



St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 26th May 2023

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

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

01392 445403 admin@stncls.uk

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

How lovely to have the sunshine back- it has certainly brightened up the school day with lots of learning and play able to take place outside! I would like to say well done to our year 2 children who, with the support and encouragement of the staff, have completed their SATs tests. They did really well and remained calm throughout and were able to demonstrate their learning! All the children across the school are to be congratulated on their hard work this half term- they have definitely earned a well deserved rest!

On behalf of the school staff, I would like to wish you all a joyful half term with your families. Let's hope the weather continues to be kind to us! The school will reopen to pupils on Tuesday 6th June.

Uniform

Summer uniform is grey skirt/trousers or shorts, green polo shirts and summer dresses. If girls wish to wear cycling shorts under their skirts to protect their dignity while playing, the shorts must be shorter in length than the skirt itself. Cycling shorts alone are not part of our school uniform, including PE kit. If your child has outgrown their uniform, we would not expect you to buy brand new items at this point in the year. Please inform your child's class teacher so that an appropriate alternative can be agreed.

Dogs on site

Please remember that dogs are not allowed on school grounds, this includes when picking up from breakfast and after school club. We have a dog policy in place which clearly sets out the rationale for this decision. While we do have our school dog, Alfie, on site, he is a therapy dog and a risk assessment is in place for him.

Unauthorised absence and holiday taken in term time

Like all schools, we have to follow national guidance regarding absences. Holidays, without exceptional circumstances will not be authorised for children of statutory school age and will likely result in a fine from the local authority. To clarify, fines will be per child and per parent. To avoid this, please arrange family holidays during the school holidays. If you are requesting a planned absence for your child, you must submit an S2 form so that authorisation can be considered. This, along with further information regarding attendance can be found on our school website.

Keeping children safe in the sun!

As the weather is warming up, can you please ensure that your child comes to school with a bottle of water, a sun hat and a named bottle of sun cream. Sun cream should be put on the children in the morning before school and the children can reapply before they go outside at lunchtime if

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necessary. Please note, that for safeguarding reasons, staff will not apply sun cream to your child - this is something that they must be able to do for themselves.

PTA: Your school needs you

Our PTA has served our school fabulously for many years, holding events and raising money that enriches the experiences of the children. The PTA supports the school by contributing to the coach fare for residentials, buying ice creams for sports day, providing each teaching team with money to buy extra resources for the enrichment of learning experiences and funding some of our playground equipment. This time last year the PTA were preparing for a fantastic summer social event that raised over £2000. Unfortunately, this year we will be unable to hold such an event as we are currently lacking a chair and are low in parent volunteers. It would be great to build our PTA back up so that it can continue to support the school in the future. If we are unable to appoint a chair, then the PTA will have to fold. If you are interested in becoming the chair or volunteering for the PTA, please email pta@stnics.uk.

Important Dates	
29th May - 5th June	Half term - children return on Tuesday 6th June
1st June	Portal opens for Chromebook leasing (see below)
8th June	Pentecost Liturgy led by Okehampton Class - parents are welcome to attend
12th - 16th June	Yr 6 residential to Kilve
19th June	Start of Refugee week
22nd June	Yr 6 swimming starts (4 weeks)
29th June	St Peter and Paul mass 2pm in the hall. Parents welcome
30th June	Sports Day 9.30 - 11.30am on school field
6th and 7th July	New classes days
11th July	Yr 6 performance 2pm and 6pm **change of date from calendars**
12th July	Leaver's Mass 2pm
19th July	Yr 6 disco / fun event 3.15pm - 5pm
21st July	End of Year assembly. Break up for Summer. Return on the 6th September

Disciples of the week - <i>Well done to you all!</i>			
Compton	Freya / Andres	Okehampton	Eloise / Lottie
Plympton	Rosie / Aaron	Lydford	Jessica
Berry Pomeroy	Abishek	Dartmouth	Tilly
Totnes	Alexander / Hannais	Drogo	Ha'avale / Sofia
Kingswear	Evie / Ivy	Powderham	Emilia / Keira
Rougemont	Molly S	Nursery	Rex / Isla

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Information and News

Chromebook Leasing



We are pleased to advise that our Chromebook lease to buy scheme will be up and running from 1st June in partnership with CHG-Meridian Education UK and Stone Group. From 1st June until the 30th June the portal (link below) will be opened for parents of children in current Yrs 2 - 5 to register, set up and manage direct debits (to start from September) to purchase a Lenovo NB 100E 64GB Chromebook for your child to use at school and home. Once payments are complete the chromebook will belong to you and your child.

All chromebooks will come with a neoprene case and may be personalised by the children. They will also have a high level of insurance including breakdown, accidental damage and theft and come with the appropriate Google licence and support.

The chromebooks will be set up over the summer and delivered to school (and your child/ren) in the first week of the Autumn term. If you have any queries about this scheme please contact Mrs Brocksom (abrocksom@stncs.uk).

Please use the portal code relating to the yeargroup your child will be in from September.

[Parent Portal Link](#)

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

Year 3 (Ref 11160 £11.36 + £317.13)

Portal Code :
STNICHOLASYEAR3

Year 4 (ref 11160 £11.36 + £317.13)

Portal Code :
STNICHOLASYEAR4

Year 5 (Ref 11162 £15.38 + £300.31)

Portal Code :
STNICHOLASYEAR5

Year 6 (ref 11170 £24.46 + £276.22)

Portal Code :
STNICHOLASYEAR6

No - Mow May



We have taken part in [No-Mow May](#).

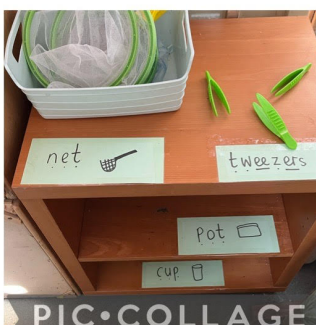
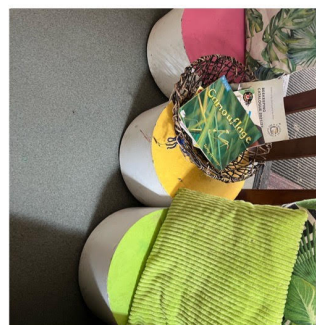
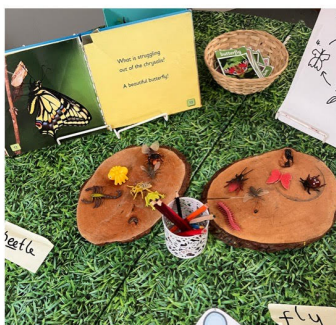
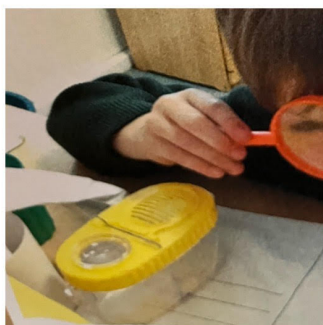
We have let the weeds and grass grow to allow spring plants a chance to set seed before the first cutting, making for healthier, more diverse lawns.

Additionally, this allows wild plants to get a foothold in May, to feed bees, butterflies and other pollinators through summer.

Grass will be cut over half term.

EYFS

Over the past few weeks in EYFS we have been scientists in our very own "bug lab". We have enjoyed creating mini beasts in the junk modelling area, talking about life cycles and even going to explore the garden for creatures. We were lucky enough to receive some caterpillars in the post and we have been observing their changes. We currently have 3 chrysalis and we have enjoyed using the paints to predict what the butterflies might look like. We have really enjoyed being scientists!



Book Amnesty

Please can you check at home for any books that should have been returned to school (they will have the school stamp in the front cover).

Also if you have any books that you no longer use and are looking to donate, please consider sending them into school for our Library.

Tempest Photos

Orders for Tempest Class photos have arrived in school today and will be distributed after half term.

Yr 6 Yearbook

A reminder to Yr 6 parents to send to abrocksom@stncs.uk photos that your child has chosen for their Yearbook page. A maximum of 5 please.

Foundation Governor



We have a vacancy for a Foundation Governor to join our Local CAST Board. We meet on a Wednesday evening once every half term. It is an interesting and rewarding role and would also involve some visits into school to talk to teachers and children about their learning and what is going on in school. If you are interested in finding out more please contact Mrs Brocksom (abrocksom@stnics.uk).

Job Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for

- a part time 1:1 teaching assistant, 32.5 hours per week, £10.79 per hour to start asap
- a Level 3 Nursery Practitioner to work in our Nursery from 8am to 4pm each day, £10.79 per hour
- a midday assistant, 8.75 hours per week, £10.60 per hour to start asap from 11.30 - 1.15 each day

Please contact Mrs Brocksom for more information (abrocksom@stnics.uk) about these roles or see Indeed.

Community News

Blessed Sacrament Pentecost Picnic



Join the Blessed Sacrament Parish on Sunday 28th of May after the 10.45am Mass at Heavitree Park for our Pentecost Picnic. Don't forget to wear your favourite red, orange or yellow clothes (the colours of the fire of the Holy Spirit). Please bring your own lunch! There will be some cakes to celebrate the birthday of the Church. You might like to bring a kite, too.

See you there.

Devon County Council Lets Get Chatting Campaign

A child's ability to communicate with the special people around them is one of the most important things they learn in the first few years of their life. Parents play a really big part in helping their children learn to communicate and talk. We want to understand how parents see their role of supporting their children's communication, where they might go to find information and support and what they are already doing that has been helpful.

If you are a parent living in Devon and you have a child aged 0-5 years, or you are expecting a baby in the coming months, please help us by answering a few questions about supporting your child's communication development.

You can find the questions here: [Let's Get Chatting 2023 \(office.com\)](https://www.office.com/letsgetchatting2023)

Look out for the 'Let's Get Chatting' social media campaign over the coming months for more information to support your child's developing communication.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding at St Nicholas is always a priority. Should you have any enquiries or concerns, please contact our Designated Senior Lead for Child Protection: Miss Reynolds, or Deputies: Mrs Blatchford or Miss Boulton on 01392 445403. Our named governor for child protection is Fran Dennehy fdennehy@stncls.uk.

CPOMS and Operation Encompass

At St Nicholas we use CPOMS as our system for recording information that we consider to be safeguarding information. As a parent you are entitled to see this information and may request to do so.

Further information about the programme can be found here -

<https://www.cpoms.co.uk/privacy/>

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident.

Prayer

Lord God, Creator of all things, guide our steps and strengthen our hearts, during this half term break.

Grant us refreshment of mind and body.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Have a lovely half term!

