



# ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Road, Hurst, Berkshire RG10 0DR

**NEWSLETTER 13 – 10<sup>th</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

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen

## CHURCH SERVICE

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

11:00am Holy Communion

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

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### December

- Fri 11<sup>th</sup> KS1 Nativity (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> Festive Packed Lunch (pre-orders)
- Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Final Cycling session for Year 3/4/5
- Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Christmas Jumper Day (*voluntary cash donation 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**
- Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Messy Christingle, 11am at St Nicholas Church  
*Email Patsy Theobald to book your pew:*  
[witsend50pat@gmail.com](mailto:witsend50pat@gmail.com)
- Thu 24<sup>th</sup> Visit the Crib scene at St Nicholas Church between 12noon and 6pm. For a private 15-minute slot, use this link to book:  
[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/130608887699](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/130608887699)

### 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
- Thu 21<sup>st</sup> School Census
- Fri 29<sup>th</sup> PTA Meeting via Teams, 9:30am

## GOLD AWARDS



Congratulations to

**William**  
in Blake class

who achieved a Gold Award



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

**"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."**

*Mahatma Gandhi*

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

### Mary & Joseph's Advent Journey 2020

The church Mary and Joseph dolls who normally stay with a different family (and visit school) during advent are on a covid-safe journey around the community, and their online diary can be seen on [www.facebook.com/THRUchrist.org.uk](https://www.facebook.com/THRUchrist.org.uk). They have already visited St Nicholas School – they came to the gate on a Saturday to help keep their distance. Meanwhile, each class bubble has received the gift of a 'make your own' Mary and Joseph kit from the Church to have and keep in their classroom. The photo on the left shows Mary and Joseph created by De La Mare class. Many thanks to Ele Buckley and her team for supplying them.



### St Nicholas Church Crib Scene, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December

Visit the beautiful crib scene at St Nicholas Church between 12noon and 6pm. Use this link to book a private 15-minute slot and each family will receive a copy of the Christmas story as part of your visit. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/130608887699>



### Santa Run

On Tuesday, all pupils took part in our first ever Santa Run. Thank you to Mrs Rudd who organised the event and ran with EVERY class – an impressive six miles in total! Thank you for all the donations that raised a total of £146.65. The pupils looked very festive dressed in jumpers and Santa hats.



### Christmas Craft Day, Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

If you haven't already made a voluntary donation of £3 per child to cover the cost of materials, please make the payment via your Tucasi SCOpay account, or bring cash in a named envelope to the office/PTA post-box. We are grateful to the PTA who have agreed to pay for any shortfall, however this money could be better spent on books or IT Equipment.

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

Pupils are 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 uniform (no PE kits needed).** Voluntary cash donations are welcome please.



### School Uniform orders over the Christmas holiday

School Days Direct will be closing on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 5:00pm and will re-open on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 at 9:00am. The last day for parents to place online orders in time before Christmas will be Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Orders can still be placed online during the Christmas shutdown period; however they will not be processed until they reopen.

### St Nicholas Church Christmas Raffle

Every year, St Nicholas Church holds its Christmas Fayre. Not only is the fayre a much-loved event in the village's diary, with traditionally a lot of support from the children and parents, but it is the major fundraiser for the church. This year, of course, things are a bit different and the Fayre is moving online. To buy raffle tickets in support of the event, please go to [www.jumblebee.co.uk/stnicholashurstraffle](https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/stnicholashurstraffle) (tickets are £1 each). Parents, carers and grandparents from children at St Nicholas school are a fantastic contributor to this important fundraiser and there are some lovely prizes to be won, including:

- |                    |                           |                        |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| ◆ Luxury Hamper    | ◆ Family Hamper           | ◆ Afternoon Tea Hamper |
| ◆ Chocolate Hamper | ◆ Beer and Nibbles Hamper | ◆ Treat Hamper         |

*Thank you in advance for your support.*

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





Thank you to the PTA for their recent donation of £150. De La Mare Class have been excited to delve into the new books for the class library. They are also looking forward to receiving new supplies of play dough. Thank you!



Well done to **Sammy** (TS Eliot) who gained four certificates this week for the most correct answers and coins, and the greatest improvement in speed. Sammy also became a Headliner. Congratulations to **Jayden** (TS Eliot) who is now an Unsigned Artist and to **Arlo** (Blake) who was the most accurate player.

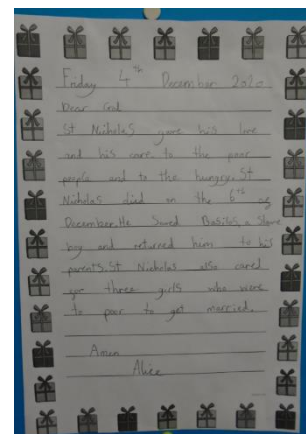
In Numbots, great work from **Mena** (De La Mare) who has earned her Tin certificate and to **Eva** (Donaldson) and **Frankie** (De La Mare) who have completed Brass stage. Frankie also earned the most coins and has the biggest increase in correct answers. Well done to **Margot** (Donaldson) who completed the most games.



#### TS Eliot Class News

Last week, Years 3 and 4 created prayers to mark St Nicholas Day on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Attached is a photograph of children reading their prayers and a copy of Alice Metcalfe's prayer.

In Maths, we looked at parallel and perpendicular lines. In R.E. we focussed on the nativity and in English, the children began to plan a time slip narrative. In Geography, the children considered and researched how electricity is generated in power plants.



#### Year 4 Class News

Year 4 have been working at learning their times tables. We have looked at lots of strategies to finding answers; doubling, halving or using tables we do know to find answers that we don't. Percy Parker has been very helpful too. In English, they have been using all their skills to write Lost and Found stories. We are putting all of the work into a folder so that they can share and enjoy each other's' work. It has been a pleasure to read some very well constructed stories.



#### Longfellow Class News – Animal Magic

Last week the whole school took part in an Art challenge entitled 'Take one picture', all using the same photo as a starting point. The whole of the school used the Wild Life photo of the year winner, which was a photo of a tiger. We discussed how certain animals are identifiable just from a small part of their fur. We then researched and created our own pieces of art using a range of mediums inspired by nature. We had a really pawstitive time making them and the finished artwork looked pretty roarsome!



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

## Blake Class News

We have been exploring Charles Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*. Pupils wrote a descriptive piece focused on Scrooge's office, linking aspects of his character to the physical layout and atmosphere of the room. This week we've viewed the events of the novel from the perspective of the three ghosts: Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas



Future. Pupils worked in groups of three to interview each other in role (our Santa Run outfits came in handy during this drama activity!). As part of our study of this book, we've utilised several versions of the tale including one written in verse, a graphic novel and the classic 1951 film starring Alastair Sim. All of this is certainly helping us to get well and truly into the Christmas spirit!



## STARS OF THE WEEK!

- EYFS** Stars of the Week: **Cyrus** for adapting so well in his first week and **Charlie** for his super drawings.  
Merits: **Freddie** for working hard on his reading both at home and at school and **Sienna** for friendship and thinking of different ways to make things fair.
- YEAR 1** Stars of the Week: **Georgia** for writing a thoughtful invitation and **Levi** for fantastic phonics work.  
Merits: **Margot** for friendship, **Winnie** for perseverance and **Hallie** for Growth Mindset.
- YEAR 2** Stars of the Week: **Frankie** for her careful artwork and **Theo** for a super description of a forest.  
Merits: **Leo** for Growth Mindset when learning a new subtraction method; **Felix** for perseverance when learning new number facts and **Primrose** for perseverance when sounding out new words.
- YEAR 3** Stars of the Week: **Adam** for excellent progress in Maths; **Alice** for her meaningful St Nicholas Day prayer.  
Merits: **Noah** for perseverance and trying really hard in Maths, **Lily** for respect by always being on task in class and **Amelia L** for thoughtfulness and showing kindness.
- YEAR 4** Stars of the Week: **Ariane** for outstanding work in Maths and Science; and **Adam** for writing a very creative and descriptive story about lost pet fish.  
Merits: **Maddie** for perseverance and putting in so much effort; **Martha M** for respect by always being on task in class and **Toby** for Growth Mindset in a real change of attitude in Maths.
- YEAR 5** Stars of the Week: **Elliot** for accurate work on perimeters, **Phoebe** for her descriptive writing.  
Merits: **Freddie** and **Henry** for Growth Mindset and **Lucy** for perseverance.
- YEAR 6** Stars of the Week: **Dylan** for descriptive writing 'Journey of a River' and **Olivia** for her science contribution on the structure of the human eye and 'how we see'.  
Merits: **Sean** for thoughtfulness and **Bram, Sophie, Cruz, Zenna** and **Rebecca** for respect.



### **Vodafone Free Data-only SIMs**

Vodafone is offering 30GB data-only SIMs for 90 days for specific pupils across the UK to help them access school work from home, catch up on lost learning during holidays and continue with their education if school is closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. SIM cards are limited to 30GB so once that data limit is reached, no further data is available and once the 90 days has ended, any remainder of the 30GB of data will expire. Children eligible for Free School Meals and families in receipt of benefits are likely to be eligible for a free SIM card. These have to be ordered through the school and are available from 31<sup>st</sup> January. If you think this is something you would be interested in, please call the school office or email us [admin@st-nicholas.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-nicholas.wokingham.sch.uk). Availability is limited and at this stage, we don't know how many SIM cards we will be allocated.



### **Winter Mini Reading Challenge, by the Wokingham Library**

'Everyone is a Hero' themed Mini Challenge celebrating heroes in all their forms and keep children reading this winter.

The Challenge starts on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and ends of Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Visit the Winter Mini Challenge website at <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/> to find out more about this year's booklist and how you can get involved.

All you have to do to complete the Winter Mini Challenge is choose a reading goal (we recommend three books) and then read that many books before the end of the Challenge. For inspiration, why not visit our virtual Library for books to download and read or listen to.

<https://wokingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>

Rate and review your books on <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/> while the Challenge is on and you'll unlock a limited-edition virtual badge for your profile AND a special certificate that you can print out and keep. If you don't have a profile yet, click the **Join** button at the top of this page to sign up.



# PTA NEWS UPDATE

Hello parents, not long now until the end of term!

On behalf of all the parents, we would like to thank Dee Morley for the fantastic job she does as our Treasurer. When she took over 4 terms ago, she reorganised and rearranged the accounts to enable all the financial processes to run more smoothly. She has sorted out Gift Aid, payment of parent contributions to the school, the last fun run, PayPal issues and more, and in doing so, she has made running the PTA much easier. Thank you.



**Hipp (UK) Ltd** – have agreed to continue to sponsor our newsletter for 2021 and will give the PTA £500. So please buy their products! We would like some more sponsors so please see if your company will help.

**Virtual Disco** – Everybody had a fantastic time and we will look to run another in the Spring term. We have yet to get a final figure but we think the profit was around £100.

**Santa Run** – Thank you for your donations, which came to £146.65. The money from both events will go to the library/reading project.

**Craft Day, Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December** – If you have not done so, please make the donation of £3 per child if you are able to. Any shortfall is paid for by the PTA and we would rather that money was spent on books or IT Equipment.

**Chocoholics/Xmas tree** – The offer finishes on Sunday. So last few days to get in quickly so you don't miss out!

**Second-hand School Uniforms** – please continue to let us know if you require any second-hand uniform items, either using Facebook or via your class reps. We still have lots left!

**Spring Term Provisional Dates** (assuming there will still be COVID-19 restrictions so no school events)/other events can be added):

- **Next PTA Meeting** – Friday 29th January at 9.30am via Microsoft Teams. New PTA Team
- **Bags2School** - TBC
- **2 Cake Sales (PTA funded)** - Longfellow and Donaldson. PTA will donate £150 to each class.
- **1 Virtual Disco** - Second half of term maybe around Mother's Day.
- **Virtual Treasure Map** - Map with grid, each person buys a square. Date to be confirmed, but likely towards the end of the term.
- **Pancake Races** - Friday 12th February
- **World Book Day** - Thursday 4th March
- **Non-Uniform Days** - Monday 18th January & Monday 29th March. Children can wear their own clothes. Suggested donation £1-2.
- **Easter Bunny/Race** - TBC

I (Louise) would like to take the opportunity to thank Mike for his tireless support of the school and PTA over the past 2+ years. He has raised so much money for us; just in the last couple of months, he got us £1500! He works so hard behind the scenes and I am grateful for everything he has done for the school and our children. Thank you Mike!

Mike and I are standing down from our roles in the PTA now. We wish the new team/volunteers the best of luck! Merry Christmas to all!

Louise and Mike



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