



**Together with Christ we love,  
live & learn.**

**St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School**

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Executive Principal: Mr N Porter

Dear Parents & Carers,

Friday 11th October 2024

### **Year of Prayer**

Pope Francis has declared that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year for the Catholic Church. Jubilee years are very special and will unite the church around the theme of 'Hope'. In order to prepare for this Jubilee, Pope Francis has declared 2024 a Year of Prayer. Pope Francis has asked Catholics to get 'back to basics' during this year by focusing on The Lord's Prayer.

Throughout this year various prayer activities based around The Lord's Prayer will be taking place in school.

**Why not make The Lord's Prayer part of your home prayer life?**

*Over the next few weeks we will be looking at the Lord's prayer in different languages... this week in Italian.*

Padre Nostro, che sei nei cieli,  
Sia santificato il tuo nome.  
Venga il tuo regno,  
Sia fatta la tua volontà,  
Come in cielo, così in terra.  
Dacci oggi il nostro pane quotidiano,  
E rimetti a noi i nostri debiti  
Come noi li rimettiamo ai nostri debitori.  
E non ci indurre in tentazione,  
Ma liberaci dal male.  
Amen.



### **Wednesday Word**

Please follow the link below to enjoy this week's Gospel as a family:

[Click HERE for the Wednesday Word](#)

### **World Mental Health Day - Thank you**

Thank you for your support in marking World Mental Health Day on Thursday. We raised £150 which will go towards the PFA purchase of new playground equipment. Thank you also to Mrs Smith who led mental health and mindfulness workshops for each class during the course of the day.

### **PFA New Starters' Disco**

As I write this we look forward to the wonderful event tonight! Thank you to Matteo Belardi, Nancy Dunn & all of the PFA volunteers who have worked hard on this event. Thank you also to the many staff who are staying to help. Let's hope that a good time is had by all!

### **Stay and Pray - 9am **\*\*Dates for your diary\*\*****

Over the course of the Autumn Term, each class will hold a 'Stay and Pray' session. During these sessions, parents, carers & grandparents are encouraged to drop their children at school and then make their way into the classroom for a short prayer session with their child/grandchild.

Each session will start at 9am and run for approximately 20 minutes. This is a wonderful opportunity to join in prayer with your child and their class. Everyone is invited, regardless of faith. Dates are below:

Friday 18/10: Year 2

Friday 8/11: Year 3  
Friday 15/11: Year 4  
Friday 22/11: EYFS  
Friday 29/11: Year 1  
Friday 6/12: Year 6  
Friday 13/12: Year 5

### **Curriculum Workshops**

So far this term we have hosted several successful Parent & Child Workshops. These events are wonderful opportunities for parents & carers to experience the curriculum and work with their child. Below are the dates of the remaining workshops, all are a 9am start and last for around 90 minutes:

Tuesday 15th October - Year 5  
Tuesday 5th November - EYFS  
Tuesday 19th November - Year 2  
Tuesday 26th November - Year 3

### **Family, individual and sibling photographs - Tuesday 22nd October**

Academy Photography will visit school on Tuesday 22/10 to take photographs of each child, sibling groups and any desired family groups. *If you have children who don't attend St Nicholas and you would like a family/sibling photo, please arrive at the school hall at 8.30am.* Siblings who all attend St Nicholas do not need to arrive early; they will be photographed during the school day. All pupils will also have an individual photo.

*All pupils should wear full school uniform (including jumper or cardigan) on this day and not PE kit.*

Proofs will be sent to you shortly and you will have a deadline date to order directly from Academy Photography.

### **Parents' Evenings - Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd October**

Parents' Evening appointments are bookable through Parentmail and will go live at **7pm on Monday 14th October**. Please note that teachers will not be able to make appointments outside of these dates unless there are extenuating circumstances. Appointments are 10 minutes long and teachers will aim to stick to these timings so as to avoid others having a long wait.

The first appointment on Tuesday 22/10 is at 3.45pm with the last appointment being at 6.15pm.

The first appointment on Wednesday 23/10 is at 4.30pm with the last appointment being at 6.50pm. Thank you.

### **Starting Secondary School - September 2025 - a message from Admissions**

Applications are now open for current Year 6 children to apply to transfer to secondary school in September 2025. Parents/carers can apply up to **11.59 pm on 31 October 2024**.

Applications received after the closing date are treated as 'late applications' and less likely to be offered one of their preferred schools.

Information to support parent/carers can be found on the council website:  
[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school\\_admissions/1778/secondary\\_school\\_year\\_7\\_admissions/1](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1778/secondary_school_year_7_admissions/1)

We recommend that parents/carers use all of their six preferences to maximise their chances of getting a place at one of the schools that they prefer.

If you live in Birmingham, please submit your child's application before the final closing date of **31 October 2024** via the following link <https://eadmissions.birmingham.gov.uk/prefs.php>

If you live outside of Birmingham, please contact the local authority which you pay your Council Tax to regarding how to apply for your child's secondary school place.

### **Do you know a family with a child who starts school (Reception class) in September 2025?**

If so, please encourage them to attend one of our Prospective Parents Sessions. During these sessions, parents will have a short presentation on the admissions process followed by a tour of the school. Sessions are as follows:

Monday 11th November 2024 at 9.15am

Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 1.45pm

Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 11am

Thursday 14th November 2024 at 2.30pm

### **Scholastic Book Fair**

We are very lucky to be hosting the Scholastic Book Fair next week. The book fair will be outside the front of school from 3:30-4pm, Monday to Friday. There is a huge selection of books available and for each book purchased at the fair, school receive money towards books which support teaching and learning.

Please note that we are only able to accept card or contactless payments - cash is not accepted.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### **Charity Shops - a plea**

We have been contacted by several local charity shops who have asked for donations of good quality toys **before Christmas**. They have explained that they are often inundated with toys in January when everyone has a clear out to accommodate new toys which have been received over Christmas but they often find that families who are struggling financially will be looking for toys to give their children and will be looking in November and December. Please consider a toy clear out prior to Christmas and take them to any local charity shop. Thank you.

### **PFA News**

#### **Business Networking Meeting - Thursday 17th October**

Join us for the St Nicholas School Business Networking Event!

Parents and alumni are invited to our Business Networking Event on Thursday, 17th October, 6:30-8:30pm. For £20, enjoy networking with food and drinks, with additional options available for purchase.

  Tickets: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stnickspfa/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=86292>

Led by Brian Davies of BD Consultancy, a Year 6 parent and alumni relations and fundraising expert, this event offers a chance to connect with fellow St Nicholas community members.

Proceeds support the PFA. While ticket costs cover food and drinks, Mr. Davies is offering his services free of charge.

This event aims to foster connections between parents from different year groups and encourage business support for the school.

#### **Pre-loved uniform sale - Friday 18th October**

Mrs Tyler will be running a sale of good quality, pre-loved school uniform after Gifts from God assembly on Friday 18th October. There will be St Nicholas branded uniforms available at a fraction of the price you would pay a retailer. All proceeds go to the PFA.

#### **Do you shop at Asda either in store or online? PLEASE SIGN UP**

We're pleased to announce that St Nicholas School PFA has joined the ASDA Cash programme, so families can now earn money for the school while doing their shopping - <https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools>

#### **Captain Nick Crew: Fri 8th Nov. 7.30pm**

More details to follow...join us for our next Captain Nick adventure with Dads, grandpas and all other male figures in children's lives.

[Advent Fayre: Sat 30th Nov, 12pm-3pm](#)

[Christmas After School Disco: Tues 17th Dec, 3:30-5pm \(children only\)](#)

Dates for the diary

W/c 14th October	Scholastic Book Fair every day after school
Tuesday 15th October	9am-10.30am Year 5 parent & child curriculum workshop in the school hall
Friday 18th October	Year 2 Stay and Pray at 9am - ALL INVITED
Tuesday 22nd October	Photographs: Individuals, families & siblings
Tuesday 22nd October and Wednesday 23rd October	Parents' Evenings
Wednesday 23rd October	Whole School Harvest Mass at 2.15pm in church. Parents and carers are welcome.
Thursday 24th October	Year 4 trip to Selly Manor - Tudors workshop
Friday 25th October	School closed to pupils - INSET day
<b>W/c 28th October - HALF TERM - school closed</b>	
Monday 4th November	School closed to pupils - INSET day
Tuesday 5th November	Pupils return for the second half of the Autumn Term
Tuesday 5th November	9am-10.30am EYFS parent & child curriculum workshop in the school hall & classroom
Friday 8th November	Year 3 Stay and Pray at 9am - ALL INVITED
Friday 8th November	Crazy Hair Day in return for £1 donations towards the PFA Advent Fair
Tuesday 12th November 2024	Year 5 - Alton Castle information meeting via Zoom
Friday 15th November	Year 4 Stay and Pray at 9am - ALL INVITED
Monday 18th November	Year 6 - Blackwell information meeting via Zoom
Tuesday 19th November	9am-10.30am Year 2 parent & child curriculum workshop in the school hall
Wednesday 20th-Friday 22nd November	Year 5 Bikeability
Friday 22nd November	Non-uniform day in return for chocolate donations for the PFA Advent Fair

Friday 22nd November	EYFS Stay and Pray at 9am - ALL INVITED
Tuesday 26th November	9am-10.30am Year 3 parent & child curriculum workshop in the school hall
Friday 29th November	Year 1 Stay and Pray at 9am - ALL INVITED
Saturday 30th November	12pm-3pm PFA Advent Fair
Friday 6th December	Year 6 Stay and Pray at 9am - ALL INVITED
Friday 6th December	Whole School Mass for Feast of St Nicholas - 9.15am in church
Wednesday 11th December	EYFS & KS1 trip to Midlands Art Centre to see Little Angel Theatre: Finding Santa
Thursday 12th December	KS2 trip to Lichfield Garrick to see Jack and the Beanstalk
Friday 13th December	Year 5 Stay and Pray at 9am - ALL INVITED
Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th December	9.15am - EYFS & KS1 Nativity Play performance - tickets only
Friday 20th December	Last day of the Autumn Term - pupils break up for Christmas
Monday 6th January	First day of the Spring Term - all pupils back in school at 8.50am
Friday 31st January 2025	Young Voices concert at Resorts World, Birmingham

Mr Porter

Executive Principal

Mrs Noble-Barton

Head of School

Miss Smith

Assistant Head



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