



St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 20th May 2022

Executive Head: Miss Cathy Lowry

Head of School: Miss Kelli Reynolds

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St Nicholas School is committed to safeguarding children.

Designated Child Protection Lead: Miss K Reynolds

Deputy Child Protection Leads: Mrs D Sparkes & Miss C Lowry

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

Head of School's News

On behalf of all the staff of St Nicholas, I would like to say a huge well done to our year 6 and year 2 children. Year 6 children took their SATs tests last week. Leading up to the tests, the children worked hard to prepare and we were incredibly proud of how they handled all tests with such maturity- they were all so keen to do their best. They were super role models for our year 2 children who have taken their SATs tests this week. Again we are so pleased with how well the children have managed these. The year 6 SATs test papers have been sent off for marking and the results will be published in July.

OPAL(outdoor play and learning) Project

Before COVID, the school invested in OPAL- a project to develop our playtime provision to provide for the 16 different types of play needs. COVID stalled the progress of the project- however, we are now in a position to get things moving again! We are very pleased to announce that we have appointed Rachel Fox as our OPAL playleader. Rachel will work closely with the OPAL coordinator, Mrs E Martin, to bring fantastic play opportunities to the children at St Nicholas. Please keep an eye out for OPAL newsletters that will detail how playtimes are being developed and how the children are being provided with rich play opportunities at break times.

Year 5 and year 3 residential

Year 5 had a fantastic time on their trip to Bristol- they returned tired but happy! It is now year 3's turn to go on their residential trip. On Monday, the children and some of the teaching team will go to the ultimate adventure centre! They will return on Tuesday. Residential trips are such a fantastic opportunity for the children to get involved in exciting activities that they may not usually experience which can help to build confidence, resilience and develop social skills!

We look forward to hearing all about their adventures!

Information

Important Dates:

23rd and 24th May	Yr 3 residential - Ultimate Adventure Centre Bideford
27th May	Frozen Friday (see below)
30th - 6th June	Half term. Children come back on Tuesday 7th June
7th - 10th June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check Year 1 Phonics Check
10th June	Pentecost Liturgy led by Kingswear
13th - 17th June	Yr 6 residential to Kilve
21st June	Sports Day - more details to follow

Living and Learning in Spirit and in Truth

29th June	St Peter and Paul Mass led by Pupil Chaplains
1st July (after school)	PTA Summer Social **Save the Date**
7th and 8th July	Transition Days - information to follow.
15th July	Yr 6 Leaver's Mass
21st July	End of term. Summer Holidays
5th September	Children return to school

Disciples of the week			
Compton	Amalia / Finlay	Okehampton	Aiva / All of Dartmouth Class
Berry Pomeroy	Elli-Mai / Natalia	Lydford	Harrison S / Alicja
Plympton	Ewan / Albie	Dartmouth	Ewan / Zaheer
Totnes	Daisy / Isaac	Drogo	All of Drogo Class
Kingswear	Hannais / Sam	Nursery	Emily
Rougemont	Naomi / Raffy	<i>Well done to you all!</i>	

Information

Nursery

We have September (Autumn term) spaces in our Nursery for 3 and 4 year old children. We offer the local authority 15 hours funding as well as the extended 30 hour funding for eligible families. We would be delighted to show prospective parents our Nursery in action and to answer any questions they may have about joining our school community. Please contact Mrs Brocksom (abrocksom@stnics.uk / 01392 445403 option 4) to arrange a visit or to find out more.

GP App

Most GPs are now able to give you access to an app which will allow you to book appointments online and access medical records. It may be useful for you to have this as evidence for medical absences from school. Please contact your GP surgery for more details.

Change4Life

Change4Life have created recipes and shopping lists for families which can be used to create lunches for around £15 each week. Please go to

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/lunch/cheap-lockdown-lunch-ideas>

Uniformd

We are delighted with the number of parents and carers who have bought second hand uniform from our new platform [Uniformd](#). We still have summer uniform on sale including dresses and shorts - remember, this can be worn until October half term. If you have any items you can donate please bring them to the office. Please make sure that you clearly mark any purchased items with your child's name - if found unnamed they may go back on sale!

Job Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for

- [2 Teaching Assistants](#) and
- [2 Mealtime Assistants](#). Both posts start at £9.50 per hour, term time working only (38 weeks per year). Both are advertised on Indeed.
- [Permanent / full time KS2 Teacher](#) from September.

If you would like more information about these posts please contact Mrs Brocksom (abrocksom@stnics.uk)

Living and Learning in Spirit and in Truth

News

Football Team Update

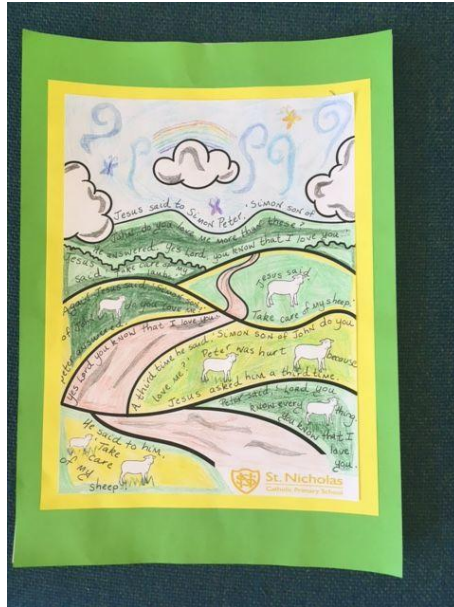
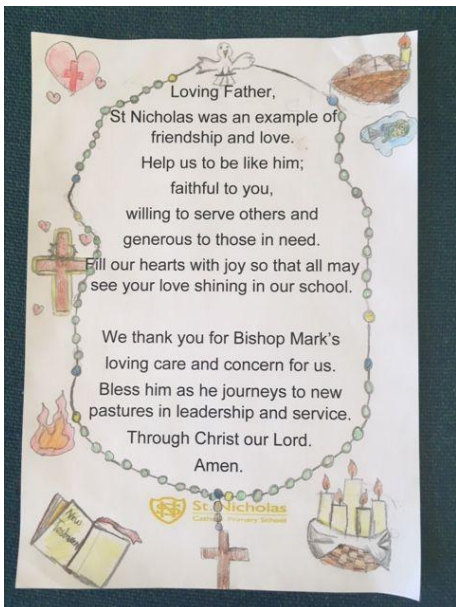
Since October 2021, our year 5/6 football team have taken part in an Exeter Tournament, playing against an average of 20 other Exeter Schools. They have shown huge commitment, and have been a credit to the school. The team has either won or drawn every game, which has put them in the Semi-Finals on Monday which will be our last EFPL game. Well done, and good luck!

Milk Bottle Tops

Thank you to everyone who has sent in milk bottle tops to be recycled. We have already collected almost a bin bag full in less than two weeks! The lids will be recycled by Devon Contract Waste and made into products such as fence posts and plastic furniture. All profits that they make are donated to their two chosen charities - Mind and The Dartmoor Zoological Society. Please keep sending your milk bottle tops in, thank you!



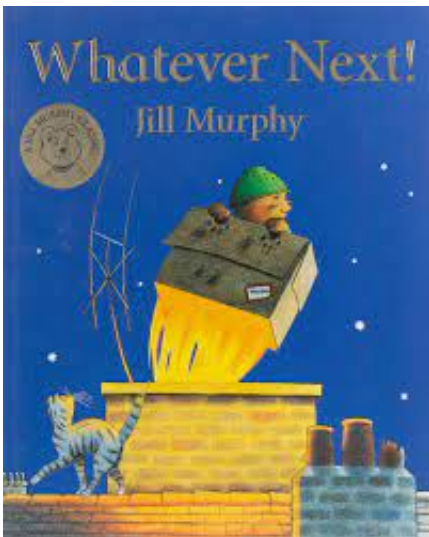
Book for Bishop Mark



Plymouth Cast Schools were invited to contribute to a book for Bishop Mark in anticipation of his departure from the Diocese of Plymouth.

An extension to our school prayer was written and we created a piece of artwork which focuses on Jesus' call for St Peter to look after and care for his people.

Yr 1/2 Moon Visit



Year 1 children went to the moon this week!

Whilst Year 2's were completing their SATS we looked at the book Whatever Next, planned our trip and then blasted off!

Luckily we were back in time for lunch!

A big well done to the Year 2s for their SATs this week!

Birds of Prey Visit

As part of both our Birds in Trees Art topic and Living things in Habitats Science topic, year 3/4 were visited by Martin from North Devon Falconry. We spent the afternoon with him and some of his birds learning about their lives in the wild, how to look after, train and perform with birds.

The children loved the chance to see these animals close up and ask Martin questions such as how fast does a peregrine falcon go? How much does a Harris Hawk eat a week? How do birds like Boris the Little Owl clean his beak? Where do Eagle Owls live?

They set a fantastic example to the rest of the school, being ready, respectful and safe for our guests both Martin and the feathered kind. We look forward to showing you our final art projects soon!



Reading Roundabout



This week all of the children in KS2 took part in a 'Reading Roundabout' led by Jade and Ali from the Devon School Library Service. Jade and Ali brought hundreds of books into school and each KS2 child was able to pick out three books that they would like to go into the library so that they can borrow them to read.

To encourage the children to read the three books they chose and to broaden the variety of authors and genres that they enjoy reading, we are running a 'Reading Roundabout' challenge.

- ❖ Children who read three books written by different authors, will earn a marble and have their name displayed on our reading target board in the library.
- ❖ Children who read five books written by different authors will also be awarded with a Star Reader sticker from our school librarians.
- ❖ Children who read seven books written by different authors will also receive a certificate.

To take part in this challenge, please return their 'Reading Roundabout' record to your class teacher by Friday 1st July.

May Crowning Flowers

Pupil Chaplains supported volunteers from Rougemont Class to arrange the flower donations in readiness for our May Crowning Liturgy on Friday 20th May.

Thank you to all who donated flowers.



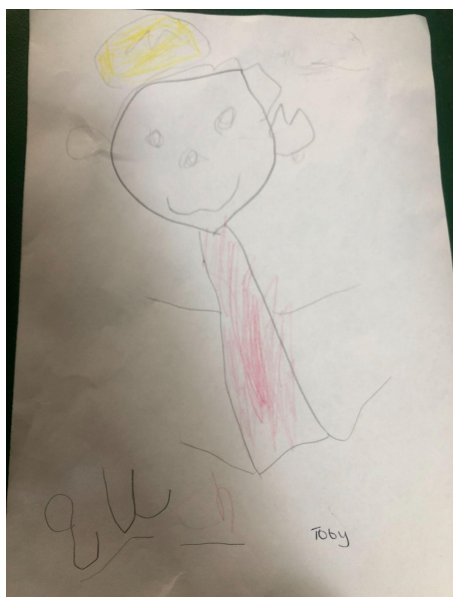
Queen's Jubilee

In reception we spoke about the Queen and her upcoming jubilee. We spoke about what we already know about the Queen. Next week we will learn a bit more about the Queen and her family.

"The queen lives in a palace in London"- Mia

"She wears special princess shoes and a sparkly crown"-Luna

"She has a throne" Jonah



PTA

Frozen Friday

With summer trying so very hard to make an appearance, we thought we'd give it a nudge and are bringing back **FROZEN FRIDAY!** Starting on the last Friday of this half term, 27th May 2022, we will be trying out Frozen Friday once again. Therefore, bring cash or download and register with the [SumUp](#) or [BOPP](#) apps on your phone for easy cashless payments, to get yourself and the kids a well deserved Friday treat after a long week! We'll have a range of icy treats of the lolly and ice cream varieties for you to enjoy. More details coming next week!



Drop Off Drop In

Don't forget, we will be opening up the Bickleigh Room (behind the decked area), on a Friday morning after drop off, for parents and younger children to come meet others. Everyone is welcome, we will have tea and coffee for adults, some toys for the little ones to play with and biscuits for all! Look forward to seeing you all there!



Community News

Exmouth Festival

Exmouth Festival is back from 2-5 June on the Imperial Recreation Ground. This free to attend family-orientated festival is jam packed full of live music, circus, theatre, family activities and much more. Please note, all under 14s must be accompanied by an adult to gain entry to the festival.

Running across the extended bank holiday weekend attendees can expect a family friendly atmosphere throughout the day, with lots of activities for children to get involved in, plus a fairground for the adventure-seekers! There will be a Jubilee Celebration day on Sunday 5th June with The Big Jubilee Lunch, a collaborative art installation and a BSL interpreted theatre performance. All details are on the website here: www.exmouthfestival.co.uk.

Teacher Training

“Training to teach as a mother of young twins has been challenging but equally as rewarding (and advantageous as the skills required for both jobs often overlap!). Exeter Consortium have really supported me in managing my workload to fit around family life, as well as the unpredictable situations that come with the job of being a parent.”

Mikaela, current trainee at Exeter Consortium Schools’ Alliance

Have you ever thought of training to become a Primary School Teacher? We work with Exeter Consortium Schools Alliance who deliver a high-quality school-based route into teaching. For more information please read on...

We are proud to work with Exeter Consortium, a not-for-profit organisation which, alongside delivering professional development courses for schools, also provides routes into teaching. Their School Direct courses allow prospective teachers to learn through experience within two primary schools over a year, whilst also studying to gain a PGCE delivered by Bath Spa University, recognised as Outstanding in ITT. To provide teacher training, Exeter Consortium also partners with South West Teacher Training, one of the largest SCITTs in the Southwest. SWTT was judged to be good in all areas by Ofsted in May 2021, under a tough new framework. Exeter Consortium partners with over 70 schools throughout Devon to deliver two routes into teaching. Here are the main benefits of training in this way:

- You will become a teacher in 10 months!
- The programmes are carefully planned so that the content is manageable – even for career changers with little school experience
- Learn first-hand from being immersed in school life working alongside an experienced mentor – you will be part of the team from day 1
- Attend training sessions delivered by senior leaders and experienced current practitioners from local schools – building a network of support
- Choice of two primary programmes, including one (3-7) with placements only in EYFS and KS1
- Exeter Consortium will work hard to place you in schools which suit your needs and will consider aspects such as childcare commitments
- Excellent employment prospects within fantastic schools like ours!

As a school who is keen to support the next cohort of dedicated, well-prepared teachers, we regularly host trainees. If you have ever thought about training to be a teacher, and would like to find out more about doing so via Exeter Consortium’s supportive and personalised routes, you can find out more at <https://www.exeterconsortium.com/train-to-teach.html> or contact ITT@exeterconsortium.com.

A Prayer for Peace

Lord,

I come before you ready to pour out
my worries, anxieties, and fears at Your feet.

I am claiming and declaring Your promises
for blessings of peace and strength over my life.

Bring peace into my soul that passes all worldly understanding
and make me a light for others to see Your strength.

Amen

