



10th February 2023

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

During this half term we are focusing on becoming more ELOQUENT and TRUTHFUL. The following pupils have earned eloquent & truthful wristbands this week: Francesca (Y2), Wesley (Y2), Olivia (Y2), Cillian (Y1) Darcey (Y4), Joe (Y4), Bianca (Y4), Saffron (Y4), Lanna (Y4), Sophia (Y4), Ava (Y3), Gethin (Y4) & Felix (Y4).

Rare Dementia pyjama day - thank you

Thank you to Darcey in Y4 who allowed everyone to be super snuggly for school today! Darcey's fundraiser for Rare Dementia was inspired by experiences of people she knows. During this week, Mrs Noble-Barton met with Pauline Ross who is a local ambassador for Rare Dementia UK and also the grandmother to two children in our school. Pauline spoke eloquently about the challenges of caring for a loved one who has this awful illness; since the passing of her dear husband she has devoted her life to supporting those affected by dementia. What an inspiration! Thank you for your support today; attached to this email is a flyer about the charity in case you want to help further or you know anyone in need of support.

Children's Mental Health Week

This week was Children's Mental Health week. It has been wonderful to see older pupils leading younger pupils in 'Mindful Lunchtimes' and all classes exploring the theme of 'Let's Connect'. Good mental health is something we wish to champion all year round, not just for one week. Our nurture group called 'Shooting Stars' is run weekly by Mrs Shephard. After half term we will also be starting our 'Rainbows' group for any child who has experienced a loss of any kind.

Achievement Assembly

Please note that today's assembly is the last until after half term. Our next Friday Achievement Assembly will be on Friday 3rd March.

RHSE

During w/c 13th February, all classes will be studying the next unit in our Relationships, Health & Sex Education curriculum. Attached to this email is a full overview of topics which will be covered in each year group so that you can be prepared for any questions or conversations which may arise at home.

World Religions Fortnight

All classes continue their World Religions work next week. Year 6 had a Judaism workshop this week and Years 2&5 will be having a Sikh workshop next week. Years 1 & 4 will be having an Islamic visitor after half term. Please talk to your children at home about what they have learned about their world religion.

INSET

A reminder that next Friday, 17th February, is an INSET day and school is closed to pupils. Staff will be taking part in a full day of training from the British Dyslexia Association.

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. A particular thanks to the Dunn family who have purchased a selection of books for the classroom libraries of Years 2 and 6!

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](#)

World Book Day 2023

World Book Day celebrations will take place on Monday 6th March 2023. Reading will be celebrated with dance workshops linked to novels and a variety of activities during English lessons such as a 'teacher swap' where teachers read to a different class. Additionally, the Scholastic Book Fair will be open (Mon 6/3 -Fri 10/3) outside of school at 3:30pm. The £1 book token that children receive from school can now be used towards the purchase of books over £2.99 at the fair. Children are also invited to take part in our 'book in a box' competition; details of this were sent out earlier this week via parentmail.

Campfire stories - Years 5 & 6 - Wednesday 1st March 2023

Following on from the success of 'stories after dark' with Years 3 & 4, it is now the turn of upper KS2 pupils. Children in Years 5 and 6 are invited back into school at 5:30pm on Wednesday 1st March 2023. We will light the campfire for children to sit around to share stories with their friends, have a cup of hot chocolate and toast some marshmallows. The teachers and reading ambassadors will read to them too. Your child will need to wear warm clothing and can bring a blanket if they wish too. They will need to be collected from the KS2 playground, via the KS2 gate at 6:45pm.

Successful Author Visit - KS2

This week KS2 welcomed author Alex Bellos into school. Alex is a prolific author and his 'Football School' series is very popular with some of our older children! Some KS2 pupils were able to buy some of Alex's titles at a reduced price and all KS2 pupils experienced a fun and inspirational workshop with him. Thank you to Miss Smith for organising our author visits this term - they have been excellent.

February's word of the month

February's word of the month is bewildering. Please encourage your child to use this to improve their writing and speech.

PFA Valentines Disco - Tuesday 14th February - 3.30pm to 5pm

Thank you to those parents who have agreed to help Mrs Hale run this event. Details of how to purchase tickets have been sent out by the PFA.

Phonics - home video links

Lilac Reception group - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/BGYcyeLT/cCMXtled>

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/epBnOS3g/5mWMFHu0>

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/kFripI7S/Z8zom2YZ>

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xKLnagJh/qOdY17DE>

Red group-<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/OUssHPte/eywDogQM>

Purple group-<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/fQwvYkaM/y0szVd4t>

Pink group-<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/1KRzUiHt/MOIHizqH>

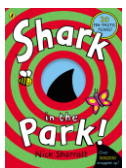
Orange group- <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/74ddpOf2/EH0ZFx20>

Blue group - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/gjheGnN1/g2EyhZln>

Staff Book Recommendations

For KS1, Mr Porter recommends...

Shark in the Park by Nick Sharratt



Timothy Pope, Timothy Pope, what can you see through your telescope?

Join a little boy on a trip through the park. Is that really a shark he can see?

[Click to purchase](#)

For KS2, Miss Smith recommends...

The Girl who Stole an Elephant by Nizrana Farook



Chaya, a no-nonsense, outspoken hero, leads her friends and a gorgeous elephant on a noisy, fraught, joyous adventure through the jungle where revolution is stirring and leeches lurk. Will stealing the queen's jewels be the beginning or the end of everything for the intrepid gang?

[Click to purchase](#)

Dates for your diary

Tues 14/2	Year 6 pilgrimage to St Chad's cathedral as part of Confirmation prep.
Tues 14/2	PFA Valentines Disco
Friday 17/2	INSET Day - school closed to pupils
w/c 20/2	Half Term - school closed to pupils
Weds 22/2	Ash Wednesday - the beginning of Lent
Monday 27/2	Second half of Spring Term begins for pupils
Tuesday 28/2	Y1 curriculum workshop 9am
Monday 6/3	World Book Day
Tuesday 7/3	Y4 curriculum workshop 9am
Wednesday 15/3	Year 6 Confirmation Exhibition
Tuesday 28/3	Parents' Evening: first appointment at 3.45pm / last appt. at 6.15pm
Wednesday 29/3	Parents' Evenings: first appointment at 4.30pm / last appt. at 7pm
Tuesday 4/4	KS2 Passion Play performance 9.15am
Wednesday 5/4	KS2 Passion Play performance 9.15am

To clarify, St Nicholas pupils' last day in school before breaking up for the Easter holidays will be Thursday 6th April as per the dates which have been long advertised on our school website. Pupils' first day back in school is Monday 24th April 2023. As ever, school term dates can be found here [Term Dates](#) | [St Nicholas \(stnicholassutton.org.uk\)](#)

God bless,

Mr Porter
Executive Principal

Mrs Noble-Barton
Head of School

