



St Nicholas CE Primary School Bulletin: 12th September

Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome to the start of a brand new school year at St Nicholas!

I trust you all had a wonderful summer and that your children are returning rested, refreshed and ready for the exciting learning ahead. It is always a joy to open our doors once more and see our school come alive again with energy and enthusiasm.

This week, our Fossil Class began their journey with us. 20 eager faces so confidently walking independently into school. It has been a delight to spend time in their classroom already, watching them settle so quickly and begin to explore life at St Nicholas.

The start of a new year always brings a sense of fresh opportunity. Over the summer, our staff have been preparing carefully to ensure that every child has the very best start. As a team, we are dedicated to nurturing each individual, inspiring curiosity and laying down the firm foundations that will help every child thrive both now and in their future.

We will be sharing updates throughout the term, including key dates and reminders, so please do keep an eye on school communications. As always, if you have any questions or need support, our office team are on hand to help and teachers are available at the end of the day at 3.15pm.

Here's to another year filled with learning, laughter and success.

Welcome back!

Sarah Hilling

Attendance

At St Nicholas, we place great importance on excellent attendance and punctuality. Last year we achieved a whole-school attendance rate of **96.4%**, which we were delighted with - but we know we can go even further. This year, our target remains **97% attendance for every child**.

Being in school every day makes a significant difference: it helps children keep up with their learning, strengthen friendships, and build the secure foundations for success. Absence not only affects a child's own progress but can also make it harder for the whole class to move forward together.

Our gates during the morning are open between 8.35am and 8.50am. Teachers and teaching assistants begin working with groups and listening to readers from 8.35am. Registration is at 8.50am and lessons begin at 9.00am. Every minute counts and arriving on time ensures children don't miss out on those valuable early learning opportunities.

Why is attendance so important? Lessons are sequential, building one on the other, making it difficult to "catch up" when time is missed. Even starting the day late can impact your child's entire day and affect learning in the classroom. Your child will feel connected academically and socially when they have good attendance. Good school attendance helps to build habits that last a lifetime and transfer beyond school. Please note that family

holidays in term time are not authorised. We are in school for 190 days over the year, which leaves 175 days in which to take authorised holidays. We expect all routine medical appointments to be made during holidays, weekends and after school, where possible. If you need to take your child out of school, please complete a form which can be obtained from the office. Only the Head of School has the discretion to grant absence from school in very exceptional circumstances.

Together, let's make this year one of our best yet for attendance and learning.



0 days off school in a year 0 lessons missed	100%	Perfect attendance
2 days off school in a year 10 lessons missed	99%	Excellent attendance
5 days off school in a year 25 lessons missed	97%	Good attendance
10 days off school in a year 50 lessons missed	95%	Slightly below average attendance
14 days off school in a year 70 lessons missed	93%	Poor attendance
20 days off school in a year 100 lessons missed	90%	Very poor attendance



Back to School Reminder



BACK TO SCHOOL REMINDERS



BACKPACKS

SMALL backpacks ONLY!
Our cloakrooms have limited space!
No pencil cases - school provide everything you need!

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Autumn term Uniform -

- Grey skirt / pinafore dress / trousers
- White Polo Shirt
- Blue School Logo jumper / cardigan
- Grey socks / tights
- Plain black leather shoes (no boots)
- **NO** jewellery (1 pair plain stud earrings allowed)
- Long hair tied up

PE UNIFORM

School logo PE top
Black shorts
(No Skorts or cycling shorts)
Plain black trainers
White socks

WHAT DO I NEED IN MY BACKPACK?

- Water bottle
- Lunchbox
- Healthy Snack
- Reading Book
- EYFS only - spare clothes

OUR SCHOOL DAY



Morning gates open
8.35am for 8.50am start

Afternoon gates open
3.10pm for 3.15pm finish

WHAT IS A HEALTHY SNACK?



NO CRISPS, CEREAL BARS OR CHOCOLATE

Outdoor Play Donations



We are currently working hard to make play and lunch breaks more engaging, creative and exciting.

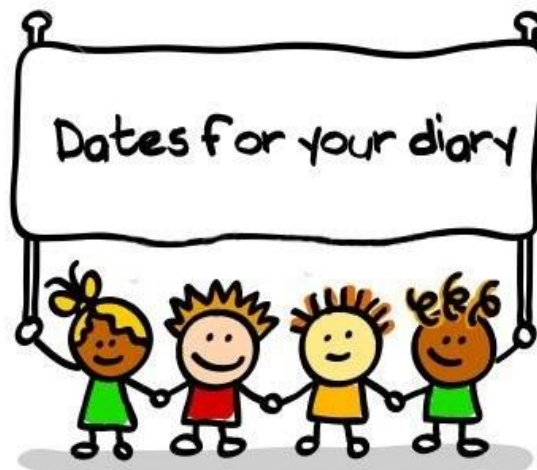
Thank you to parents who have generously offered to donate items to the school. We are currently looking for the following:

- *Animals and small play*
 - *Dressing up clothes and accessories (Junior sizes)*
 - *Large cardboard boxes*
 - *Blankets / curtains for den building*
 - *Scaffold netting (to cover the sandpit when not in use)*
-

It really has been lovely to see the children enjoying the lunchtime sports coach activities, the sandpit, the dressing up and imagination games, as well as finding shady spots to chill and chat!



Autumn term dates



September

- Fri 12th Little Musketeers starts at 8.00am
- Mon 15th Quartz & Marble trip to Ufton Court
- Tue 23rd EYFS Phonics and Curriculum Update Meetings
- Thu 25th Parent Curriculum Information Meetings
- Fri 26th New Parent Coffee Morning

October

- Wed 1st Flint trip to The Look Out
- Thu 2nd Sandstone trip to Chocoholics
- Wed 8th TEMPEST photographs
- Thu 9th Whole school Flu vaccination
- Fri 24th INSET DAY
- Mon 27th to Fri 31st HALF TERM

November

- Mon 3rd INSET Day

December

Thu 18th Panto visits school

Fri 19th School finishes at 1.30pm

Oak Tree Legacy

We are delighted to share our stunning new tree carving! Standing at almost 10ft tall, it has already been catching the eye of many who pass the school.

Huge thanks goes to our PTA team and everyone who supported the fundraising to make it possible. A very special thank you to Mrs Quinn who not only designed the carving, but also led the fundraising and organised the entire project from start to finish.

We are so grateful for the generosity, creativity and teamwork that has brought this spectacular piece to life. It will be a wonderful part of our school for years to come.







Enrichment Activities

New Clubs coming in the Autumn Term!

First Impressions Theatre Company

BilinguaSing Spanish Club

MultiSkills Club with Mr Luis

The Story Chair - Lunchtime club

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

	Before School	During the School Day	After School
Monday	Morning Judo with Mark Fricker https://judo-school.uk/pembee-app/ Get Active Breakfast Club	Lunch Recorder Club – Mrs Clacy Get Active Lunchtime Games	Get Active After School Club
Tuesday	First Impressions Musical Theatre Club https://first-impressions-theatre.classforkids.co/ Get Active Breakfast Club	Rock Steady Music www.rocksteadymusicschool.com Get Active Lunchtime Games	Get Active After School Club
Wednesday	Get Active Breakfast Club	Lunchtime Choir Club – Mrs Clacy The Story Chair – 1 st Wednesday of the month – St Nicholas Church Lunchtime Football Club – Mr Luis Get Active Lunchtime Games	Multi Sports Club – Mr Luis Get Active After School Club
Thursday	Spanish Club with Bilinguasing https://bilinguasingreading.classforkids.co/info/?s Get Active Breakfast Club	Get Active Lunchtime Games	Get Active After School Club
Friday	Get Active Breakfast Club	Keyboard Club with Tom Jones admin@weelkey.co.uk Get Active Lunchtime Games	Get Active After School Club



1 - Children are invited to join us for story time with Rosemary on Wednesday 12th September during lunchtime. The story chair will be the first Wednesday of every month.

2 - Spanish Club. An exciting new opportunity to learn Spanish at the new Spanish breakfast club.



WeKey
Group Piano Club
Exciting Piano Groups Every Friday!

- **When:** Friday School Time, (9am - 2:30pm)
- **Where:** At St Nicholas Primary School – Spaces Available 🎵
- **Affordable Price:** Just £10.50 per 30 minutes Group Lesson
Additional availability for individual piano lessons (£20 per 30 minute individual lesson).

Why Choose WeKey?

- **Personalised Learning:** Inspire students by teaching piano fundamentals through their favourite songs and musical interests. We take musical requests - our teachers can figure out songs just by listening!
- **Collaborative Learning:** Benefit from group performances, collaborative playing, engaging musical games, and request-based activities to enhance connectivity.
- **Dedicated Instruments:** Each student has their own keyboard during lessons.
- **Highly Qualified Teachers:** Lessons led by passionate, experienced educators, including **Tom Vaughan Jones** (Royal Academy of Music).
- **Weekly Practice Emails:** Receive weekly emails featuring music-of-the-week and practical tips for at-home practice.
- **Engaging and Fun:** We make learning piano exciting, accessible, and enjoyable, fostering a lifelong love of music.

🎵 Join Us Today!
Ignite your child's creativity, build confidence, and let their musical journey begin!

📌 Sign Up or Learn More:
www.wekey.co.uk
admin@wekey.co.uk

👤 Meet Our teachers:
www.wekey.co.uk/oureducators

Community News



Richard of Hurst

Exterior Cleaning Specialists

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Based in Warfield, covering all of Berkshire
 Combined experience of 14+ years
 Fully qualified through City and Guilds NPTC
 Fully insured through Arborisk insurance

The Services We Provide:

- Tree felling/removal
- Tree reductions
- Tree inspections
- Deadwooding
- Hedge cutting
- Hedge reductions
- Stump grinding
- Stump poisoning

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 Email: thetreeples@gmail.com
 See our work firsthand on Facebook: The Treeple Arborists LTD and
 Instagram: [the_treeple_arborists_ltd](https://www.instagram.com/the_treeple_arborists_ltd)



Twyford Together Charity Family Fun Run - Sunday 5 October

Twyford Together is super excited to be bringing the Fun Run back to King George's Field this year. In addition to the year group races, there's a brand new, grand finale relay for all as well as two-person sprint races around Twyford Parish Council's Coronation Grass Labyrinth.

For all the details and to register, visit www.twyfordtogether.org¹



Hurst Morris People are inviting men and women to have a go at their centuries-old but evolving pastime.




The taster sessions on Thursday September 18 and 25 at 8pm at Hurst Village Hall promise a lot of fun for those having a go at dancing or playing with the band.

¹<https://twyfordtogether.org/upcoming-events/twyfordtogether-charity-family-fun-run/>



Autism specific workshops from your local award-winning ASSIST team!

For information about any of our workshops or to book a place, please contact:
ASSISTWorkshops@wokingham.gov.uk
ASSIST, Children's Services, Wokingham Borough Council
The Woodley Airfield Centre, Hurricane Way, Woodley RG5 4UX

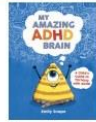


All Wokingham Year 6-9 (11-14yrs)
Mondays 6:30 - 7:45pm
Rainbow Community and Children's Centre
RG41 5SG
All welcome | No charge
Email kguikema@ylinternational.org



Wokingham Children's Book Festival

October 18th and 19th 2025



We've 13 well-known authors and illustrators joining us, eager to introduce you to their worlds!

For ages 3 - 13

Wokingham Town Hall
& Wokingham Library

Tickets £3 a seat

(early bird discount, 15% off until 28 July)



Special Guest

Holly Webb will share the real animals behind her winter wildlife stories and reveal a brand new story



Book now

www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk/bookfest



Wokingham
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LOVE
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WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

St Nicholas Church - Children Sunday Club

Children's Discovery Zone

Children are always welcome at our services. The Children's Discovery Zone runs during term time on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays and the children enjoy their own activities in the Parish Room during the 11am service. The Children start the service sitting with their parents, leaving for their activities during the first hymn and returning in time to meet their family to go up to the altar rail together for communion or a blessing. There is a story, prayer, sometimes singing and an activity. Towards the end of the main service they are usually invited to the front to share what they've done with an appreciative audience - they usually manage to upstage the clergy! If children do wish to remain in church with their family they are welcome to do so. There are activity pages, colouring pictures, pens and some reading books at the back of church to which they are welcome to help themselves. There are also toys available for use at the back of the church in the carpeted area. On the fourth Sunday of the month (in Term time) Messy Church takes place in church. Outside of Term time the service in church is suitable for the children to stay with their families in church. The service is simplified and includes a short talk suitable for all ages.

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church is held in St Nicholas Church. It is held on the 4th Sunday of the month at 11am. Dates for 2025 27th July, 28th September, 26th October, 23rd November

Contact

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