



St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 27th January 2023

Executive Head: Mrs Cathy Blatchford Head of School: Miss Kelli Reynolds

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School, Ringswell Avenue, Exeter, Devon, EX1 3EG

01392 445403 admin@stncls.uk

Website: www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk

St Nicholas School is committed to safeguarding children.

Designated Child Protection Lead: Miss K Reynolds

Deputy Child Protection Leads: Miss S Boulton & Mrs C Blatchford

Named Governors for Child Protection: Mrs F Dennehy and Mr J Cookson

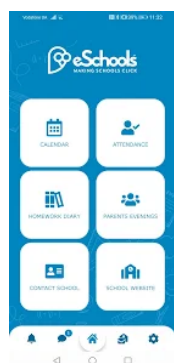
“Living and Learning in Spirit and in Truth”

Important Dates

2nd February	Candlemas Liturgy led by Powderham - parents are welcome to attend from 2.15 in the school hall
3rd February	Yr 2 sleepover - pick up at 9am on Saturday 4th
10th February	Break up for half term
20th February	Non pupil day
21st February	Children return to school Pancake Day
22nd February	Ash Wednesday liturgy led by Kingswear - parents are welcome to attend from 2pm in the school hall

Information and News

Eschools Lite app



Why not download the Eschools Lite app? It is free and is an easy way to connect to our school website and obtain the information you need about St Nicholas. You can easily see the calendar, news, newsletters and contact details of the school.

Chromebook Leasing - expressions of interest

We are currently exploring a partnership with a company that offer a chromebook leasing facility for parents. It would start from next September for KS2 children (Yr 3 - 6) and parents would be able to sign up to pay a direct debit each month to purchase a chromebook for their child. They can personalise them and all will have a neoprene case. They will have accidental damage insurance and the school would hold some spares so that we can swap in / swap out if the child's chromebook needs to go to be repaired.

Living and Learning in Spirit and in Truth

Parents would sign up on a portal and can choose to buy outright or pay over a period of time - depending on how long their child has left in school. It *could* be as low as £6 per month but would rise if the child had only 1 year left with us. Pupil Premium children would be offered a discounted rate. The child would take their chromebook with them when they leave our school.

To aid our planning it would be helpful to know if you are interested in this scheme and would consider taking part. Please complete [this form](#) to let us know.

School Uniform

A parent has a bundle of school uniform (age 5-6) to offer free to a good home. Please contact Mrs Brocksom (abrocksom@stnics.uk) if you are interested.

House Tournament

The whole school had a house tournament last week and the children loved taking part,

The overall results were:

Yellow: 1st – 81

Red: 2nd – 75

Green: 3rd – 73

Blue 4th – 71

There were some fantastic game including handball and football. The children showed fantastic teamwork and most importantly had a lot of fun.

Mrs Quinn

Our school chaplain, Mrs Quinn will be leaving St Nicholas at the end of this half term. She will be leaving to become fulltime Parish Assistant for our linked parishes, a role that means she still will have regular contact with the school, but in a different way.

Mrs Quinn has been school chaplain at St Nicholas for nine and a half years and as a teacher before that. Her role has been highly valued and we know we have been the envy of many CAST schools to have such a dedicated, skilful chaplain to support us with the Catholic life of our school. She will be hugely missed, but the time is right for her to follow a new path and we know this is a decision she has not taken lightly.

We will be making the most of her last couple of weeks with us, including having a special celebration mass on Friday 10th February at 2pm. We wish her all the best and know that our school family that she has served so well, will be eager to say their goodbyes too. She has promised to keep us all in her heart and prayers.

Congratulations to Janet



Congratulations to Janet, our catering assistant who has completed over 35 years working in our school.

Thanks to her for her commitment and hard work over these years.

OPAL Update

The children made "hot chocolate" during a cold lunchtime and also enjoyed designing "box robots" with chalk to wear on their heads!



Donations of small world characters for a castle would be much appreciated.

School Meals – Parentpay Meal Manager

We are excited to announce that from **the 11th February** you will be able to view the lunch menu and book and pay for your child's school meals in advance using your Parentpay account.

From the 11th February you must book and pay for your child/ren's meals on the Parentpay system on the day (prior to 8am) or you are able to book and pay for meals on the system up to 3 weeks in advance.

Currently 93% of our parents and carers have an activated Parentpay account and are able to use the system to book meals in advance from the 11th February. If you do not yet have an activated Parentpay account and would like your child to have school meals you will need to activate your Parentpay account to be able to use the service. An activation letter will be sent home with your child prior to going live.

FSM / UIFSM

If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals and / or are of Universal Infant Free School Meal age (Reception to Year 2), you will still need to book your meals using the Parentpay system, however the charge will automatically be £0.00.

If you are unsure whether you are eligible for Free School Meals and are in receipt of specific benefits, you are able to apply by following [this link](#). You will receive an instant decision. If you are eligible the school will receive additional funding for your child and you will receive a significant reduction in the cost of school trips and events.

Useful videos

Please follow [this link](#) below to watch a useful video which shows how to book a meal. At the end of the video there is a link that shows you how to cancel a previously booked meal.

We really hope that you will enjoy the new system and find it useful in managing your child's school meals.. As always, we are available to assist if you need any further assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact Kate O'Riordan at koriordan@stnics.uk or 01392 445403 option 2.

Holy Hunt

Plympton Class went on the first 'Holy Hunt'. They walked to Blessed Sacrament Church and attended 9.30 mass. They then had the opportunity to explore the church, its symbolism and the accompanying gestures. All KS2 classes will have a Holy Hunt this school year.



Parking

Please can we remind parents who park in Ringswell Avenue to park with care for the residents. We have already had a complaint from a new resident about inconsiderate parking which has caused inconvenience to him and his family.

We also remind you that you should not park on the double yellow lines at the bottom of Ringswell Avenue. Apart from being an offence it regularly causes a bottle neck of cars trying to exit onto the main road. Please find alternative places to park to lessen this disruption.

Prayer

*Thank you, God, for all your blessings to me and my family;
for the strength you give me each day
and for all the people around me who make life more meaningful.
Amen*

