



Dear Parents & Carers,

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Welcome back!**

It has been wonderful to welcome back Years 1-6 this week and to catch up on everyone's summer adventures. Over the summer holidays our school received a makeover! Every classroom and communal working area has been repainted, all internal classroom doors have been changed, we have new shutters in the dining room and a new front door. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our school staff for working so hard to put the school back together and make a calming & inviting learning environment for our pupils.

We welcome some new staff members who have joined us this term; Mrs Bowen is our new Reception class teacher, Mrs Rehman is teaching Year 3 and Miss Godfrey is the teacher in Year 4. We also welcome Mrs Lee and Mrs Filip-Datcu who are Lunchtime Supervisors.

Miss Smith also begins her new role as our Assistant Head. Miss Smith is leading on several curriculum areas as well as other projects in school. As a member of the Senior Leadership Team Miss Smith is also available to answer any questions or concerns you may have. She can be contacted through enquiry @.

As a staff body we look forward to working with you, the parents and carers of our pupils, to make 2023/24 a happy, harmonious and successful year.

**Prayer for this school year**

Dear God, give me the strength to love others and to be loved.

Guide me through each day with your helping hand.

Give me the knowledge that you are already there,

Especially when I need you the most.

Give me the courage to live each moment as if the next will never come.

Show me how to be strong when I am feeling weak.

Give me the strength to live as you intended me to.

Amen.

**Gospel Virtues**

This half term we are striving to be more *GRATEFUL* and *GENEROUS*.

Within prayer time, R.E. lessons and across the curriculum, pupils will be exploring their gratitude to God for the gifts He has bestowed upon them and how they can show generosity by using these gifts to serve others.

Please talk about our focus Gospel Virtues at home round the dinner table and during prayer time.



**Whole school Mass**

All parents, carers, grandparents and friends of the school are invited to any whole school Mass during the course of the year. Our first is on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 1.30pm in church** and is to dedicate this academic year to God and ask for His guidance and wisdom in all we do. If you can attend a whole school Mass then *please* do. Our parental attendance at Mass last year wasn't great (thank you to the trusty congregation who always attend) and it really is so important for the children to see that you value the Eucharist and the Catholic identity of our school.

### Presentation of Pupils' School Work

Staff and pupils have been discussing ways in which pupils can ensure that the presentation of their school work, in all curricular areas, is as good as it possibly can be. During last academic year we saw a slight slip in the usual high standards of some pupils' presentation as bad habits such as 'doodling' started to creep in. So...with a fresh academic year comes a fresh start to presentation. Attached is the list of 'non negotiables' that staff have shared with pupils and that pupils will be reminded of in the weeks to come. Please note that pupils with additional or SEND needs will be supported to reach these standards and that professional knowledge of the pupils will be used.

### 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 .



### 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 as 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

### English homework

Please see the information sent out via ParentMail today regarding English homework. If you have any questions or need any support, please contact Miss Smith via [enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk).

### 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

### School office - opening hours

Please note that the school office opens at 8am and closes at 4.30pm. The school office is also closed between 12.30pm and 1pm for lunch.

### Term dates & INSET dates

Information on school term dates for this academic year as well as dates when the school is closed for INSET, can be found at the following link:

<https://www.stnicholassutton.org.uk/dates-for-your-diary>

### Achievement Assembly

Please note that the first Achievement Assembly of the year will be on Friday 22nd September at 2.45pm. As per last year, parents/carers will receive a Parentmail on Thursday morning if your child is receiving any school based award in that week's assembly. Awards from outside school need to be brought into school by Thursday morning of each week and **must be clearly labelled with the child's name, class and details of what the award is for**. Thank you.

### 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.



### 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.**

### Centrestage School of Speech and Drama

Attached to this email you will find a flyer from Centrestage which gives you more information about what is on offer from them. Pupils who are already registered will begin their Centrestage lessons next week. If your child is not registered, but is interested, there are details on the flyer about how you can get them involved.

**Dates for the diary**

15/9/23	Whole school Mass in church at 1.30pm - all welcome
21/9/23	9am - Reception parents' coffee morning
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
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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