <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/uPaXOYMr/IFQ2sguM>

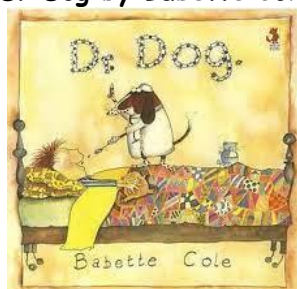
Orange - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/6Lnwnh9W/zE578tob>

Yellow - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Ny6WGd41/ozhKEQUF>

Staff book recommendations

For KS1 children, Mrs Vale recommends...

Dr Dog by Babette Cole



Meet Doctor Dog, he's the Gumboyle family's favourite pet and their very own trusty physician. When Doctor Dog jets off to a medical conference in Brazil the Guimboyles decide they can't survive without him and so he returns to rescue them from all sorts of ailments: itchy nits, tickly tonsils and worms to name but a few...

For KS2 children, Mrs Noble-Barton recommends...

Coraline by Neil Gaiman



In Coraline's family's new flat are twenty-one windows and fourteen doors. Thirteen of the doors open and close. The fourteenth is locked, and on the other side is only a brick wall, until the day Coraline unlocks the door to find a passage to another flat in another house just like her own.

Only it's different.

At first, things seem marvellous in the other flat. The food is better. The toy box is filled with wind-up angels that flutter around the bedroom, books whose pictures writhe and crawl and shimmer, little dinosaur skulls that chatter their teeth. But there's another mother, and another father, and they want Coraline to stay with them and be their little girl. They want to change her and never let her go. Other children are trapped there as well, lost souls behind the mirrors. Coraline is their only hope of rescue. She will have to fight with all her wits and all the tools she can find if she is to save the lost children, her ordinary life, and herself.

Dates for your diary

W/c 7/11 & W/c 14/11 Year 3 swimming (Tues-Fri each week) more details to follow
Tues 8/11 and Weds 9/11 Year 6 Parents' Evenings rearranged from 19/10 and 20/10
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



St. John Paul II Multi Academy

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