

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School Newsletter

23rd September 2016



*Living and Learning in
Spirit and in Truth*

Stars of the Week

Isolde Rooney
Lily Ballard
Orla McCrum
Jacob Ndimande
Brodie Norris
Eva Crampton
Amelie Hemming-Reynolds
Elliott Berriman-Green
Harry Ballard
Jeeva Joy
Archie Boyle

Well done to you all!



Diary Dates

September

26th – 27th Yr 3/4 Residential
28th Drop off, drop in starts
8.45am – 9.30am (PTO for
details)
28th Parent's Workshop –
Phonics / Spelling KS1 6pm

October

2nd School led mass at
Blessed Sacrament Church
10.30am
3rd Class assembly led by
Berry Pomeroy
5th Parent's Workshop – KS2
spelling 6pm
6th Fisherman's lunch (Fish &
Chips) **INSTEAD OF ON
FRIDAY**

Headteacher: Mrs A Folland

Headteacher's News

At the moment we are finalising the priorities for school improvement this year. In Literacy, writing across the school will be a focus and in maths we will be developing children's ability to apply their mathematical knowledge through investigations and problem solving. Another strand of improvement over the year will be in developing learning

outdoors. This will involve improvements and new initiatives to take the learning out of the classroom and into the school grounds!

In our Faith Life developments we have introduced 'Fun Faith' sessions at KS2 and are working with the priests to hold class Masses for children at KS2.

Information

St Nicholas Children

We ask you all to pray for two children in our school community who are currently very poorly. Hope has had major heart surgery and will be joining our Reception class as soon as she has recovered. Ella continues to undergo treatment for cancer and comes to school whenever she can.

Foundation Stage and KS1 bus registers

With immediate effect we will no longer be taking bus registers in the classrooms for Foundation Stage and KS1 children. Josie in the Office has contacted all parents whose children use the afternoon bus to find out regular patterns. She can then make sure all younger children are on it on the right days. If the pattern changes for ANY reason please call Josie so that she can mark the register accordingly. Please also contact her if you wish your child to start using the bus.

Love Reading

Do you have a favourite children's book that you would like to come and share all or part of with a class of children? Through our "Love Reading" initiative we are looking for people who would like to read to our children to inspire a love of reading and introduce them to books they may not have considered before. If you have an interesting job that you can link to a children's book or a uniform you can wear even better! Past readers have included Ben Bradshaw and the Mayor of Exeter. Please contact Ali Brocksom if you would like more information or would like to discuss coming in (abrocksom@stncs.uk / 445403 ext 222).

Sickness

A reminder that if your child is sick or has diarrhoea they **must** remain off school for 48 hours after the last incident, even if they appear to be well. If they return to school early we will call you to come and pick them up. We have had numerous incidents of children returning too early who are ill at school and obviously we must aim to reduce the chance of these viruses spreading. If you are unsure whether your child can return to school please contact the Office.

Universal Free School Meals – Reception to Year 2

If you have a child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 you will be aware that the school is funded by the Government to provide your child with a free meal. In order for the school to receive this funding, your child needs to have a school meal on the 3 census days that take place during this school year – Thursday 6th October (Autumn term), Thursday 19th January (Spring term) and Thursday 18th May (Summer term). **We will be swapping the Thursday and Friday meals in these weeks so that fish & chips are on the census day.**

British Values

Democracy

At the moment the children are all preparing to vote for the two class representatives on the School Council.

Those wanting to stand for election have to prepare an 'election speech' to present to their class.

The School Council play an active role in interviewing for new staff and helping the leadership team make decisions about changes and improvements!

Governor News

Jane Wardle, our Chair of Governors for the last 3 years, has decided to step down from this role. We thank her for the significant contribution she has made to it and her commitment to the school's improvement journey. We are pleased that she will continue as a Foundation Governor. Lisa Thomas was elected our new Chair of Governors and Frankie Phillips was elected Vice Chair. The Chair of Governors can be contacted on chair@stnics.uk.

Drop off, Drop in....

Every Wednesday from 8.45 – 9.30am in the Bickleigh Room.

Pop into the Bickleigh Room after drop off and treat yourself to fresh coffee, cake and biscuits on us.

Meet new people and catch up with friends – everyone is welcome.

Starts 28th September.



Weekly Reflection

*Generous God,
Your world teems with life and goodness. Our lives are infinitely blessed. May we in turn be generous with what we have been given, building your kingdom of plenty for all. Amen.*

Tax Free Childcare

Tax-Free Childcare is a new government scheme to help working parents with the cost of childcare. Parents will be able to open an online account, which they can use to pay for childcare from a registered provider. For every £8 a parent pays in, the government will pay in an extra £2. Parents can receive up to £2,000 per child, per year, towards their childcare costs, or £4,000 for disabled children. The scheme will be available for children up to the age of 12, or 17 for children with disabilities.

To qualify, parents will have to be in work, and each expecting to earn at least £115 a week. Each parent must not have income over £100,000 per year. Tax-Free Childcare will be launched from early 2017. The scheme will be rolled out gradually to families, with parents of the youngest children able to apply first. Parents will be able to apply for all their children at the same time, when their youngest child becomes eligible. All eligible parents will be able to join the scheme by the end of 2017. For more information please go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tax-free-childcare-top-things-childcare-providers-should-know>

Parish and Community News

TORQUAY CELEBRATE WEEKEND - 15th / 16th October at St. Cuthbert Mayne School, Trumlands Road, Torquay TQ1 4RN

A joyful and faith-filled event for all the family organized by a team from Plymouth Diocese. The theme is "Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). The main speakers will be David Payne, Fr. Jonathan Stewart and Maria Heath. There will be a variety of workshops over two days including Drama from RISE Theatre, organized streams for children & young people, lively worship, sound teaching and a family Mass. There will also be opportunities for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation. For more details: www.celebrateconference.org E-mail: torquay@celebrateconference.org / Susanne 01803 606256 / Rebecca 01395 489902 or come to the office for a form.

Don't Be Afraid of the Dark 28th October 7pm at RAMM

Come and see RAMM glow in the dark! With the lights down, you can see sparkly rocks and iridescent butterflies and shadow puppets, enjoy fluorescent face painting and silhouette making. There will be spooky corners with a giant spider walk, and you can make a miniature Roman lamp and join the candle-lit lantern parade around the museum at the end of the evening. Every ticket holder gets a free glow-in-the-dark bracelet so wear your sparkliest fashion items too. Suitable for ages 5 to 11 but everyone welcome. There must be at least one child in each group and at least one adult for every six children. Go to http://rammuseum.org.uk/ where you can find more details.

Exeter RaspberryJam – for Raspberry Pi enthusiasts

Saturday 1st October at Exeter Library from 10am -12pm. Entry is free and there will be lots of hands on demos, help and guidance. This month we will also have a brief introductory session on the BBC Micro:bit with an opportunity to try them out afterwards.

PTA

PTA – AGM & Meeting

I would like to invite you all to the PTA Annual General Meeting next week on Monday 26th September at 6.30pm in school. The AGM is a short meeting and gives an opportunity to hear about the events we organized last year, how much money was raised and what we spent it on. The PTA provides financial support to the school for some of the key events during the academic year and organizes others including the summer and winter fayres. We are committed team of volunteers but we would welcome more help and support from others in organizing the events – any time you can give is greatly appreciated. I look forward to seeing parents, carers and friends of the school next week.

Alex Bosley – PTA Chair

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

01392 445403 admin@stnics.uk www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk

St Nicholas School is committed to safeguarding children.

Designated Child Protection Officer: Mrs Amelia Harding Deputy Child Protection Officers: Mrs L Stone, Mrs A Folland and Mrs S Beach. Named Governor for Child Protection: Mrs Lisa Thomas



DIocese of PLYMOUTH

