



1<sup>st</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

### **Gospel Virtues**

This half term we are focusing on becoming more LEARNED and WISE. Staff members have been looking for pupils who have been living out these virtues. Pupils who have received a virtues wristband this week are:

Frank (Y6), Finley (Y1), Emily (Y5), Frankie Ba (Y5), Cillian (Y1), Nina (Y3), Kosi (Y5), Harriet (Y5), Ollie (Y5) & Connor (Y5). Well done all!

### **Holy Week**

Today is Palm Sunday and marks the start of Holy Week. This is a very important week in the church's calendar as we remember the events leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of Our Lord. If you would like to refresh your own knowledge of the meaning and importance behind Holy Week then why not share this video with your family [Busted Halo - Holy Week](#) - it is a short and easy watch but reminds us of the ways in which we can adore and glorify the Lord during this Holy Week.

KS2 will be leading us in a short depiction of some of the main events leading up to the crucifixion when they perform their Passion Play on Tuesday & Wednesday at 9.30am. Please note that admission is by ticket only.

### **Car Parking for Passion Play**

The KS2 playground will be open for cars at 9.10am on Tuesday & Wednesday. All cars must be vacated by 10.40am. Please note that if you choose to park in the church car park you will need to scan the QR code located in the school office area to avoid a £100 parking fine.

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

[Click here for the Wednesday Word](#)

### **Informing school of a child's absence**

If your child is off sick from school **you must inform school by 9am**. You can leave a voicemail message on the main line 0121 355 2649 or drop an email to [enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk). As part of our safeguarding procedures, we must know where each pupil is on a school day. Our office staff will phone the emergency contacts for any child who isn't in school without reason and, if contact can't be made, two members of the senior leadership team will visit the primary residence of the child to do a safe and well check. If we still can't locate the child, a referral will be made to the appropriate outside agency.

### **Uniform - long sleeved tops underneath t-shirts**

We are seeing an increase in the number of pupils wearing long sleeved tops underneath their short sleeved school polo shirts. Please note that this is not part of the school uniform. If a child is cold, they have their St Nicholas jumper or cardigan to put on.

A reminder that we allow summer uniform in the Summer term (i.e. when we return from Easter break) and in the first half of the Autumn term (until October half term).

Our school uniform policy can be found here: [St Nicholas School - uniform policy](#).

Thank you for your support in helping to keep standards of uniform high.

### **Road Safety**

Our crossing warden, Christine, does a wonderful job of keeping families safe when they are navigating Jockey Road in the morning and afternoon. Christine has fed back to Mrs Noble-Barton that she has witnessed some unsafe behaviour on scooters with children travelling too fast & too far ahead of their adults; Christine has had to step in on more than one occasion to stop a child going into the road. Please ensure that you are watching all of the children in your charge and that you have had a conversation with your child about safe scooter use. Thank you.

### Year 5 curriculum workshop - Tuesday 25th April 2023

A reminder for parents & carers of our Y5 pupils that the curriculum workshop for this year group will take place on the above date. The workshop starts at 9am and runs until around 10.30am. The purpose of the workshop is to empower parents with knowledge of the Y5 curriculum & to give you the opportunity to experience the types of teaching methods which are used. You will work with your child to complete various activities in a variety of curriculum areas. The workshop for this year group will also touch upon some of the things we do in the summer term of Y5 to get the class ready for the challenges of Y6.

If you cannot attend then please consider asking a grandparent/aunt/uncle to attend on your behalf. If this is the case then please email their name to [enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk)

### INSET Day - Thursday 6th July

Please note that the St John Paul II MAC has designated Thursday 6th July 2023 as an INSET day. School will be closed to pupils on this day and will reopen on Friday 7th July.

### 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](#)

### April's word of the month

We have had some **treacherous** weather during the month of March. Let's hope that we see some brighter days during April. A new month sees a new word to add to our growing vocabulary; **April's word of the month is: exhilarating.** We will look forward to seeing this word in your writing!

### 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

[Pink](#)

[Grey](#)

[Orange 1](#)

[Orange 2](#)

[Green 1](#)

[Green 2](#)

[Yellow 1](#)

[Yellow 2](#)

[Red 1](#)

[Red 2](#)

[Red 3](#)

[Fast track 1](#)

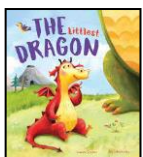
[Fast track 2](#)

[Fast track 3](#)

### Staff Book Recommendations

For KS1, Mrs Maguire recommends...

*The Littlest Dragon* by Susan Quinn.

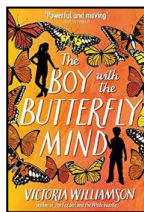


The Littlest Dragon can't run fast, is always last in the flying races and, worst of all, can't breathe fire. Being so little makes him sad, until Little Bird turns up and shows him that with a little help from a friend, anything is possible. When winter arrives and all the other dragons catch a cold and their fires go out, only Little Dragon can keep them warm. Will he be able to breathe fire after all? This lovely book about being small and still finding a fire inside is sure to appeal to small children. And its message of friendship will resonate for anyone feeling different and alone.

[Click to purchase](#)

For KS2, Mrs Noble-Barton recommends...

*The Boy with the Butterfly Mind* by Victoria Williamson



Jamie Lee just wants to be normal but his ADHD isn't making it easy. If only he could control his butterfly mind then he'd have friends, be able to keep out of trouble, live with his mum and not be sent to stay with his dad.

Elin Watts just wants to be perfect. If she could be the best student and daughter possible, then maybe her dad would leave his new family and come back to Glasgow to live with Elin and her mum, happily ever after.

When Jamie and Elin's families blend, the polar opposites of chaotic Jamie and ordered Elin collide. As their lives spiral out of control, Jamie and Elin discover that they're actually more alike than they'd admit. Maybe there's no such thing as normal, or perfect. And perhaps, just like families, happy-ever-afters come in all shapes and sizes.

[Click to purchase](#)

### Dates for your diary

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
Thurs 6/7	MAC INSET Day - school closed to pupils

*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

