



2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

### **Feast of St Nicholas**

On Tuesday 6th December we will celebrate the feast of our patronal saint, Nicholas. This is a special day for us as a school and parish community and it would be wonderful if you could join us in church at 1.30pm for Mass.

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

[Click here for the Wednesday Word](#)

### **Reverse Advent Calendar**

During this season of Advent, the school community will be preparing for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. During our Gospel Liturgy this week, we discussed the fact that Jesus appears to us in every person we meet, including those in need. As part of our preparation to meet the Lord, we want to help those in need this Advent by running our 'Reverse Advent Calendar' initiative again. The idea behind this is that we donate something rather than receiving something this Advent. We have a long standing working relationship with Bethany Food Bank in Erdington and so we will be collecting for them this year. Donations can be sent into classrooms with children or handed in at the school office. We are asking for:

**W/c 5th December: tinned veg, tinned meat, tea, coffee, Christmas hamper type items.**

**W/c 12th December: toiletries, loo roll, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, women's sanitary products.**

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### **Rudolph Run 2022**

[Rudolph Run 2022 - Just Giving Page](#)

This week we had a visit from 'Hettie the Hedgehog' who is the mascot for The Hospice Charity Partnership (who run John Taylor Hospice and St Mary's Hospice) to talk to us about 'The Rudolph Run 2022'. Over the next two weeks, all pupils will complete a short run, wearing their antlers as gifted by the charity, in return for sponsorship via this link [Rudolph Run 2022 St Nicholas](#).

### **Gospel Virtues**

This half term we are focused on being 'FAITH-FILLED' and 'HOPEFUL'. The following children have been seen living out these virtues and have been awarded a wristband this week: Edward (Rec), Nadine (Rec), Sophia (Y4), Francesca (Y1), Frank (Y6), Finn B (Y6), Thomas (Y1)

### **The Nativity**

Details have gone out this week about how to acquire tickets for the production of the year, the EYFS & KS1 nativity play. The performance dates are Tuesday 13th December and Wednesday 14th December; both of these are 9.30am starts. We ask that anyone bringing preschool aged children attends the Wednesday performance. Please note that there is a maximum of **four** tickets per **family** (not per child). When planning events in school we have to factor in fire safety regulations. Please do not put Mrs Nutbrown and Mrs Matthews in the awkward position of having to say 'no' to requests for extra tickets. The beautiful sounds of the children rehearsing are currently floating through school - this should be a wonderful and joyous event.

### **'Mini Vinnies'**

This week our 'Mini Vinnie' group received their badges and made their commitment to help and support the local community as part of the Catholic Life of our school. Their first assignment is coming up; they will be visiting local nursing homes to sing carols and lift spirits!

### **Achievement Assembly/Guitar performance - Friday 9th December - 2.30pm start**

As part of the Achievement Assembly on Friday 9th December, any pupil who has guitar lessons in school (including all of Year 4) will be performing a few pieces that they have been working on. Please note the 2.30pm start time in order to facilitate this.

*There will be no Achievement Assembly on Friday 16th December. The next assembly after Friday 9th December will be Friday 6th January.*

### **Whole School Masses**

On Tuesday 6th December the whole school will gather in church to celebrate Mass on the Feast Day of our patronal saint, Nicholas. Mass will begin at **1.30pm**.

On Friday 16th December, the whole school will gather in church to celebrate Mass on the last day of the Autumn Term as we break up for Christmas. This Mass will begin at **1.15pm**.

You are, of course, more than welcome to attend either or both.

### **Nasal Flu Vaccinations - whole school**

For those pupils whose parents have returned the consent form, the nasal flu vaccination will be administered by the school nurse team on the morning of Tuesday 6th December.

### **Theatre trips**

Although we are travelling via coach, we will still need to walk to and from the venue. Please ensure that your child brings a waterproof coat with them to school.

#### **KS1 - Thursday 8th December**

Your children will eat their lunch in school but can bring a small, afternoon snack with them. This snack should be able to fit in their coat pocket.

#### **KS2 - Friday 9th December**

Please ensure that your child is in school promptly at 8:50am as we are due to depart at 9:00am.

### **Word of the month**

Please see attached December's word of the month which is: **Phenomenal.**

Thank you to everyone for your suggestions. These will be rolled over to January. If you have any other suggestions, please let Miss Smith know.

### **PFA Christmas Disco**

This will take place on Wednesday 14th December from 3.30pm-5pm. This will also be Christmas jumper day so there is no need for the children to get changed at the end of the day. Please follow the link to the PFA website sent out on parentmail to purchase tickets.

### **Winter Games**

Please find attached the details of some sporting activities taking place for children locally.

### **Message from Miss Brown of Centrestage**

Centrestage is incredibly proud of the pupils who took part in the Speech Recital on Thursday 24th November. They performed a fantastic selection of 'Family Life' themed poetry. We are sure you will agree that it takes huge confidence to stand up in front of an audience. They all worked so hard on their performances, spoke clearly and audibly, used facial expression, body language, vocal tone and expression. We really feel they were able to demonstrate a brilliant variety of different skills, and we are exceptionally proud of all of them.

If you are interested in joining Speech and Drama lessons at St Nicholas Primary School, please don't hesitate to contact us. You can email [admin@centrestageschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@centrestageschool.org.uk).

## Phonics - home video links

Reception - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Tz2T2RNq/iZAZDKvo>

Green - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/vS3L8yy3/JzW0Sy1L>

Purple- <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/yO8wf3Vh/Spj3GqYN>

Pink- <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/QHkKkeCC/yz8dMkja>

Orange - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/YIY93ogG/2g7JHEWC>

Yellow - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/AkMX8Zn1/xOGyfWBO>

and

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Hue7XqtC/nTvvK4oP>



### Staff book recommendations

For KS1, Mrs Finn-Taylor recommends...

*Little Red Reading Hood* by Lucy Rowland & Ben Mantle

Little Red Reading Hood loves reading books and making up stories of her own. When she meets a cunning wolf while on her way to the library, he convinces her to stray from the path and read for a little while. But hasn't she read this in a story before? Perhaps it's time she came up with a new ending . . .

[Click to purchase](#)

For KS2, Mr Reid recommends...

*The Boy in the Tower* by Polly Ho-Yen



When they first arrived, they came quietly and stealthily as if they tip-toed into the world when we were all looking the other way.

Ade loves living at the top of a tower block. From his window, he feels like he can see the whole world stretching out beneath him.

His mum doesn't really like looking outside - but it's going outside that she hates. She prefers to sleep all day inside their tower, where it's safe.

Except it isn't any more. Strange plants have started to take over and tower blocks are falling down around them.

Now Ade and his mum are trapped and there's no way out . . .

[Click to purchase](#)

**A special book recommendation from Mrs Noble-Barton, suitable for all ages of children to share during Advent & Christmas...**

*Refuge* by Anne Booth and Sam Usher



A timely and timeless retelling of the Christmas story, inspired by refugee children everywhere.

This powerful and evocative picture book, which tells the Christmas story and what follows the fleeing of Jesus, Mary and Joseph from Herod's soldiers to Egypt has timeless crossover appeal and a poignant message that couldn't be more relevant.

[Click to purchase](#)

### Dates for your diary

Tuesday 6/12	Nasal Flu vaccinations for any child with consent (AM)
Tuesday 6/12	Feast of St Nicholas - whole school Mass in church at 1.30pm
Thursday 8/12	KS1 Theatre Trip to the MAC
Friday 9/12	KS2 Theatre Trip to Lichfield Garrick theatre
Tuesday 13/12	EYFS & KS1 Nativity Play - 9.30am - ticket only
Wednesday 14/12	EYFS & KS1 Nativity Play - 9.30am - ticket only
Friday 16/12	Whole School Mass in church at 1.15pm
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



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