



St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 17th March 2023

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

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

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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"

Head of School's News

Red Nose Day

Yesterday, in assembly, all the children learnt about how Red Nose day raises money for many different charities and helps people all over the world. We watched a video together of how Red Nose funds a charity that supports young people with Autism and the difference that this has made to one young person called George. It is fantastic to see how all of the children have come to school in great outfits that make them smile in order to support an amazing event that does so much good for so many people. Thank you for your support and donations.

Lockdown Procedure

As stated in a previous parent mail, we practised our 'lockdown' procedure today. This procedure is to ensure we minimise any potential risk to the children coming from outside the school. This could include a fire in a building near the school, a civil disturbance or an intruder on the school site. The children responded incredibly well and followed the adults' advice calmly, showing that they understand what to do. We will continue to timetable in regular practices, as we do with fire drills, to ensure the procedure is understood by all and as effective as possible. Full details of our lockdown procedure are available on our website.

Lost property

Please can you encourage your children to check the lost property draws that are located by the central external doors. The draws are overflowing with many jumpers, coats, water bottles and other items which I am sure are missed! Naming all uniform items will help to reunite lost items with owners!

| Important Dates | |
|-----------------|---|
| 21st March | Rock your Socks Off (World Down's Syndrome Day) - wear colourful socks |
| 23rd | CAFOD fundraiser - see below. Parent's Evening 3.30 - 6pm |
| 28th | 2pm Supper of the Lord liturgy led by Totnes - parents are welcome to attend |
| 30th | 2pm Way of the Cross liturgy - whole school |
| 31st | Break up for Easter Holidays |
| 17th April | Children return to school and can wear summer uniform - please see our website page for information |

Living and Learning in Spirit and in Truth

Disciples of the week - *Well done to you all!*

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Compton | Natalia | Okehampton | Autumn |
| Plympton | Grace | Lydford | Alexander |
| Berry Pomeroy | Whole Class | Dartmouth | Joshua |
| Totnes | Erin | Drogo | Alexander M |
| Kingswear | Seth | Powderham | Emily |
| Rougemont | Poppy | Nursery | All of Nursery |
| OPAL Golden Welly | | | |

Information and News

MTA Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a meal time assistant to supervise the children at lunchtime play and in the school hall. 11.30 - 1.15 each day, 8.75 hours per week. £10.50 per hour to start asap. Please contact Mrs Brocksom, abrocksom@stnics.uk for more information and an application form.

School Equipment

A reminder to please not use any of the school equipment during drop off and Pick up times. This includes the bikes and scooters of EYFS, they are getting damaged and removed and are then not readily available for the children.

Fundraisers

We have a few fundraising events coming up, which will be on Parentpay as payment items. We will not be accepting cash. Full details of all are below.

During the cost of living crisis we understand that parents and carers may not be able to contribute to all or even some of these events. We are thankful for any donation you can make, however small. You may decide to only support one of the events below. Whatever you are able to do we would love every child to join in and have fun on each day, whether a donation has been made or not.

Tuesday 21st March - Rock your Socks Day to support World Downs Syndrome Day

Wear a pair of wacky socks to school or even 2, 3 or 4 pairs!

Thursday 23rd March - Wear Something to get Noticed to support CAFOD

Each year during lent, St Nicholas children do what they can to raise money for CAFOD. Funds raised go to help those worse off than ourselves and this year a significant part of the monies will be used to help those that continue to suffer from the terrible earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

This year CAFOD have asked people to take part in a Big Lent Walk challenge. This is a 40 day challenge and one we will struggle to fit into the rest of our term. Therefore we have decided as a school we want to do something slightly different.

On Thursday 23rd March we would like children to wear something that gets them noticed on their way to school. The idea is that friends and family are asked to donate funds to encourage each child to do something wild and wacky. It could be to wear a funny hat, a back to front coat/jumper, a bizarre hair style, or an idea of their own.

We look forward to seeing how creative our children can be, whilst raising what we can for those in need.

Living and Learning in Spirit and in Truth



PTA Event Dates for your Diary

Please save the dates, more information coming soon!

- Easter Competition: 'Guess the Bunny's Name'
- Non-Uniform Day: Friday 28th April
- Coronation Cake Sale: Friday 5th May
- Colour Run: After school on Friday 19th May back (back-up inclement weather date 26th May)
- End of Year Disco: After school on Friday 7th July

Volunteers Needed! If you'd like to get involved and help out please contact us at pta@stncls.uk

Community News

[“You’re Hired!” – new campaign to recruit more foster carers from Devon County Council](#)

We need more foster carers to help us look after children and young people who are in our care. The more foster carers we have, the better matches we’re able to make, with better outcomes for the young person.

We’ve been [working with some of our existing foster casers on our latest recruitment campaign](#), which is inspired by Lord Alan Sugar’s long-running TV series, The Apprentice. “You’re hired!” sets two young people, representing our Fostering Devon service, interviewing potential foster carers, (who are in fact actual foster carers).

The campaign deliberately highlights some of the negative things that some people might find with their current employment – ‘9 to 5 desk job’, poor job satisfaction, Sunday evening dread at the thought of work the following morning – and shows that being a foster carer is very different.

“Fostering is a very different type of job, but I can bet you, it’s so much more rewarding,” says one of two young people featured in a [new video we’ve published on our website](#).

“I think fostering is far better than a 9am to 5pm job,” says one foster carer in our campaign. “We get to do fun things as a family with no time restrictions.”

If you have ever considered becoming a foster carer, we would love to hear from you. It can be a very rewarding career, with a lot of support behind you from our Fostering Devon service. You can contact us for an informal chat, or [visit our website](#) or [Fostering Devon Facebook page](#) for more information.

[Check if your child can get free school meals and additional funding support](#)

It’s been International School Meals Day last week, so we wanted to take the opportunity to remind you that children of low income families in Devon are entitled to free school meals and additional funding to support learning.

If you think your family might be eligible, the quickest and easiest way to apply is [through our website](#), and you’ll get an instant decision.

[37,000 tonnes of food across Devon is being thrown away, and much of it hasn’t even been opened!](#)

Shocking [new figures reveal that over a quarter of what we put in our ‘black bin’ waste is food](#) – and much of it unopened!

Although most of us have a food waste collection, a recent study of Devon’s black rubbish bins found around 28 per cent of the contents was food, almost half of which was still in its original packaging.

The study also found large amounts of plastic and paper were being put into black bins that could have been recycled if it had been put into the correct kerbside container.

With the cost-of-living crisis continuing, reducing food waste and making food go further is one area that can help keep household expenses down. So we’re taking advantage of Food Action Week (Monday 6 to Sunday 12 March) to encourage everyone to make some simple changes which could save time and money.

[Visit the Love Food Hate Waste website](#) to take a short quiz and receive personalised advice to help you make more of the food you already have to save time and money in the kitchen.

And if food waste is unavoidable, it is much better to put it the food waste collection for processing into valuable energy and fertiliser rather than throwing it away for costly incineration. If all the recyclable waste was recycled it would save £3.9 million in Devon, which could be spent on other much needed services.

For tips and recipes, follow Recycle Devon on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#).

Footgolf Devon

FOOTGOLF DEVON

Open from
March 25th
2023

**Footgolf Devon's Footgolf course has 9 holes of fun.
If you can kick a ball you can play Footgolf!
No experience is required and all are welcome.**



Westcott, Nr Cullompton: Next to The Bear Trail, opposite the Merry Harriers Pub

Book a round at footgolfdevon.com

Prayer on a Rainy Day

Holy God of rain and sun, of cold and warmth,
of grey days and brightness,
I am here amidst the puddles waiting to understand,
open to looking beyond my own immediate needs,
willing to serve.
Rain Your blessings upon me.
Blessed Be and Amen.

