

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School Newsletter

9th February 2018



*Living and Learning in
Spirit and in Truth*

Stars of the Week

Megan Eslick-Garcia
Fifi Graham
Robin Phillips
Niall Flavin
Hunter Knapp
Lydia Ali
Abel Tom
Daniel Ward
Joseph Biju
Asher Shine
Ava Thomas
Matilda Burningham
Chloe Mulcahy
Neve May
Isaac Baker
Emily Haig
George Bessant
Larissa Currie
Lauren Coles
Daniel Hemming-Reynolds

Well done to you all!



Diary Dates

February	
12 – 16 th	Half Term
19 th	Non Pupil Day
20 th	Pupils return to School
23 rd	Lenten Liturgy led by Berry Pomeroy 9.15am
March	
1 st	World Book Day
4 th	School led mass at Blessed Sacrament 10.30am

Headteacher: Mrs A Folland

Headteacher's News

We are really pleased with a school review that took place on Monday. Brad Murray, a Senior School Improvement Officer from Babcock, revisited the school on Monday and found significant changes have been made to secure better progress for children and improve the quality of teaching. Together we looked at a range of children's maths and literacy

books and saw strong progress. We saw high engagement from all groups of children during lessons and teachers using lots of effective strategies to support learning. Well done to all the staff for their commitment to continual improvement.

We hope you all have a lovely half term together and look forward to seeing you on **Tuesday 20th** February.

Information

Absence

Please ensure you are aware of the new school procedures for all children who have unexplained absences from school. Information was sent out on Parentmail this week.

If your child is not going to be in school please call Josie in the office on 01392 445403 and leave a message or email admin@stnics.uk to report their absence. **Please do this before 9.00am on the first day of the absence.** If we have not heard from you by 9.00am then we will start to call all the contact numbers that you have provided in order to gain an explanation for the absence. If we still have not been able to ascertain where your child is then we then decide on the next action to take. Guidance from Devon's Safeguarding Team is that if still haven't been able to get a response then we will report it to the police as your child will then be classed a 'missing child'. This procedure is to ensure that we know where your child is and that you are all safe. Please let us know in good time why your child is absent from school. In addition, **please ensure that you advise the school immediately if your address or contact numbers have changed.**

Urafiki Cake Sale

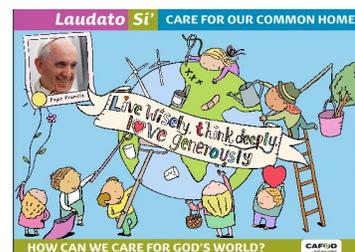
Thank you all for supporting our Urafiki Cake Sale in January which raised £140. The money will go to support our sponsored friend Pauline's education in Kenya. We have sponsored Pauline for a number of years now and as she has now moved to secondary school, we will be sponsoring a new primary school child with the excess funds from the cake sale. We look forward to learning their name and a little bit about them in the near future. If you are interested in sponsoring a child's education in Kenya, please refer to the Urafiki, Exeter website <http://www.urafiki.org.uk/>.

Whole School Lenten Journey

During Lent this year pupils will be exploring how they can care for God's world based on Pope Francis' teachings. Each week Mustard Seeds will help the children complete Lenten pledges:

- Buying Fairtrade products
- Saying 'No' to plastic bottles
- Litter picking and Recycling
- Turning off lights
- Donating school eggs to St Petros

Please see our website News page and Faith page to see a video about our Pope's teaching and watch this space for further details.



British Values

It has been fabulous to have visitors from the Ambulance Service and Police into the school recently.

Understanding and respecting the services that support our society is a huge part of British Values. Many thanks to those who came in – the ambulance caused a sensation across the school!

We have also welcomed the NSPCC into school over the last half term. The sessions about staying safe have been really helpful for the children and you will see many of the posters up around the school.

Reflection**Presence**

*Lord, you are always there waiting for me.
May I never be too busy to find time to spend in your presence.*

**A Man of Sorrows**

We are delighted to have been gifted a beautiful statue of Jesus, 'A Man of Sorrows' from Petra and Paul Osborne, in recognition and thanks for their daughter Bea's time at our school.

It is a really special statue that will form part of our focal point during the year.

Thank you very much to the Osborne family.

World Book Day

World Book Day is on the 1st March. All children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character or author and to bring in their favourite book.

**School Lunch Menu**

Please note that after half term packed lunches will NOT be a choice for your child's lunch. We will distribute amended menus. You are, of course, welcome to provide your child with a packed lunch from home but our kitchen will no longer provide this option as an alternative to a hot meal.

NSPCC Buddies Big Workout

Thank you to all who have brought back their sponsorship forms so far. We have raised £530 to date but there is more to come. Please ensure these are returned to school asap. We will advise you of the final amount raised next half term.

PTA

PTA Spring Disco: After half-term break we are holding our Spring Disco on **Friday 2nd March**. Key stage 1 disco is 5.30-6.30pm and Key stage 2 disco is 6.45pm-8.00pm. Look out for the posters after half-term but please be aware of a couple of things: We apply an entry charge for children attending the disco to cover our costs and to raise money for the PTA. We also require an adult to stay at school with children attending the disco. The PTA offer refreshments away from the disco itself but children must not be left unaccompanied.

Summer Fayre: We are at the initial planning stage for the Summer Fayre. We would love to have feedback on last year's event, particularly what you enjoyed and would like to see more of. We are keen to have a "headline" act so if you are in or know of a band that would like to perform at our fayre please let us know. If you can send ideas or comments to PTA@stnics.uk. We would also love to have more help in organising the fayre! Our next PTA meeting is Monday 5th March at 7pm in school – look forward to seeing you there.

Parish and Community News**Family Orchestra**

Family Orchestras bring together families to share the joy of making music with each other. They give the chance for all musicians to play together and create brand new pieces of music. The Orchestras are open to everyone: any instrument, any standard, any age welcome! Sunday Dates: 11 February*, 4 March*, 17 March, 15 April, 29 April, 13 May, 3 June. Times: 10.30am-12.30pm Venues: Frank Oliver Hall, Kay House, Lower Argyll Road, Exeter, EX4 4RE *Great Hall, Exeter Uni. Stocker Road, Exeter, EX4 4PY. Concert: Sunday 10 June (Great Hall, Exeter Uni, EX4 4PY). For more information please see <http://www.bsolive.com/familyorchestra/>

Hospiscare Swimathon

The Hospiscare's Swimathon will be held on Saturday 10th March, 2018, at the Middlemoor Police HQ Swimming Pool, Exeter. Groups of friends or families are needed to enter this sponsorship event, to raise funds for local terminally ill patients and their families. For more information or sign up, please visit www.hospiscare.co.uk/events or call Jo on 07805637968.

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, Mrs S Beach, Mrs D Sparkes, Miss C Follows and Miss R Reynolds. Named Governor for Child Protection: Mrs Lucy Wills



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