



# ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Road, Hurst, Berkshire RG10 0DR

**NEWSLETTER 12 – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020**



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## St Nicholas School Vision Statement

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



## Advent Prayer

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever.

Amen

## CHURCH SERVICE

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

11:00am Holy Communion & Patronal Festival

**Attendees must book in advance. Call Patsy Theobald on 01344 428525 or email [witsend50pat@gmail.com](mailto:witsend50pat@gmail.com)**

## School Calendar

### December

- Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration Assembly - St Nicholas Day
- Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Virtual Christmas Disco (see PTA page)
- Tue 8<sup>th</sup> PTA Santa Run (see PTA page)
- Fri 11<sup>th</sup> KS1 Nativity (will be recorded for parents)
- Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Nine Lessons and Carols – KS2 pupils
- Tue 15<sup>th</sup> Christmas Craft Day (*voluntary donation of £3. Pupils can wear a festive jumper*)
- Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Christmas-themed Packed Lunch (pre-order)  
*Order deadline 8<sup>th</sup> December*
- Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Final Cycling session for Year 3/4/5
- Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Christmas Jumper Day (£1 to Save the Children)
- Fri 18<sup>th</sup> **Last Day of Term (staggered departure):**  
**Infants: 1:20pm**  
**Infants & Junior Siblings: 1:30pm**  
**Juniors: 1:40pm**

### January

- Mon 4<sup>th</sup> **INSET DAY - School Closed**
- Tues 5<sup>th</sup> School reopens from 8:35am
- Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Year 2 Cycling course begins
- Fri 29<sup>th</sup> PTA Meeting via Teams, 9:30am

## GOLD AWARDS



Congratulations to

**Ayla and Roxy**  
in Blake class

**who both achieved a Gold Award**



*This week's Growth Mindset thought...*

**"Winning doesn't always mean coming first. Winning means you're doing better than you've done before."**

*Bonnie Blair, retired US Olympic Speed Skater*

**Our School Values: Respect, Thoughtfulness, Perseverance, Friendship**

### **Festive Packed Lunch, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

This year, Caterlink will offer a festive Packed Lunch option on this date, instead of the usual choices. The deadline to complete the online order form is by 3:00pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December to ensure the hub kitchen can fulfil orders. The link to the order form is included in today's email with this newsletter.



### **Junior Cycling – last session on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

Thank you to Coach Lloyd and to all the Junior children who have done really well this term to increase proficiency and confidence. Please note that the last session will be on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. The Year 2 cycling sessions begin on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January.



**Sammy J** (TS Eliot) earned the most coins and had the most correct answers this week. Well done also to **Freddie** (Longfellow) who had the greatest improvement in speed and to **William B** (Blake) who improved his accuracy. William also became a Support Act, as did **Lara** (Longfellow). Great work also from **Addison** (TS Eliot) who is now a Garage Rocker.

There has been a marvellous performance from **Otto** (De La Mare) this week in Numbots! Otto has earned an amazing 5 certificates! Not only has he completed Iron and Tin stages but he has gained certificates for the most correct answers, the most coins and also for the greatest increase in levels. Wonderful work, Otto! Congratulations also to **Leo** (De La Mare) who has finished Copper stage and to **Archie R** (Donaldson) who now has his Iron certificate. Finally, well done to **Lacey** (De La Mare) who improved her accuracy this week.



### **Milne Class News**

During the last few weeks, we have been learning more about Tigers and creating papier-mâché tiger masks as part of our art week. Milne class have also been working hard on their maths skills, exploring number sentences and how we make numbers bigger and smaller. We also been rehearsing for our Nativity and getting ready for the festive season!

### **Donaldson Class News**

All week children have been getting creative for Art week! We have been learning how to mix colours and used this knowledge to do some amazing leaf printing and painting. We then carefully drew some stripes on our animals, looking carefully at pictures of tigers to help us. Children worked super hard and are really proud of their creations.



### **De La Mare Class News**



Year 2 have been getting their creative juices flowing. As part of the school's Art Week, and with the stimulus of Henri Rousseau's rainforest paintings, they first collected different leaves and practised mixing paint to create the different shades and tints of the leaves. For their main piece, the children created a background wash using watercolours and then used the same medium to paint rainforest trees and floor. They practised drawing rainforest animals and added one to their painting. They finally added collage to highlight certain aspects of the rainforest. There has been superb concentration and attention to detail and all of the children are rightly proud of their final masterpiece.



### **Christmas Jumper Day, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December (LAST DAY OF TERM)**

On the last day of term, pupils are very welcome to come to school wearing their most festive jumper to raise money for Save the Children! **They should wear jumpers together with their usual school trousers/skirts.** Voluntary cash donations are very welcome please.



## **STARS OF THE WEEK!**

### **EYFS**

Stars of the Week: **Sebastian** for knowing and writing tricky words in class. **Courtney** for her fantastic tricky word writing.

Merits: **Chloe** for perseverance by working so hard this week at recalling tricky words. **Ivy** for friendship by helping a friend sound out words while writing; and **Henry** for Growth Mindset by teaching us about predators.

### **YEAR 1**

Stars of the Week: **Zara** and **Koen** for fantastic progress with their cursive handwriting.

Merits: **Posy-Belle** for friendship, **Sophia** for perseverance and **Charlotte** for showing a Growth Mindset.

### **YEAR 2**

Stars of the Week: **Leo** for challenging himself in Maths and **Ethan** for thoughtful rainforest artwork.

Merits: **Megan** for thoughtfulness and listening well, **Amelia C** for perseverance in learning number facts and **Noah** for perseverance in learning a new subtraction method.

### **YEAR 3**

Stars of the Week: **Lola** and **Alice** who both created an amazing shadow puppet theatre, showing a thorough understanding of shadows.

Merits: **Amelia** and **Lucas** for perseverance by working so hard in Science and overcoming obstacles to really excel. **Ted** and **Nathan** for Growth Mindset for working completely independently in Science, with great results.

**Martha P** for respect by always being on task and listening to instructions.

### **YEAR 4**

Stars of the Week: **Archie** for improving punctuation and excellent word choices in his writing and **William V-A** for excellent progress in writing stories.

Merits: **Addison** for perseverance and commitment to improve her spelling.

### **YEAR 5**

Stars of the Week: **Will** and **Gemma**

Merits: **Jannah** and **Amrita**

### **YEAR 6**

Stars of the Week: **Cruz** for his artwork on the theme of water; and **Rebecca** for her epic response to a 'short' burst write (which become a long adventure story!)

Merits: **Lola**, **Sunni** and **Robyn** for Respect.

## PTA NEWS UPDATE

Hello parents, we hope you are well.

**St Nicholas Virtual Disco Party – TOMORROW Friday 4th December** TICKETS ON SALE NOW! ONE DAY LEFT!

Infants: 5:00 - 5:40pm Juniors: 6:00 – 6:40pm · £5 per ticket or if you have more than one child at the school, a sibling discount is offered (2 children for £8.50 & 3 children for £11.50). Please use the PayPal link to transfer the money:

<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/VirtualDisco> (NB - you do not need a PayPal

account to do so) · Use your child's/children's name as the reference to help with the allocation of party bags. · We are adding an additional day for party bag collection – after school tomorrow, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Kid's party entertainer, John Johnny Entertainment, will be hosting the party. Music, Christmas games (including Merry Bumps, Festive Freeze!), and competitions (such as best family Christmas outfits & Christmas song singer!) Join the party via zoom from home. Party bags will have the Zoom codes in.



**Santa Run –Tuesday 8th December.** Pupils can wear a Santa hat or Christmas jumper (optional). Donations welcome: £1 or £2. All monies raised will go towards the school library.

**Second-hand School Uniforms** – A huge thank you to Sarah Sollesse for organising this. We still have plenty of second-hand uniform. You can check out the latest list on Facebook or ask via your class reps. You can make donations by using the little post box on the left of the front door (main entrance to Reception). The post box is outside and you are welcome to leave any donation in an envelope and pop it in there (please put your name on it and say it's for second hand uniform). You can also make donations by using:

<https://www.paypal.com/gb/fundraiser/charity/3242825>

Funds raised will go towards the library/reading project.

**Library/Reading Project** – The PTA have agreed to spend £2,000 on Accelerated Reader. For information about this, please see below which Mrs Holland presented in the recent PTA meeting:

*'A target on our school development plan this academic year is "improve progress data from end of KS1 to end of KS2 in reading and writing" .*

To this end, I spoke at the PTA meeting last week about an initiative we are planning to introduce for Key Stage 2 in the early Spring Term - Accelerated Reader - and to ask for funding support.

As you are aware, the reading ability of pupils has a considerable impact on how well they can access the whole curriculum.

Accelerated Reader is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. A pupil picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, they take a short quiz on the computer - passing the quiz is an indication that the child has understood what has been read. The absolute key here is the understanding – the pupil may be able to physically read the words of almost any book out loud but the quizzes test the understanding/comprehension of the chosen text. Accelerated Reader gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results which the teacher then uses to help the pupil set targets.

Each classroom will have at least one laptop set up so that the pupils can regularly take quizzes based on books as they read them. Accelerated Reader can also be accessed from home.

***Our School Values: Respect, Thoughtfulness, Perseverance, Friendship***

Classes have already started to reorganise and replenish their book shelves (via Amazon wishlists, donation of second hand books, fundraising etc) with books of the appropriate reading and interest levels. We are committed to ensuring the best start to this programme and are confident that it will have a significant positive impact on pupil reading and writing.

Following the PTA meeting, (and considerable negotiation on my part with the salesperson representing Accelerated Reader!), the PTA have agreed to fund the first year's subscription, which includes a comprehensive training package for staff and resources needed to successfully establish Accelerated Reader in school for the next 15 months.

Once relevant staff have undergone training, we will hold information sharing sessions with parents about the scheme.

Mrs A Holland  
Deputy Head Teacher'



**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! Unfortunately, the items arrive without the School knowing who they have come from, thus we are unable to send a personalised 'thank you'. 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](http://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/WZSU6HFJ8FGO?ref=wl_share)

If any parent would like to talk to us directly about the PTA, please contact Mike or Louise on [mike\\_rand@hotmail.com](mailto:mike_rand@hotmail.com) or [louisej125@hotmail.com](mailto:louisej125@hotmail.com). **Although Mike is stepping down at the end of this term, he is happy to help whoever takes over in January. The PTA Team will still have a treasurer and secretaries for the Spring term.**

Many thanks for your continued support  
The PTA Team

# Christmas is coming!

## There are many ways to support the PTA:

### PLEASE NOTE:

**Chocoholics and Christmas Trees offer deadlines extended!**

**Smile.Amazon.co.uk:** If you order from here and choose 'St Nicholas Hurst PTA', Amazon will donate 0.5% of net purchases to PTA with no cost to the buyer.

**Chocoholics: EXTENDED DEADLINE AND FREE DELIVERY!** This is a great way to buy some Christmas presents (or just treat yourself!) whilst raising money for the school at the same time. **Simply place an order on Rachel's Chocoholics website [www.chocoholicsrachel.co.uk](http://www.chocoholicsrachel.co.uk)** and enter the unique coupon code (below) at checkout. This will enable them to keep track of any orders placed by parents/staff from our school. You can also pass our unique code on to friends and family, so that they can maximise the total orders for our school. **The cut-off date for placing orders is 14th December.** On 1st December, Chocoholics will add up the total sales for our school and the school will receive 10% of all sales in cash/bank transfer. Orders can be delivered to anywhere in the UK, so it's perfect for sending gifts to friends and loved ones. Prices start from just 25p, so there is something for everyone! [www.chocoholicsrachel.co.uk](http://www.chocoholicsrachel.co.uk) / Unique coupon code **stnichurst** (all lowercase) .



**COMMISSION FOR THE PTA IS ONLY HONoured VIA RACHEL'S WEBSITE (NOT VIA THE MAIN SITE).**



**Christmas Trees: EXTENDED DEADLINE!** If you buy a Christmas tree through [www.christmastreeexpress.co.uk](http://www.christmastreeexpress.co.uk) this year, you can get £5 off any tree and a further £5 will be donated to the school PTA! **Pre-order your tree by 13th December** with the unique code STNIC. Choose from 4Ft, 6Ft and 8Ft and the tree will be delivered to your home at no extra charge. If you are interested, please see the flyer for further information (on PTA page of website).



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**Easyfundraising App:** Thank you to everyone who has already downloaded this app. If you haven't already done so and would like some support in doing so, please talk to us or your class reps. The lead up to Christmas is a great time to raise that little bit extra for the school at no additional cost to you- [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stnicholasprimaryhurst](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stnicholasprimaryhurst)