



# St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter 21st October 2022

**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](http://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

### Head of School's News

The children have arrived at school today with all sorts of creative headwear! I have seen many witches, cats and even dragons as I have gone about the school today. It is amazing how everyone has got involved and gone to such fantastic effort! All monies raised will go to the Catholic children's society who are supporting families, who are struggling with poverty, to purchase school uniforms, including school shoes.

We have got off to a fantastic start to the school year with the children and staff working hard on fantastic learning. We would like to wish you all a well earned, restful and peaceful half term. We look forward to returning for another successful half term after the break. Please remember that Monday 31st October is a non pupil day so the children will return on Tuesday 1st November.

### Golden Welly

As OPAL (Outdoor play and learning) is now embedded into our play times, we have decided to introduce an award for positive play. The golden welly is awarded to one pupil each week in celebration assembly who has demonstrated the gospel values in their play and interactions during play times. The first person to win the award was Kelsey in Compton for showing real justice in her play by always being fair. Last week's winner of the golden welly was Bonnie in Totnes for her kindness and ability to include others in her play! We will share the winners of the golden welly on our fortnightly newsletter.

### Uniform

After half term, children will be expected to wear winter uniforms. This includes a white shirt and St Nicholas tie with school jumpers and grey trousers/skirts. PE kit can be worn on PE days and as the weather is now getting colder, black or grey tracksuit bottoms or leggings are appropriate. School jumpers or fleeces are to be worn for PE. Hoodies are not permitted. A reminder that long hair should be tied up and jewellery (apart from stud earrings) is not permitted. Please remember that we have good quality second hand uniforms on sale through [Uniformd](#). All the details are the website and all monies raised go to the PTA.

### PTA

I would like to say a massive thank you to the parents who attended the PTA AGM last night. The PTA at St Nicholas is highly valued. PTA members have worked hard over the years to plan fantastic events such as school discos, summer socials and Christmas fayres. These events bring joy and magic to our children and bring the school community together whilst raising much needed funds that enrich the school experiences of our children.

Louise Kerslake did an amazing job as chair of the PTA last year but has decided to stand down. We are very thankful for all of her hard work. With a lack of volunteers for the position of chair, Sarah Osbond has very kindly offered to take on the role on a temporary basis until Christmas- all the staff at St Nicholas would like to thank her for this. Without a chair, the PTA would have to fold and this would have a devastating impact on our school- the fabulous events that give so much to our school community would cease. This is something that we are desperate to avoid. We are keen to recruit further PTA members. If we can build the capacity of the PTA, there will be less demands on individual people. If you would like to volunteer for any

role in the PTA (including chair) or are willing to give any amount of your time- no matter how big or small please contact the PTA: [pta@stnics.uk](mailto:pta@stnics.uk)

## Important Dates

<b>24th - 31st October</b>	Half term. Children return on Tuesday 1st November in winter uniform
<b>1st November</b>	All Saints Day Mass
<b>2nd November</b>	2.30pm PTA Pop Up Cafe
<b>3rd November</b>	Author visit - Rob Holmes - see below
<b>16th November</b>	2.30pm PTA Pop Up Cafe
<b>17th November</b>	Compton Class 'Holy Hunt' - see below

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

<b>Compton</b>	Freya / Leonal	<b>Okehampton</b>	Leonila / Ella
<b>Plympton</b>	Finlay / Emily H	<b>Lydford</b>	Edy / Daisy
<b>Berry Pomeroy</b>	Lexi / Liv	<b>Dartmouth</b>	Eli / Tabitha
<b>Totnes</b>	David / Oscar	<b>Drogo</b>	Lily S
<b>Kingswear</b>	Troy / Pedro	<b>Powderham</b>	Ada
<b>Rougemont</b>	Cohen / Louise	<b>Nursery</b>	Pearl / Aaron

**Golden Welly** - Congratulations to Kelsey and Bonnie

## Information and News

### Holy Hunt

Over this academic year, every Key Stage 2 class will be scheduled an individual trip to the Blessed Sacrament Church in Heavitree on a Thursday morning. Mrs Quinn, our School Chaplain, will always accompany each teacher with their class.

During the morning, each class will attend the parish Mass and participate in a 'Holy Hunt'; an engaging activity which helps children to explore the church, its symbolism and the accompanying gestures.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for the children to participate in a parish Mass with Fr Jonathan and see a real church up close.

**Class Schedule:** 17th November Compton, 26th January Berry Pomeroy, 9th March Plympton, 18th May Totnes, 15th June Rougemont, 13th July Kingswear

### Author Visit

On Thursday 3rd November we are having a visit from a local author and mindfulness teacher called Rob Holmes. He is doing a tour of Devon schools to promote his book "Master Owl". He will come and do a 30 minute session with each class from EYFS through to Year 6, adapting the sessions for the different year groups. He will also teach them some mindfulness. Please see

<https://www.robholmes.org/devon-schools-tour>

### Open Library

We are delighted with the number of families who have been visiting our library on a Monday after school. This will continue after half term, every Monday from 3.15pm until 4pm.

## Reception and Nursery end of RE Topic

This week to celebrate the end of our RE topic 'Myself', Mrs Quinn (and her guitar!) came in to sing with the Reception and Nursery children. We learnt the song 'He has called us by our name' and even learnt some signs to go along with it! It was lovely to see the children so engaged and joining in with the music!

## Reception and Nursery

A big well done to all of the children who started school and started in our Nursery this year! Everyone has settled in so well! You have all worked really hard and have earned your well deserved half term break!

## Reception Tours - Reception Class 2023

Open Days for prospective parents of children entering Reception in 2023 will be held at **9.30am and 6pm on 9th and 10th November**. Please contact Mrs Brocksom ([abrocksom@stnics.uk](mailto:abrocksom@stnics.uk)) to book a place and to find out more information

## Kilve

Our Year 6 Kilve trip is booked for the 12-16 June 2023. Instalment arrangements have been set up on Parentpay and the deposit / 1st instalment are due on the 4th November. Please contact Kate O'Riordan ([koriordan@stnics.uk](mailto:koriordan@stnics.uk)) for more details if needed.

## Playground Equipment

Unfortunately, it has been necessary to tape off 2 pieces of equipment in the playground as they have become unsafe for use. These are the swinging steps at the rear of the playground and the stage seating along the edge of the playground next to the path.

Whilst we do our best to ensure this tape is in place at all times, there are times when the tape is broken and it has not yet been brought to our attention to replace it. Please bear with us while we are dealing with this situation and for the foreseeable future please do **not** use the above named equipment.

## PTA



**St Nicholas  
Catholic Primary School  
PTA Presents**

### Pop up Cafe



Before pick up every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month you are invited to join us in the Bickleigh room for a cuppa and cake between 2.30pm and 3.15pm

This is a great way to meet other parents and also help raise vital funds for the PTA, so we can continue with the amazing work we do for the school.

Any kind donation for the refreshments would be gratefully received.

Please keep an eye out on Classlist and the school newsletter for each session.

We can't wait to see you there!



## Community News



# Be part of our **Family Advisory Board**

A group of like-minded individuals with lived experience of Children's Social Care.  
Our aim is to improve the experiences for families by having our voices heard and influencing change.

**Upcoming dates for 2022  
in Exeter**

**Thursday 3rd November**  
**Thursday 1st December**

More dates for 2023 to follow

Contact Zoe at  
[participation@devon.gov.uk](mailto:participation@devon.gov.uk)  
for more information

There is no  
expectation to  
share personal  
stories.



**Restorative  
Devon**



## THE EXETER PLAN

### HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR CITY

**The Exeter Plan consultation runs from  
26 September to 5th December 2022**

3rd October 1.00pm–6.00pm Newtown Community Centre, Belmont Park	1st November 1.00pm–7.00pm St Lawrence Church and Community Hall, Lower Hill Barton Road
6th October 1.00pm–7.00pm The Guildhall, 203 High Street	3rd November 12.30pm–5.30pm St Thomas Church Hall, 54 Cowick Street
11th October 1.00pm–7.00pm Alphington Village Hall, Ide Lane	8th November 1.00pm–6.00pm Custom House Visitor Centre, The Quay
13th October 1.00pm–7.00pm America Hall, De la Rue Way, Pinhoe	14th November 1.00pm–7.00pm The Thatched House, Exwick Road
17th October 1.00pm–7.00pm Wonford Methodist Church, Burnthouse Lane	21st November 12.00pm–5.15pm Park Life Heavitree Hub, Heavitree Pleasure Ground
20th October 1.00pm–7.00pm Matthews Hall, Topsham	22nd November 1.00pm–7.00pm St Sidwell's Community Centre, Sidwell Street
25th October 1.00pm–7.00pm The Beacon Centre, Beacon Lane	1st December 1.00pm–7.00pm St James' Church Hall, Mount Pleasant Road

**Get involved to have your say on the future of Exeter.**  
Find out more at: <https://exeterplan.commonplace.is/>

**This is our city,  
this is our future**



## Online health support and guidance for young people and parents

Life can be difficult enough sometimes, and for children and young people, those day-to-day interactions with others, your attitude about yourself, your relationships with people at home, at school or work, can be especially overwhelming. It's also a challenge for parents and carers seeing changes in their child's behaviour or personality and not really knowing what's going on or the best way to support them.

Devon's Public Health Nursing team has [launched three websites](#) dedicated to providing help and advice for young people and their parents and carers, from pre-natal right through to teenage years.

- [Health for under 5s](#) – offers pre-natal advice and for children up to aged five years old
- [Health for Kids](#) – aimed at parents and carers of children primary school aged – includes games, videos, and quizzes. It's split into four 'worlds': healthy bodies, healthy minds, health issues and getting help
- [Health for Teens](#) – for young people of secondary school age and their parents and carers. It tackles the issues many teens go through, as their bodies change, and they become more self-aware, while also still working out who they are.

## ECCT Holiday Courses for Half Term

Please find booking link below for ECCT half term courses. They are proving to be very popular and spaces are selling fast! [October Half Term 2022 - Exeter City Community Trust \(exetercct.org\)](#)



## **Prayer**

*Autumn Months*

*remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.*

*May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given  
and bounty we are to share with others.*

*May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise  
that death is temporary and life is eternal.*

*Amen*

