

# St Nicholas Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Executive Headteacher: Mrs A Folland, Head of School: Miss K Reynolds

14<sup>th</sup> February 2020



Living and Learning in  
Spirit and in Truth

## Disciple of the Week

Compton	Ben Chelsey
Plympton	Elliott Eve
Berry Pomeroy	Karla Jack
Totnes	Riana Niall
Kingswear	Molly Bebe
Rougemont	Amalia Lily
Okehampton	Evelyn Nicholas
Lydford	Ryan Oliver
Dartmouth	Zach Elena
Drogo	Oscar Louise
Powderham	Joshua Max
Nursery	Sultan Freddie

Well done to you all!



## Diary Dates

February	
17 – 24 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term
25 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school Shrove Tuesday
26 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am Ash Wednesday liturgy led by Lydford. Parents are welcome to attend.
March	
5 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day

## REMINDER

A reminder that Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February is a non pupil day. Children return to school on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

## Headteacher's News

Another busy half term draws to a close! We have much to look forward to next half term. Ash Wednesday liturgy will be held on the first Wednesday back and will start our Lent Journey through to Easter. During this time, each child in the school will get the opportunity to bring their class Lent prayer bag home, giving each of our families the chance to

join together in prayer. We are also looking forward to World Book Day which is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> of March. We will be taking this opportunity to celebrate The Bible. Look out for further information on this after the half term break. We would like to wish all of our families a peaceful and happy half term.

## Information

### Uniform Consultation

We had a fantastic response (224) to the consultation about changing the white polo tops in the summer term to bottle green. 91.5% agreed to this change which should help the uniforms look less grubby after outside play. Comments included: "brilliant idea", "yes, yes, yes, I can put the vanish and scrubbing brush away through the summer months", "fantastic". We did have other comments and suggestions which will all be considered. This year will be a transitional year so if you already have white polo tops they may also be worn this summer. From Easter 2021 Governors have decided that all children should be wearing the green polo tops. We have advised both our uniform suppliers and they are now offering the green polos (at the same price).

### Ties

We recently asked you all to ensure that your child/ren are wearing school ties. However we are now aware that Thomas Moore do not currently have any school ties left and will not have any for up to 5 weeks. If your child does not have a school tie we will of course bear this in mind. Ties do not need to be worn from Easter until October half term, but please ensure your child has a tie for the Autumn term.

### Staffing

On 26<sup>th</sup> February we will sadly say goodbye to Mandy Winton who has worked in EYFS as a teaching assistant for 4 years. We wish her well for her future. We are pleased to advise that Miss Bethany Soper has been appointed to the EYFS team.

### Training Opportunity at St Nicholas

Are you a graduate with an interest in Early Years? St Nicholas is currently working with Plymouth CAST to offer Early Years Initial Teacher Training from September 2020. The programme is fully funded by the DFE and is the only teacher training focused on the birth to five age range. The training hub will be here at St Nicholas and we are looking at offering a training placement here as well as at Our Lady and St Patrick's school, Teignmouth. If you are interested, or know of a friend or family member who might be interested please contact Mrs Folland via the office for more information or email [head@stnics.uk](mailto:head@stnics.uk).

### School Disco Proceeds

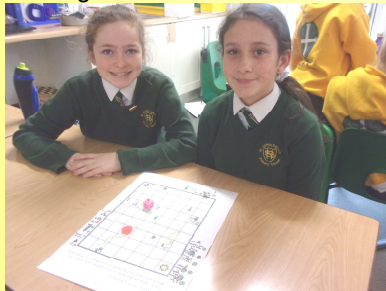
Thank you to the PTA who organised the recent school disco which raised £505.38 for the school – a fantastic amount. Another disco has been arranged for the 24<sup>th</sup> April – watch this space for more information!

### Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade fortnight starts on 24<sup>th</sup> February. Many delicious snacks will be available at break time in aid of Fairtrade. The tuck shop will be open for Key Stage 2 classes the first week back and for Key Stage 1 and Foundation Stage children the second week back. See the website for photos of the children planning for this event.

## Fun Faith in Plympton and Compton

During Fun Faith classes, children in Plympton and Compton have been exploring Pope Francis' letter 'Laudato Si: Care for our Common Home' and learning about how they can make small changes in their everyday life to take care of the earth. Children designed their 'Snakes and Ladders' game to reflect actions which both positively and negatively impact the environment and show respect for creation as God's gift to each of us.



## EYFS

### Pirate Day in EYFS

What an exciting day the children had in EYFS on Wednesday when it was Pirate Day! They even had 2 'real life' pirates come to visit! See the website soon for photos.

## Nursery Invoices

Nursery invoices will be sent out by Parentmail by Monday. The deadline for payment is 6<sup>th</sup> March. Please contact Ali ([abrocksom@stnics.uk](mailto:abrocksom@stnics.uk)) with queries about the invoice or to change sessions booked. For queries about payment please contact Kate O'Riordan ([koriordan@stnics.uk](mailto:koriordan@stnics.uk))

## Alfie Update

Alfie is now 8 months old. He has had his first proper groom and emerged considerably smaller and thinner than he was before! His adult fur is very soft and curly. He has the loveliest temperament and is very gentle with the children. He loves to greet visitors. He even has his photo on the new staff board.

He has really made himself at home in the office and loves to play with boxes, paper packaging and his toys. He walks to and from work and has a lunchtime walk too. He has some treats during the day – sometimes we hide them around the office and he has to find them!

He has a daily timetable and happily goes off with supervised children to play in the garden at the front of school or to go for a walk or play. Children also sometimes come and visit him in the office as a treat or reward. He will also gradually start to do some classroom visits as long as the children remain calm.

He has really had a positive impact since he has been with us and it is still early days.



Children who are upset have felt better for having 5 minutes with him and the children he 'works with' are also happy and focused when having 'Alfie time'.

All children receive an 'Alfie sticker' after their time with him.



## Parish and Community News

### Bikeability Courses over half term

The Cycling Partnership have more free Bikeability courses at St Luke's in half term. There are a few places available at level 2, and a good number available on a Level 1 course on the Wednesday morning. Level 1 is 2 hrs of basic riding skills in a traffic-free situation suitable for riders in Year 3 upwards. Level 2 is for Year 5 up. Please see the links below to book.

[L1: http://www.cyclepssp.co.uk/Course/bikeability-level-1/](http://www.cyclepssp.co.uk/Course/bikeability-level-1/)

[L2: http://www.cyclepssp.co.uk/Course/bikeability-level-2/](http://www.cyclepssp.co.uk/Course/bikeability-level-2/)

### OPEN REHEARSAL - COME AND PLAY: SCHEHERAZADE WITH STORY-TELLING Thursday 5th March 2020, 7.30pm (free)

St Peters School, Quarry Lane, Exeter, EX2 5AP. All under-16s to be accompanied by an adult On Thursday 5th March, Devon Philharmonic Orchestra and Music Director Leo Geyer invite you to glimpse "behind the scenes" and get a sneak preview of the orchestra's spring concert. The rehearsal will focus on Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade, based on the One Thousand and One Arabian Nights and will include an element of story-telling! Quarry Lane, Exeter, EX2 5AP. For further information please visit <https://www.devonphilharmonicorchestra.co.uk>.

## Prayer

*May the sunlight and the rain be reminders that You are at work renewing the earth.*

*As a God of renewal, You are ever at work in our lives, too. Open our eyes and lives to the needed changes in our lives this Spring. Awaken us to new life and perspective, for we pray in Jesus' name.*

*Amen*

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

01392 445403 [admin@stnics.uk](mailto:admin@stnics.uk) [www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk](http://www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk)

**St Nicholas School is committed to safeguarding children.**

Designated Child Protection Lead: **Mrs Denise Sparkes** Deputy Child Protection Leads: Mrs A Folland, Miss K Reynolds, Mrs A Griss, Miss C Follows and Miss J Pym Named Governor for Child Protection: Mrs Lucy Wills