



St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 29th January 2021

Executive Head: Mrs Angela Folland Head of School: Miss Kelli Reynolds

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St Nicholas School is committed to safeguarding children.

Designated Child Protection Lead: Mrs D Sparkes

Deputy Child Protection Leads: Mrs A Folland & Miss K Reynolds

Named Governors for Child Protection: Mrs L Wills and Mrs F Dennehy

Head of School's News

This week's news has given us much to be positive about. Although our school will not reopen to all of our children after half term (something I think we all knew was unlikely to happen), we are now waiting for further information about the possibility of opening on or around 8th March. Of course, as throughout this pandemic, this is an ever changing landscape and we wait for firm decisions from the Government about dates and detail.

Lateral flow testing

Our staff now have access to lateral flow testing which they self administer twice a week and we remain hopeful that teaching staff will be included in the priority list for vaccination. All of these things strengthen the ways we can minimise disruption to schools and learning for our children as the year progresses.

Blended learning home school agreement

Thank you to all the parents who have returned the blended learning protocol. To those who haven't yet done so, please remember to go to the link sent through parent mail and confirm your agreement to your children taking part in live sessions

Mental health week

Next week is children's mental health week. The theme this week is 'express yourself' and allows children to explore the importance of being themselves and sharing their thoughts and feelings through creative activities. On Monday morning, all children in school will join a 'live' virtual assembly provided by the organisers of mental health week. We will share the link for this on google classrooms so that children at home can join too! Throughout the week, classes will engage in discussions through the class catch ups and activities that follow the theme, promoting good mental health.

Play and lunch times

With the measures put in place to reduce the possible spread of COVID 19 within our school, most of our lunchtime play equipment has been unable to be safely used. We are very keen to ensure that lunchtimes continue to be a fun and enjoyable part of the children's days. Miss Frost has organised 'play buckets' for each class, providing resources for the children to safely use with their peers from their class at playtimes. Each bucket and its equipment is colour coded for each class and contains balls, skipping ropes and various other play time items!

Many of our children have been trained as play leaders and will be able to facilitate games and activities on the playground using these new resources. We know that our new resources will bring much pleasure to all of our pupils.

Parents' comments:

Thank you for the lovely comments you have been sending in. Comments include:

"Everyone in school is doing the most amazing job for all the children so I am sending you all a big thank you."

*"I thought the catch up session was really good! **** loved the quiz! It was nice that you shared what the other children in class were saying!"*

Exciting news

We're still working hard in school to keep developments going and this week we can share the exciting news that we have commissioned an all-weather running track to be installed on the school field. We are hoping that work will begin in March and the track will be ready for use in the summer term. We saved some of our sports premium funding last year to fund this big investment which will certainly improve the quality of PE and outdoor play for all of our children for many years to come.

	Disciples of the Week	Home Learners of the week
Compton	Neve / Tylia	Alex / Eve
Berry Pomeroy	Isaac	Callum
Plympton	Isla / Keevan	Coco / Albie
Totnes	Tommi	Harry
Kingswear	Ben / Mason	Victor / Lizzie
Rougemont	Tiana / Sissi	Dan / Olivia
Okehampton	Roman / Giorgia	Bonnie / Joshua
Lydford	Ronnie / Naomi	Ivy / Lucy
Dartmouth	Emily / Sivani	Louise / Eric
Powderham	Valerie / Ronnie-Rae	Freddie / Summer
Drogo	Olivia / Maddison	Niall / Afshin
Nursery	Nellie / Poppy	-
<i>Well done to you all!</i>		

Free ebooks

The Oak National Academy' are releasing a free eBook from a popular author or illustrator each week. The book is available for one week only. As well as being able to read (and sometimes listen to) the book, there will be an exclusive video from the author and they share their top three recommended reads. Click this link to start reading:

https://library.thenational.academy/?utm_campaign=NLT-Place2Be-BAFTA-KIDS-2021&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Intercom&utm_content=Intercom-NLT-Place2Be-BAFTA-KIDS-2021

You can also download free eBooks and eAudiobooks from Exeter library. Click this link to find out more:

<https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/ebooks>

Half term holiday club

SportyStars will be running a Holiday Camp at Topsham School, as a source of childcare for key workers during February Half Term. They will providing a multi activity camp for children aged 4 - 12. Activities will include a range of sports, arts & crafts, shelter building, nerf wars, zorbing, science experiments, bouncy castles, lego building, movies and more.

Each day will start at 8:15am and finish at 5:15pm, SportyStars have extended their hours to fit around a working day for parents. If you would like to drop off later and pick up early within this time frame, this is not a problem and we ask you just let them know in advance.

SportyStars will be adhering to strict Covid-19 protocols similar to the School setting. Children will have a temperature check on registration, be placed into group bubbles if numbers require, all equipment is cleaned between each use and hand washing and sanitiser will be regularly monitored. They have more information on further changes on the website. If the camp is unable to go ahead due to Covid-19 restrictions made by the government, a full refund will be issued immediately. They also hold the right to cancel the camp if there are less than 15 attendees, again a refund will be given. This said, the SportyStars camps have been extremely popular and we ask parents who require this services to book promptly to gain a space and help with forward planning / organisation.

The cost is £35 per per day or a reduced rate of £150 for all 5 days during half term.

Bookings and more info about the camp can be found here: <https://www.sportystars.co.uk/topsham/>

Or please feel free to get in touch with Danny directly on danny@sportystars.co.uk or 07514938066.