



ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Road, Hurst, Berkshire RG10 0DR

NEWSLETTER 01 – 10th September 2020



The organic baby food co.

St Nicholas School Vision Statement

Delivering a firm foundation for our childrens' future success by celebrating individual and community achievement, built on Christian values.

School Values

Respect, Thoughtfulness, Perseverance, Friendship

Adoption News

Congratulations to Mrs Jodie Jerome and her husband Richard, who have welcomed a second daughter into their family.



ONLINE CHURCH SERVICE

Join us on at 11:00am on Sunday for our virtual service.

Visit www.thru-christ.org.uk for the link.



NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE LAUNCH!

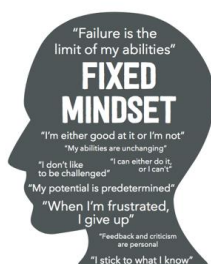
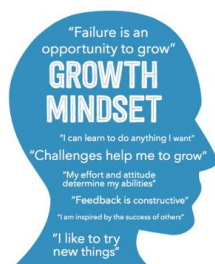
www.st-nicholas.wokingham.sch.uk

We are excited to launch our newly re-designed website. Lift off is tomorrow, Friday 11th September!

We hope you like the fresh new look and the improved navigation that will allow current and prospective parents, as well as members of the wider community to find everything they need more quickly and easily. Our aim is that it will become the first port of call for all the information you need. A very big **'Thank you!'** to Alexis Jaworski who visited us this week to take professional photos of our wonderful school and talented pupils; to be uploaded soon. If you have any feedback or suggestions for other information or topics, please let us know.

Please note that the existing 'co.uk' domain will be disabled on Monday 14th September, and will become an invalid URL.

We will revert to the Local Authority domain URL only, which is www.st-nicholas.wokingham.sch.uk. Please update your bookmarks on your web browser.



This week's Growth Mindset thought...

"You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

AA Milne/Christopher Robin

School Calendar

September

Weds 9th Y3, Y4 & Y5 Cycling commences
Fri 25th Bag2School Collection

October

Thu 1st School Census
Sat 10th Open Morning (by appointment only)
Fri 23rd INSET DAY
26th – 30th HALF TERM

Staff News

Congratulations to Mrs Sarah Hilling who has passed her SENCO qualification, having been awarded **Distinctions** for each of her assignments. She is looking forward to receiving her certificates later in the year.

The National Award SENCo (**NASENCO**) is a statutory award for newly appointed Special Educational Needs Coordinators in schools. After taking post in September 2019, Mrs Hilling also worked hard behind the scenes studying at Reading University. The course included three specialist modules each with coursework and a final lengthy assignment. There was also the requirement to collate a comprehensive portfolio evidencing work supporting her learning, understanding and practice. We are delighted that Mrs Hilling has completed the course and can now look forward to enjoying her new role without the added pressure of study. We had the pleasure in surprising her with a plaque on her office door!



Blake Class Yearbook

Thank you to Mrs Claire Campbell who organised the publication of a Year Book for our 2020 Leavers. The book is a fantastic memento for the pupils and their families. It contains a personal profile of each pupil along with their reflections on the people at St Nicholas C/E Primary School who have been their greatest influencers, the challenges they faced at the start of year 6, their experiences of home schooling and the experience of returning to school in June. Our 20 pupils have moved on to 12 different secondary schools. We send our best wishes to them as they continue on their education journey.



Footpath

Thank you to Mr Peter Meads (resident), Mr Paul Cummings (parent), Brendan Cummings (former pupil), Mr Mike Jackson (Chair of Governors), Mr James Dalziel (parent Governor), Mr Richard Boyden (parent), Mr Ken Curry (Governor), Mr Rupert Drake (parent Governor), Mr Louis Massarella (parent), Mr Chris Collins (parent), Mr Ashley Davis (parent) and Mr Martin Hannington (parent), who worked hard to lay and level scalplings along the footpath around the school field that connects School Lane with Orchard Road. Other work undertaken included the hedge cut back, installation of new gates, corner cut and surface laid. We are also very grateful to Thames Valley Ramblers who replaced two styles with kissing gates. Finally yet importantly, we would also like to thank Councillor Wayne Smith for his ongoing support for this project.





Entrepreneurial flair from former pupil Yvie

Our former Year 6 pupil, Yvie, set up a small business during the enforced school closure as a way to earn some pocket money. Yvie's business venture is called 'Say it with Buttons' and she makes handmade button frames as gifts but she has also just started to make personalised items such as drinks bottles, sanitiser bottles and dog bowls.

She has a Facebook & Instagram page **@sayitwithbuttonshurst** so do give her a follow to see more of her creations. If anyone would like to place an order, please contact her via 'Say it with Buttons' Facebook page, email kent_er@yahoo.com or message 07516 306505.

Congratulations and best of luck for your new venture Yvie!

Milne Class Update

Wow! I cannot believe it has only been a week since our new children started school! Every single one of them has settled in so well and it feels like we have always been together. There has been so much happening already from our first PE session and Yoga as well as writing, building, experimenting, colouring, creating, painting, racing and planting to name but a few of our activities. This week we are launching ourselves into Phonics and Maths and I have never seen children so excited to receive their homework folders! Long may their enthusiasm for play and learning continue.



Donaldson Class Update

This week we have been finding out more about Julia Donaldson, the author that our class is named after. We have been reading lots of books by Julia Donaldson, focusing on 'The Gruffalo' in our English and Art lessons. Here is a photo of some of our Gruffalo artwork.



We have also read 'The Colour Monster' to help us better understand our emotions. We drew our own monsters to show how we were feeling about returning to school. Then we thought of things we could do to help Colour Monster when he was angry, sad and scared. After some great ideas, we decided to create our own worry dolls to help us when we felt worried about something. I have been impressed with how well the children have settled in and adapted to new routines. It is great to see them all back in school!

De La Mare Class Update

De La Mare Class have enjoyed being back at school and seeing their friends again. They have got to grips very well with the new routines.

To start the school year, we read the book, 'Bloom' and decided what made us happy and sad. We then read 'Silly Billy' by Anthony Browne and made worry dolls to help us if we were feeling a bit anxious.





TS Eliot Class Update

TS Eliot have been very busy in the first few days of school. They have created a beautiful display, highlighting their goals for this academic year. In English, they wrote about their experiences during lockdown and focussed on time adverbials and past tense verbs. In Maths, they have revised and broadened their knowledge of place value and partitioning numbers up to 1000. They enjoyed French, recalling how to introduce themselves and how to count to 20. They also had time to learn to relax and stay grounded, during an introduction to mindfulness.

Longfellow Class Update

Longfellow have really enjoyed being back – who knew that we would miss school so much! Not content with finding our feet and getting back into routines, Longfellow have already been up to a spot of time travelling! Never a class to do things by half, we have travelled a long, long, long way back in time – some 15,000 years in fact, to explore the middle period of the Stone Age. We have been exploring messages from the past, left by our very distant ancestors, in the form of cave paintings. We decided to create our own version of the famous ‘Hand prints’ found in the Cueva de las Manos (Cave of Hands) in Argentina. It has helped to fill some of class boards, which have been empty for far too long – very ‘handy’!

Cave painting in Cueva de las Manos



Longfellow's version of the cave painting



Blake Class Update

Our first week back as the eldest class in the school has been very busy! We have been working hard to make our classroom ‘ours’ and personalise it. The walls are now decorated by colourful hoodies designed to reflect our likes, interests and skills. Another colourful display has our photographs on it and awaits our best writing work. Visited often (solo, as is the ‘new normal’), the class Bookflix display has proven very appealing and each of us has a well-chosen book to start the academic year.

As an introduction to our history topic focusing on civilizations, we’ve been focusing on the book ‘Weslandia’ by Paul Fleischman. It’s all about a boy, Wesley, who founds his own civilization and we’ve been looking closely at the wonderful illustrations and evocative language.



PTA NEWS UPDATE

Welcome back everyone! Unfortunately, due to the virus and subsequent safety measures, there will be no PTA events at the school this term. However, if anyone has any ideas of how we could raise funds during this current climate, please contact us! We will be organising a virtual PTA meeting soon using the video conferencing platform, Microsoft Teams. We will set the date for it and let you know what it is as soon as possible. **Please note that Mike and Louise extended their time in their roles in the PTA because of COVID-19 but will be standing down at the end of this term. So it is essential that we have a new Chair and Deputy Chair to take over by the end of the term.**

PTA Bags to School Clothing & Textile Collection – Friday 25th September

This is a scheme we have used many times in the past to help raise funds for the school and it's a great way of clearing out your unwanted clothes! The school get money for the total weight of the goods received.



This is booked for Friday 25th September but will be slightly different this time round. Instead of using the 'Bags to School' plastic sacks we have used in the past, they are asking us to use our own bin bags which they will then recycle. So if you have any unwanted good quality adult/children clothing, shoes, handbags, hats, belts, scarves, jewellery, soft toys, curtains, towels or bed linen, please pop them in a bin bag (or fill up as many bags as you can!) and bring them to school on the morning of the 25th September. Please drop them to the shelter area by the School Hall.

They do not accept duvets, blankets, pillows, cushions, rugs/mats, soiled/ripped clothing, school uniform with and without logos, or corporate clothing. For a full list of what is/is not accepted, please see

<https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>



Amazon Wish List Our teachers have carefully selected wish list items that will inspire and support the children's learning, including books, classroom resources, art and craft supplies and gardening resources. Staff will continue to add items over the school year. They really do make a difference to all the children to benefit from these added extras to enhance their learning! If you would like to purchase something from the selection available, please visit the following link:

www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/WZSU6HFJ8FGO?ref=wl_share

Class Reps We hope you found it as useful as we did last year to have class reps for each year group to pass key information on in our class What's App groups. We are lucky and grateful that some of the reps have agreed to carry on with their roles in their new year groups but we still need reps for the following year groups:

Foundation – Milne

Year 4 /5 – TS Eliot/Longfellow

Year 3/4 – TS Eliot /Longfellow

Year 5 – Longfellow

If you are interested in this role (or want to know more about it before committing!) please contact Louise Gawthorn on 07776255105.



Easyfundraising App Please download this if you haven't already. It's such an easy way to raise funds for the school. You can just do your usual shopping e.g. on Amazon but if you do it via the app, the school get a percentage (at no cost to you!). www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stnicholasprimaryhurst

Thank Yous A huge thank you to Ash Davis for his ongoing help with various tasks around the school. Thank you also to Vic Boardman and Tim Gawthorn for their parts in the fixing the PTA shed roof. Thank you to Evolution Water Services in Beech Court who gave the school £70 from a raffle they had internally.

Another thank you goes to Davis Tate for giving us £200 from the sale of a house from a parent at the school. If you are thinking of selling your house, please consider Davis Tate as the school receives £200 for each sale.

If any parent would like to talk to us directly about the PTA, please contact Mike or Louise on mike_rand@hotmail.com or louisej125@hotmail.com

Looking forward to your ongoing support during this school term 😊 Kind Regards, The PTA Team