



### **Gospel Virtues**

Pupils continue to strive to be more *GENEROUS* and *GRATEFUL* this half term as they are led by Gospel values & virtues. Teachers are looking out for pupils who live out these virtues and, when they see them in action, they send that person to Mrs Noble-Barton for a wristband. Well done to Sophia in Year 5 who was the first person to get a generous and grateful wristband this week! Looking forward to many more next week.

### **Mass**

On Friday, Father Allen said a Mass for the whole school so that we could place this school year in the hands of our Lord. Thank you to the parents who attended this Mass. Now that summer is over and we are back 'into the swing' of normal life, please remember to make Mass the central commitment of your weekend. Your family will receive much nourishment and joy from the regular celebration of Mass together.

### **CAFOD Live Simply Award**

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School is working towards achieving CAFOD's Live Simply Award. This is a big project which will take all year. After we have completed 9 actions (3 of which must impact the global community, 3 impact the local community and the final 3 impact the school community) we will be assessed by CAFOD to see if we have earned the Live Simply award.

This doesn't just involve pupils and staff. Parents, governors, parishioners and the wider community will also be involved. On Friday pupils had a launch assembly and then spent the morning working on their ideas about how we can 'Live Simply', 'Live Sustainably' and 'Live in solidarity'. Their ideas have been shared with Mrs Noble-Barton who will now write an action plan. Details of the 9 actions we have decided on will be published soon. #LiveSimply #changeformthebetter.

### **This week's attendance**

It is really pleasing to see that pupils have made a strong start to the school year when it comes to attendance; there are some very pleasing figures in the table below. The right place for a child to be on a school day is in school. Let's keep up the good work. Pupils' attendance figures are monitored by school staff and parents will be contacted if their child's individual attendance falls below 95% in the first instance. Thank you for your support.

<b>Year group</b>	<b>% attendance for w/c 11.9.23</b>
Reception	100%
Year 1	99.14%
Year 2	98.75%
Year 3	97.5%
Year 4	99.13%
Year 5	99.55%
Year 6	98.02%
Well done to Reception!	

### Reading records

Your child has been given a reading record to keep track of their reading at home and at school. Parents of pupils studying phonics, please remember that different phonics groups work at different paces. Teachers may not have time to check every pupil's reading record on the same day so please ensure that your child's reading record and their reading book is in school every day. Please sign your child's record when they have read with you at home - this doesn't need to be anything more than a date and initial unless you would like to comment on your child's progress or ask a question of their phonics teacher or class teacher.

### SENDCO drop in coffee mornings

Our SENDCO, Mrs Burling-Finn, is going to be running a 'drop in' coffee morning on alternate Wednesdays starting from Wednesday 27th September. Whether or not your child has a SEND Pupil Profile or any diagnosis of additional need, you can drop in to see Mrs Burling-Finn, ask any questions you have about provision for SEND in our school and enjoy a cuppa! There is no need to book attendance just show up at any time between 9am and 10am on any of the following dates:

Wednesday 27/9

Weds 11/10

Weds 25/10

Weds 8/11 etc .

### PFA Meeting - Thursday 21st September from 5pm-6pm

#### **YOUR PFA NEEDS YOU...**

We have a very dedicated, but very small, band of parents who keep our PFA going. Over recent years, Mrs Sarah Hale (Chairperson) has found it increasingly difficult to get parent volunteers to help her at events such as school discos & the summer fair. On occasion, this has led her to have to cancel these events. A thriving PFA is wonderful not only for the financial benefits to school and the pupils but as a way of building up our community and forming lifelong friendships. However, it doesn't happen by accident. We all want the discos, the Mothers' day tea and the other wonderful events to happen, so we need to be contributing in any small way we can.

This doesn't have to be an onerous commitment. If you are interested in helping in **any** way, please come along to the first PFA meeting of the year which takes place in the school hall on **Thursday 21st September at 5pm**.

The agenda will be as follows:

- Welcome
- Roles/ membership
- Summary of accounts
- Open discussion on 23/24 objectives/ fundraising
- Summary of planned events
- Feedback/ suggestions
- AOB

We look forward to seeing you there!

### Parents of pupils in Year 6 - Bishop Walsh Open Evening

As parents of pupils in Year 6 are making applications to secondary schools, please note that Bishop Walsh Catholic School will be holding its open evening for prospective pupils and parents on **Wednesday 20th September from 5.30pm to 7.30pm**. This is a chance to look around the school, see what's on offer in different departments and talk to key members of staff.

### Do you know anyone with a child starting school in September 2024?

We will be holding four sessions for prospective parents which will feature a short presentation about the school followed by a tour of the school. This is an opportunity to see the school 'in action' and answer any questions you may have about the admissions process. The dates are listed below, please contact the school office on 0121 355 2649 or [enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk) to book a place.

Monday 13/11 at 9.15am

Tuesday 14/11 at 1.30pm

Wednesday 15/11 at 11am

Thursday 16/11 at 2.30pm

**Reception parents invitation to a welcome coffee morning**

On Thursday 21st September at 9am any parent or carer of a child in our new Reception class is welcome to attend an informal coffee morning. Our wonderful PFA will be providing refreshments and this is an opportunity for parents of this cohort of children to meet, mingle and share their experiences of their children starting school. We hope to see you all there.

**Word of the month**

# gregarious

**Definition:** a person who is sociable, talkative and fond of company

*Despite being a quiet child, the boy emerged as gregarious and confident when he attended school with a wide friendship group and a sociable nature – his friends admired him greatly!*

**Synonyms:**

Companionable,  
sociable, amicable,  
friendly, outgoing,  
affable



**Antonyms:**

Unsociable, reserved,  
introverted, unfriendly

**Phonics information evening - Thursday 28th September at 5pm (in the school hall)**

Parents of children in Reception and Year 1 are invited to attend a phonics information evening where our Assistant Head, Miss Smith, will guide you through our approach to teaching and learning phonics. This will be a really valuable opportunity to get to grips with your child's early reading journey.

**Parents of children in Years 5 & 6: Residential trip dates 2024**

**Year 5 trip to Alton Castle**

**Wednesday 24th - Friday 26th April 2024**

Parent information meeting via Zoom - Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 5pm

**Year 6 trip to Blackwell**

**Wednesday 12th-Friday 14th June 2024**

Parent information meeting via Zoom - Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 5pm

Meetings will last approximately 30 minutes.

Further information will be sent out to parents in due course.

**Message from Father Allen - Ready to Serve?**

Meetings for youngsters to introduce them to the ministries at St Nicholas church.

A few dates for the diary:

- Meeting for servers-to-be: After 6pm Mass on Saturday 23rd September OR after 9am Mass on 24th September. **Open to children in Year 3 and older.**

- Meeting for readers-to-be: After 6pm Mass on Saturday 30th September OR after 9am Mass on 1st October. **Open to children in Year 5 and older.**

### Preparing for Holy Communion and for Confirmation - a message from Father Allen

Thank you to all those families who have already signed up to be part of the parish preparation for children to receive first Sacraments in our parish next year.

This parish preparation builds on the preparation the children receive in our Saturday Classes (for children not in Catholic Schools) or in our Catholic schools.

If you have children in Year 3 or older who have not been prepared for Holy Communion, or Year 6 or older who have not been prepared for Confirmation, please contact Fr Allen in good time before the parish programmes' first event which is on Sunday Sept 24th.

### Lighthouse places

Attached to this email is a flyer from Lighthouse Preschool. There are spaces available at Lighthouse. Contact details are on the flyer.

### School Photographs - class groups

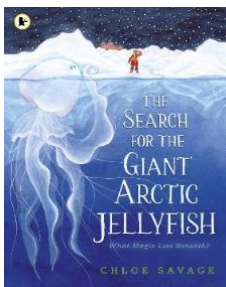
On Friday 22nd September, official photographers will visit school to take the whole class photographs. For the group photographs, Years 1 and 5 should still wear their PE kit as it is PE day for them.

On Tuesday 24th October, the photographers will return to take family, sibling and individual photographs. On this day, Years 2, 3 & 6 should wear their uniform rather than their PE kit. A reminder will be sent closer to the time.

### Staff book recommendations

For KS1, Miss Smith recommends...

*The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish* by Chloe Savage

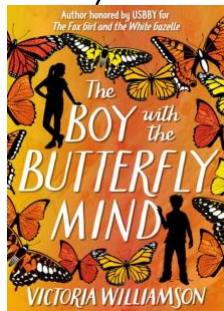


Dr Morley is about to embark on a quest to the northernmost tip of the world, to discover a creature that everyone talks about but nobody has ever seen: The Giant Arctic Jellyfish. After years of research and hard graft, she gathers together a highly trained crew and a boat full of specialist equipment, and sets sail for the vast icy scapes of the Arctic. Will she find what she is searching for? Or will it find her?

[Click to purchase](#)

For KS2, Mrs Noble-Barton recommends...

*The Boy with the Butterfly Mind* by Victoria Williamson



Jamie Lee just wants to be normal but his ADHD isn't making it easy. If only he could control his butterfly mind then he'd have friends, be able to keep out of trouble, live with his mum and not be sent to stay with his dad. Elin Watts just wants to be perfect. If she could be the best student and daughter possible, then maybe her dad would leave his new family and come back to Glasgow to live with Elin and her mum, happily ever after. When Jamie and Elin's families blend, the polar opposites of chaotic Jamie and ordered Elin collide. As their lives spiral out of control, Jamie and Elin discover that they're actually more alike than they'd admit. Maybe there's no such thing as normal, or perfect. And perhaps, just like families, happy-ever-afters come in all shapes and sizes.

[Click to purchase](#)

### Phonics home links

All reception children: [Fred game 1](#) [Fred game 2](#) [Fred game 3](#)

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

Mrs Maguire's pink group: [ay](#) [ee](#)

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

Mrs Vale and Mrs Trappett's yellow group: [ea](#) [oi](#) [a-e](#) [i-e](#) [o-e](#)

**Dates for the diary**

21/9/23	9am - Reception parents' coffee morning
22/9/23	Class photographs being taken - AM
22/9/23	First Friday Achievement Assembly of the year - 2.45pm
27/9/23	9am-10am SENDCO drop in coffee morning
28/9/23	Phonics information evening
29/9/23	Macmillan Coffee Morning - parents invited
24/10/23	Families, individual and sibling photos being taken - AM
23/11/23	Year 5 theatre trip

Wishing you a wonderful weekend,

Mr Porter  
Executive Principal

Mrs Noble-Barton  
Head of School

Miss Smith  
Assistant Head



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