



St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 18th February 2022

Executive Head: Miss Cathy Lowry

Head of School: Miss Kelli Reynolds

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

01392 445403

admin@stnics.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: Mrs D Sparkes & Miss C Lowry

Named Governors for Child Protection: Mrs F Dennehy and Mr J Cookson

Head of School's News

It has been unfortunate that the half term has come to such an unusual end. School closures are always a last resort and are only done to ensure the safety of our children, their families and our staff. Following the Trust's decision to close their schools last night, the teachers acted swiftly to prepare home learning for today. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher today if you have any difficulties accessing google classrooms. Hopefully the storm will pass quickly causing minimal disruption and damage.

Saint David's Day

Tuesday the 1st of March is St David's day. Children and staff in St David's house family will enjoy a celebration lunch and gather together in the afternoon to join in with some fun activities planned by the staff of the Saint David's house Family.

Dropping of and collecting your children

We would like to thank you all for your cooperation with the new drop off and collection arrangements. The new system enables us to have a greater staff presence on the playground during these times and gets the day off to a smoother start for the children. We have ordered some high visibility jackets for the staff on duty which will make it easier for children and parents to identify school staff. Please ensure that your child arrives at school between 8:30am and 8:40am and please wait with your child/ren until the whistle is blown.

Staff

We would like to say goodbye to Miss Wathen and Miss Easton. Miss Wathen has been appointed to an assistant head teacher role at OLSP in Teignmouth. We wish her the very best of luck in her new role. After half term, Plympton class will be taught by Miss Standen. Miss Easton has relocated to Bristol and has been successful in gaining another teaching post - we wish her the best of luck in her developing career. After half term, Rougemont will be taught by Mr Marlow.

On behalf of the staff of St Nicholas, I would like to wish you all a happy half term. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 1st March.

Information

Important Dates:

Tuesday 1st March (Pancake Day)	Children return to school St David's Day - joint school liturgy Fairtrade Cake Sale - re-scheduled date
Wednesday 2nd March	Ash Wednesday Liturgy led by Totnes Fair trade Tuck shop (until 4th)
4th March	Rescheduled Glow in the Dark Dodgeball after school.

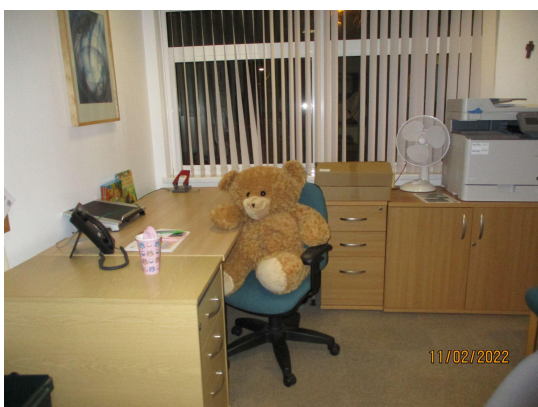
Living and Learning in Spirit and in Truth

8th and 9th March	EYFS Stay and Play
15th March	Parent's Evening
17th March	St Patrick's Day - joint school liturgy
24th March	Parent's Evening
5th April	Supper of the Lord liturgy led by Plympton Class
8th April	Way of the Cross liturgy Break up for Easter holiday
25th April	Return to School St George's Day - joint school liturgy

Disciples of the week			
Compton	All of Compton Class	Okehampton	Millie / Max
Berry Pomeroy	Toby / Lottie	Lydford	Julie / Maja
Plympton	Danielius / Molly	Dartmouth	Olivia / Isabella
Totnes / Kingswear / Rougemont	Hannais / Eva / Macie	Drogo	Zoe / Jonah
		Nursery	Ecaterina / Oliver
		<i>Well done to you all!</i>	

Information

Yr 2 Sleepover



The Yr 2 children had a fun night on their sleepover exploring the school in the dark with torches and seeing who they could find around the school! They watched a film before bed with biscuits and milkshakes, kindly provided by the PTA.

Year 4 Heatree Residential

On the 7th February, the year 4s went on a 3 day and 2 night residential to Heatree Activity Centre. This was the first time they have been on a residential, or stayed away from home. Every year 4 showed great resilience throughout the trip as they didn't quite realise how strange staying away from home would have been. However, they focused on the positive experience they were going to have and supported each other to stay! They took part in fun outdoor activities, such as spear making to go hunting, a nature walk on Dartmoor, low adventure ropes, teamwork games and even a riverwalk with water slides! It has been lovely to hear about the children's favourite parts of the trips, and memories they will never forget. Well done year 4s!

Living and Learning in Spirit and in Truth

Fairtrade Week: Tuesday 2nd March - Friday 4th March

To celebrate Fairtrade and raise funds for farmers through CAFOD, we will be holding a Fairtrade Cake Sale and a Fairtrade Tuck Shop.

Fairtrade Cupcake Sale: rescheduled for Tuesday 1st March

Please bring cupcake donations to the Bickleigh Room. All cakes will cost 20p and be sold at playtime.

We'd love you to use Fairtrade ingredients and/or decorate your cupcakes with the Fairtrade logo! Proceeds will go to CAFOD.

Fairtrade Tuck Shop: Wed 2nd March - Friday 4th March

During playtime, Mustard Seeds Club will be selling Traidcraft Fairtrade biscuits for the children to buy. All biscuits come in packs of 2 and cost 70p. There will be a selection of chocolate chip cookies, fruit and oat chewy cookies, stem ginger cookies, fruit and lemon biscuits and shortbread biscuits. Items are sold at cost.

Fairtrade Presentation

Please see the website to view the [Fairtrade Presentation](#) that Pupil Chaplains Marc and Keevan created and shared with the school during our Monday Liturgy last week.

Lenten Journey

We have a variety of activities planned to help our school family journey through Lent. Please watch out for more information next week!

The Big Exeter Sleep Out comes to the Blessed Sacrament Church

Fr Jonathan and Mrs Quinn have signed up for the Big Exeter Sleep Out and have their sleeping bags at the ready! They will begin with Mass at 6.30pm, then enjoy a bowl of soup and a film before bedding down for the night in the garden. Proceeds go to Julian House, a charity that supports vulnerable and at-risk individuals in the Exeter area.

Families can support them by donating on their Just Giving page or by joining them overnight in the garden. Minors will need to be accompanied by an adult. Email Mrs Quinn mquinn@stnics.uk if you would like to sign your family up. To donate on their Just Giving page, follow this link:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/blessedsacramentbigsleepout22?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=blessedsacramentbigsleepout22&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=51b2531b79724422a606a319b662d691.

Uniformd

In March we will be launching a new platform called [Uniformd](#) where you will be able to purchase second hand, donated or unclaimed uniform for very low prices. All of the proceeds will go to the PTA to fund much needed items for the school. Items will all be in good condition but will be unwashed unless new. Look out for more information after half term.

Library

Our new, revamped library was opened this week and blessed by Father Jonathan. See our website for details and photos of the new library and the opening ceremony and blessing.

Attendance

It was interesting to note last week that the Department for Education has released research into attendance at schools and the acknowledgement that expectations need to be high, even though there are still battles with COVID. Attendance is crucial in ensuring that children make good progress - we would like to make sure we maximise the attendance of each child.

Unplanned Absence

We are aiming for all children to have an attendance rate of at least 95%. Our target is 97.1%. A child with below 90% attendance is now considered a **persistent absentee** as per government guidelines. If a child's

absence is below 95%, you will receive a letter requesting you try and improve your child's rate of absence. After a 6 week period, if your child's attendance has not improved, you may be asked to provide medical evidence, such as an appointment card, or prescription, for all future absences or be invited to a meeting to discuss how to improve your child's attendance. The Devon Educational Welfare Officer may also contact you.

Sometimes a child's absence may be low because they have a serious illness or medical condition and we wish to reassure you that no action will be taken in these cases.

Of course, we don't want children to come to school if they are feeling poorly. However sometimes it can be difficult in the morning, before school, to accurately judge the extent of a child's illness. In these cases, we wish to reassure you that if a child comes to school but then continues to appear poorly we will ring you to let you know. Prescribed medication and/or pain relief can also be administered by school staff providing a green Medication Permission form has been completed.

Please continue to let school know each morning if your child is not going to be in that day using absence@stnics.uk, Option 1 when you phone in to the school or by using the absence function on the Parentmail app.

In line with the 'Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings' (Public Health England 2014), we continue to request that children stay home for a full **48 hours** after any episode of vomiting and diarrhoea to prevent the spread of infection

If your child is absent for 5 consecutive days you will be asked to provide evidence of attendance at a GPs surgery on the fifth day. Any unplanned absence due to illness that follows a planned but unauthorised absence will automatically be recorded as unauthorised unless medical evidence is provided.

Planned Absence Requests

If your child has a medical appointment booked, please advise Reception that they may be late or that you will be picking them up early, **before** the date of absence, to ensure that your child's record is noted correctly. We will authorise two hours absence for medical appointments, providing evidence of the appointment is shown. Please ensure that your child attends school before and after the appointment if possible. Routine dental check-ups should always take place outside school hours.

Unfortunately we can only authorise other planned absences such as holidays or family events in extraordinary circumstances. Where absence requests are not authorised, the absence will be marked as unauthorised if the child is subsequently absent from school on those days. You should be aware that we have a duty to report unauthorised absence to the Education Welfare Officer and, if their thresholds are met, this may make parents or carers liable to a fine from the Local Authority. This is currently £60 per child, per parent.

Arriving Late

Recurring lateness is an issue in many classes. This is a problem as children may miss important early morning work or intervention. It also leads to a disruptive start for the child and their school day. Children arriving at school between 8.45 and 8.55 will therefore be marked as late (L). The Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 classes open at 8.30am and the playground is supervised from 8.30am for children in Key Stage 2.

Registers are a legal safeguarding document and need to be 'closed' so that daily attendance can be recorded. Our registers will close at 8.55 am and therefore anyone arriving after this time will be marked as having an Unauthorised Absence (U). Please note that if you arrive after 8.55am with your child, they will not be admitted to their classroom until they have registered and signed in at Reception. This is because the register will already have been sent to the Office.

We hope that together we can improve the attendance rate of the children at St Nicholas and that by doing so we will secure the best possible educational outcomes for your child. We pride ourselves in the care and

support that we offer our families. If you are having trouble bringing your child to school, please get in touch with your child's class teacher or Kelli Reynolds, Head of School (head@stncls.uk)

Days off school add up to lost learning

175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR

175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments

190 DAYS FOR YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION EACH YEAR	10 days absence 180 DAYS OF EDUCATION	19 days absence 171 DAYS OF EDUCATION	29 days absence A term missed 161 DAYS OF EDUCATION	38 days absence 152 DAYS OF EDUCATION	47 days absence 143 DAYS OF EDUCATION
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
Good Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start		Worrying Less chance of success. Makes it harder to make progress		Serious Concern Not fair on your child. Court action!	

Facebook / Twitter

You may wish to follow our school Facebook (search for @exeterstncls) and Twitter ([@StNicholasCPS](https://twitter.com/StNicholasCPS)) accounts.

PTA

The Twosday Challenge information has been sent out again with this newsletter. Children are encouraged to raise any amount containing the number '2' over half term to contribute towards PTA funds. We look forward to hearing about all the different fundraising ideas children have and all children will receive a certificate for participating. *Due to school closure not every child received a paper copy of the sponsor form, however, you can record your activities on an email and anything submitted to the pta via the email address (pta@stncls.uk) or through the classroom teacher will be rewarded with a certificate. Forms can also be distributed to those who would like one on school return, for anyone who wants to report information that way.*

Community News

RISE creative arts days - for Yr 5 and above

Please see the poster set out with this newsletter, The Exeter event is on 5th March in Budleigh Salterton. <https://forms.office.com/r/wrneb69vn0>

It is a great chance for our young people to meet others from neighbouring parishes and to simply have fun together. To join in the event, you do not have to be interested in acting, there will be opportunities to express your creativity through art, craft, writing scripts and possibly music. This event will be open to young people in Year 5 through to Year 11. The day will start at 10 and finish at 4.00. Lunch and snacks will be provided so it is important that you book so we have enough refreshments for all. Please contact Saskia at youth@prcdtr.org.uk for further information.

Living and Learning in Spirit and in Truth

Half Term Prayer

Lord God,

We thank You for our school family and our wider community.

Thank You for all that You have given us to explore and be curious about in our lessons
and in our leisure time.

Guided by Your Holy Spirit, inspire us as we journey through this half term, as we seek to put our
learning into action.

Help us to be active like the Disciples and courageously cast our nets out into the deep, ready to
be engaged within the wonderful world You have created,
as we strive to change what we can, with Your help, for the better.

Amen

