



17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

**Stroke Association Fundraiser**

Huge thanks for your support of Liam's fundraiser today for the Stroke Association. So far we have raised £114. If you wish to contribute then please drop your donation to the school office. Thank you.

**Gospel Virtues**

Who has been seen living out our Gospel Virtues this week?

Lily, Mabel, Clodagh, Alexander, Callum & Freddie R (Rec), Chiara & Maya (Y1), Carter (Y1), Rupert (Y3), Rowan (Rec), Callum (Rec), Mabel (Rec), Peter (Rec), Clodagh (Rec), Kobim (Rec), Emily (Y2), Beau (Y3) & ALL OF YEAR 1!



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

[Click here for the Wednesday Word](#)

**OFSTED Inspection**

On Monday and Tuesday of this week we welcomed inspectors from OFSTED to our school. Our pupils were polite, eloquent and keen to talk to the inspectors about what they learn at school. Thank you for your words of encouragement and support, when we receive the final inspection report it will be shared with you through our school website.

**Confirmation Rehearsal**

We look forward to welcoming Archbishop Bernard Longley to the parish on Friday 24th March to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on our Y6 pupils as well as other young people in the parish.

*Please be advised that Father Allen will be hosting a rehearsal for the sacrament after 6pm Mass this Saturday (18/3) in church. It would be good for all confirmandi to attend.*

**British Science Week**

Please see our Twitter feed for photos of the amazing activities, lessons and workshops which children experienced as we marked British Science Week this week. Thank you to our science subject leader, Mrs Griffiths, for organising this. Science is an important subject and one which children often find engaging and exciting. Please remember that our 'Junior Einsteins' science after school club is currently available to children in Years 1, 2 & 3 after school on Thursdays - see the school office for more information.

**Winners of 'book in a box'**

A huge thanks to everyone who took part in our 'book in a box' competition - thank you so much parents for supporting your child to create their entry. The standard was exceptional and the Reading Ambassadors had a difficult time trying to choose a winner.

Congratulations to our winners Beaumont (Y2) who recreated Monkey Puzzle and Thomas (Y1) who recreated The Day the Crayons Quit. Well done also to our runners up: Anna (Y6) with Warhorse, Ava (Y3) with The Day I Fell into a Fairytale and Laurence (Y1) with Flat Stanley.

**Easter Poster from Cherished**

Please find attached to this email, a leaflet about what is on offer from a local organisation, 'Cherished' over the Easter holidays. Cherished is based in Boldmere and offers a range of social, emotional workshops and activities for primary school aged children with a particular focus on girls.

**Furniture for Ukrainians**

Also attached to this email is a flyer asking for donations of good quality furniture, kitchen equipment and bedding. Many people seeking refuge from the war in Ukraine are now starting to move into independent accommodation and need help in furnishing their homes. If you are having a clearout and have some good quality items, please email the address on the flyer. Thank you.

### Sepsis Savvy Walk

The UK Sepsis Trust (UKST) is excited to announce the launch of their Sepsis Savvy National Walks - a brand new UKST event that will bring together communities from all over the country, to help us raise vital awareness of sepsis. The walks will be taking place throughout the UK in various locations, with the flagship event being held in Sutton Park, in the Royal Town where the charity was founded back in 2012. We'd be thrilled if students and their families could join Aoife (Y4) and her family in supporting this event - and here is some of the key information to consider:

- Date = Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023
- Time = The walk starts at 11:00am, meeting time is 10:30am
- Meeting point = Sutton Park Visitor Centre, B74 2YT, near Town Gate.
- Route = The route will be approximately 5.8 miles in distance. Please [click here](#) to view the route in more detail. Please note the route and distance is subject to change, and suitable footwear is recommended.

Registration for this walk is free of charge, and anyone interested can register via [this link](#).

Thank you once again for your continued support of this fantastic charity.

### Young Voices charity single - OUT NOW!

The charity single, Proud, recorded by our Young Voices choir with Heather Small is available to purchase now for less than £1. All proceeds will be donated to children's mental health charity Place2Be - please help to get this song to No.1 in the charts!

<https://www.youngvoices.co.uk/proud-charity-single>

### 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. 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](#)

### March's word of the month

It is truly **bewildering** as to how fast this year is going! We are into March and this means a new word to add to our growing vocabulary. March's word of the month is **treacherous**. Many thanks for all of the fantastic suggestions; those not chosen will be forwarded to April. We are looking forward to seeing this powerful adjective in your children's writing!

### Year 6's Confirmation Exhibition - incredible!

Year 6 were outstanding role models for St Nicholas as they exhibited their Confirmation projects on Wednesday. We were visited by 2 schools in our academy, who commented on the exceptional level of effort that had been put into them. All of our children were able to confidently articulate how their chosen Saint had inspired them as well as sharing interesting facts. You made Miss Smith very proud! Well done! Many thanks to our families who attended to share in the children's journey of faith and a particular thank you to Mrs Dunn and Mrs Cooper who kindly provided refreshments.

### Year 6 Careers Week (Monday 3rd - Friday 7th July)

As our Year 6 pupils prepare to embark on their secondary school journey, we would like to give them an insight into the wealth of employment opportunities open to them. With this in mind, we are organising a 'Careers Week' and would like to invite parents and/or family members to share their jobs with our pupils. This would involve discussing the following: route to employment including subjects suitable to take forward in Year 9, entailment of your job role and why you enjoy it, opportunities for progression and personal experiences. If this is something that you would be interested in, please email [enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk). Thank you.

### Phonics home links

[Red ditty 1](#) [Red ditty 2](#)

[Green 1](#) [Green 2](#)

[Fast track](#)

[Pink](#)

[Orange 1](#) [Orange 2](#)

[Yellow 1](#) [Yellow 2](#)

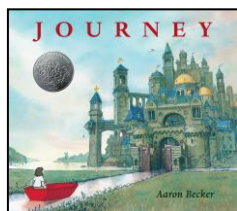
[Grey](#)

Additional Phonics videos for Reception children:

### **Staff Book Recommendations**

For KS1, Mrs Shephard recommends...

*The Journey* by Aaron Becker

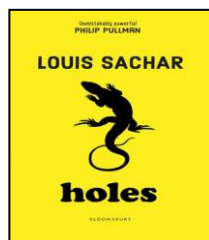


A lonely girl draws a magic door on her bedroom wall and through it escapes into a world where wonder, adventure, and danger abound. Red marker in hand, she creates a boat, a balloon, and a flying carpet that carry her on a spectacular journey toward an uncertain destiny. When she is captured by a sinister emperor, only an act of tremendous courage and kindness can set her free. Can it also lead her home and to her heart's desire?

[Click to purchase](#)

For KS2, Mr Reid recommends...

*Holes* by Louis Sachar



Stanley Yelnats' family has a history of bad luck, so when a miscarriage of justice sends him to Camp Green Lake Juvenile Detention Centre (which isn't green and doesn't have a lake) he is not surprised. Every day he and the other inmates are told to dig a hole, five foot wide by five foot deep, reporting anything they find. Why? The evil warden claims that it's character building, but this is a lie. It's up to Stanley to dig up the truth.

[Click to purchase](#)

### **Dates for your diary**

Fri 24/3 @ 7pm	Sacrament of Confirmation being conferred by Archbishop Bernard Longley
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
Monday 24/4	First day of Summer Term for all pupils
Tuesday 25/4	Year 5 curriculum workshop for parents - 9am
Tuesday 25/4	Year 4 visit to Birmingham Central Library
Weds 26/4 - Fri 28/4	Year 5 residential retreat to Alton Castle
Thurs 27/4	Year 3 First Holy Communion Retreat from One Life Music
Mon 1/5	May Day - Bank Holiday
Mon 8/5	King's Coronation - Bank Holiday
Tues 9/5 - Fri 12/5	KS2 SATs Tests (Y6) to be administered
Weds 7/6 - Fri 9/6	Year 6 residential trip to Blackwell Adventure

*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