



Friday 3rd 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: Frank (Y6), Maja (Y6), Clara (Y6), Maddy (Y6), Adaire (Y6), Hope (Y5), Clodagh (Rec), Alexander (Rec), Luca (Rec), Lorcan (Rec), Kieran (Rec), Noah (Y1), Laurence (Y1), Paddy (Y2), Emily (Y2), Caoimhe (Y3), Ahara (Y3), Arabella (Y1), Rowan (Rec), Mabel (Rec), Ollie (Y5) & Connor (Y5).

'BEAM' drop in session

Since October, we have been following the 'BEAM' project from Beacon Family Services. This project helps our pupils to articulate their feelings and helps staff provide immediate support. We have had great feedback from the children about this. **At 9am on Monday 6th February, Pete Brindley from Beacon will be available for a short session in the school hall to explain BEAM to parents, explain how you can implement this at home and answer any questions you may have.** Please join us if you can.

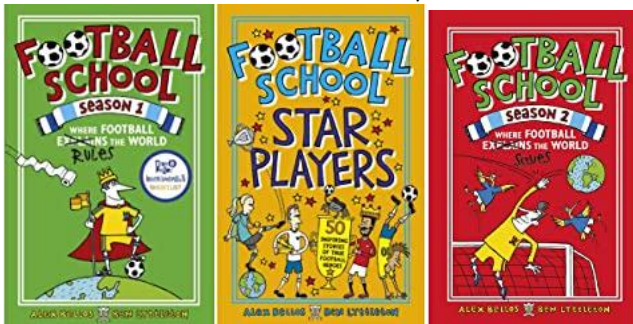
Successful Author Visit - KS1

EYFS, Y1 and Y2 welcomed author Judy Brulo to school. Judy led each class in a workshop about storytelling and some pupils purchased some of her books to enjoy at home.

Our English link governor, Miss Mary Casey, attended one of these workshops and commented, "I just wanted to say how impressed I was on my visit to school yesterday to see Year 2 pupils enjoying and learning from the visit of Judy Brulo. She told the children how clever and well behaved they were and I'm sure Mrs Finn-Taylor was very proud of them. Thank you to the children who were a credit to St Nicholas, their parents and themselves."

Author visiting KS2 - Tuesday 7th February

KS2 are very lucky to be welcoming Alex Bellos into school on Tuesday 7th February. He is the author of the 'Football School' series of books as well as having a popular column in the Guardian newspaper. He will be leading a workshop with the children as well as a question and answer session. A selection of his books will be available to purchase in the school hall at the discounted price of £5 from 8:30am on Tuesday morning. Don't miss out as these will be sold on a first come, first served basis. NB: cash only please.



February's word of the month

As we prepare to welcome a new month, we also have a new word to add to your vocabulary. Many thanks for all of the excellent suggestions. February's word of the month is **bewildering**. Please encourage your child to use this to improve their writing!

Safer Internet Day- 7th February

On Tuesday 7th February, it is Safer Internet Day. Throughout the coming week, pupils will be learning about how to stay safe online. To read about how to keep your child safe online then please follow this link: <https://www.saferinternetday.org/>

The whole school will be taking part in Internet Safety Workshops on 2nd and 3rd March; we look forward to this!

Attached to this email is an information sheet about keeping children safe if they are engaging with WhatsApp - this is something which has been a recent issue for some pupils in our school.

Children's Mental Health Week (6th- 12th February)

Children's Mental Health is of the utmost importance and as a school we will be supporting this initiative. The theme this year is 'Let's Connect'. In order to connect within our school community, Mini Vinnies will be helping to run 'Mindfulness Lunchtimes' across all year groups.

Please follow the link <https://sway.office.com/dlHjFST4XxdpggmF?ref=Link> to find out more about Children's Mental Health Week and how you can support at home.

Attached to this email is an information sheet for parents about Children's Mental Health week.

'Junior Einsteins' Science Club

Today we were joined by Lucy Hill-Brown, an ex-secondary school science teacher who now runs the 'Junior Einsteins' science club. Lucy gave the whole school a taster of what they can expect if they join her after school club which will begin after half term and run every Thursday after school until 4.30pm. In the first instance, this will be open to Years 1,2&3 with a view to running a club for older children in the future.

If your Y1,2 or 3 child is interested in joining this club, you can sign up using details which will be sent out early next week.

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 will be sent out by the PFA.

Rare Dementia details

On Friday 10th February we will be having a 'Pyjama Day' to raise money for a charity called Rare Dementia Support. Darcey in Y4 has instigated this as she has personal experience of knowing someone who has been affected by this awful disease. The Grandmother of another of our St Nicholas families is an ambassador for this charity, she can be found at Boldmere Bistro at the Sutton Rose Care Home on St Michael's Road every Wednesday, and raises funds for the charity by making an abundance of crochet items such as toys, decorations. Anyone needing help or support can drop in during any Wednesday. Details can be found below:

Pauline Ross

Email polly.rossrds@btinternet.com

Phone 07815 285 876

Her Instagram page to purchase crochet items for fundraising is [sea_horsecreations](#)

Webpage www.raredementiasupport.org

Phonics - home video links

Reception Lilac group - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/6kGoHGz6/O7CVUVnr> ,
<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/yPf8qPxX/gk9IuV5W> ,
<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/OkT5KdqS/RbCKVcjG> &
<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/fO77ASRw/WTBOq5Nj>
Red group - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/6kGoHGz6/O7CVUVnr> &
<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/yPf8qPxX/gk9IuV5W>
Purple group- <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/IOiCfT5n/WQ9eNS0s>
Pink group- <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rgo5O77m/gxZfqXZu>
Orange group- <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Q6wgHjg2/jYTg67Iz>
Blue group- <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/7Ih5GONW/5BTTL6Rx> &
<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/bKjy4OnS/Su0Da7ad>

Staff Book Recommendations

For KS1, Miss Guest recommends...

The Missing Piece by Jordan Stephens



Sunny loves jigsaw puzzles - the bigger the better. When she completes one, she gets a warm, happy honey bee buzz. One day, her Gran gives her a ONE-THOUSAND-PIECE puzzle. Piece after piece, all by herself, she puts together the picture, until . DISASTER! The final piece is missing. Sunny may be small, but she is very determined - so she sets off to find it.

As the day whizzes by in a whirl of new places and friends, Sunny discovers that looking for something is every bit as fun as finding it, and that perhaps the missing piece was there all along .

[Click to purchase.](#)

For KS2, Mrs Rayment recommends...

Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo



I disappeared on the night before my twelfth birthday. Washed up on an island in the Pacific, Michael struggles to survive on his own. With no food and no water, he curls up to die. When he wakes, there is a plate beside him of fish, of fruit, and a bowl of fresh water. He is not alone . . .

[Click to purchase.](#)

Dates for your diary

Tues 7/2	Years 5&6 visiting BWS to watch 'Footloose'
Friday 10/2	Pyjama Day for Rare Dementia Support Charity - £1
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
Thursday 2/3	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 \(stnicholassutton.org.uk\)](#)

