



# ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Road, Hurst, Berkshire RG10 0DR

**NEWSLETTER 17 – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021**



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.*

## ONLINE CHURCH SERVICE

Join us on at 11:00am on Sunday for our virtual service.  
Visit [www.thru-christ.org.uk](http://www.thru-christ.org.uk) for the link to their YouTube Channel.

*'Happy Birthday' to pupils and staff who are celebrating a birthday next week (1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> February)*

**William – Year 2**  
**Miss Clynes**



*From Miss McGrail, and all the staff, governors, pupils and parents in our school family.*

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### January

Fri 29<sup>th</sup>

PTA Meeting via Teams, 9:30am.  
To join the meeting, please email Dee Morley before 29<sup>th</sup> Jan at [d.yonjan@gmail.com](mailto:d.yonjan@gmail.com)

### February

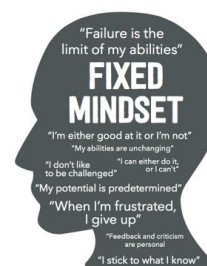
15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>

**HALF TERM**

### March

8<sup>th</sup>

School Re-opens to all pupils (subject to Government guidance)



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

**"Rivers know this: there is no hurry.  
We shall get there some day."  
Winnie the Pooh/A.A Milne**

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

### **But what about the “Grown-Ups”?**

Wellbeing has fast become a top priority for children. But what about us?

Through the home calls this week; many conversations we have are around looking after the mental health of the children, taking time out, choosing our battles and supporting them through this difficult time. However, it is not just the children who we need to consider these for. Happy parents result in happy children. It is important that we apply the same rules for our own mental health too and, as a school community, we are looking out for, and supporting, all our families, including parents and carers. Here are some reminders for us all:

#### **Be realistic**

This is such a new situation, and we can only do what we can. So drop any expectations of what you should be doing and what you ought to do. Above all, be kind to yourself. If the children end up on the iPad for an afternoon so you can get your work done or keep the peace, then maybe that needs to happen. It's not about getting it right all the time. Things rarely go according to plan. Don't be self-critical. Feel proud of what you do achieve, however small. Not every child will complete every piece of work every day. We all have good days and bad. If your child is struggling to engage, don't battle and push, instead, step back and readjust. Distraction techniques can be a good way to be kind to ourselves, calming us down and improving our sense of wellbeing. If an activity gets missed one day, move on, start again. Explain that it is ok, you can try again together.

#### **Connect with other parents**

Talking to friends, family members or teachers has never been more important. Talking with people who are supportive and good at listening (without judging, criticising or competing) is critical. Within your own network of family and friends, there will be someone else who is feeling unconfident about home schooling or keeping to new routines. Reach out to them and problem solve together. When we feel well supported as parents, the calmer we tend to feel - and the more space we will have in our minds to support our children. Avoid comparing your own achievements to others. I refer to it as the “social media filter”. What we see others sharing publicly is what they want you to see. Rarely shared are the battles, tears and frustrations behind it. Do what is realistic for your own family, your own situation. Everyone's is different.

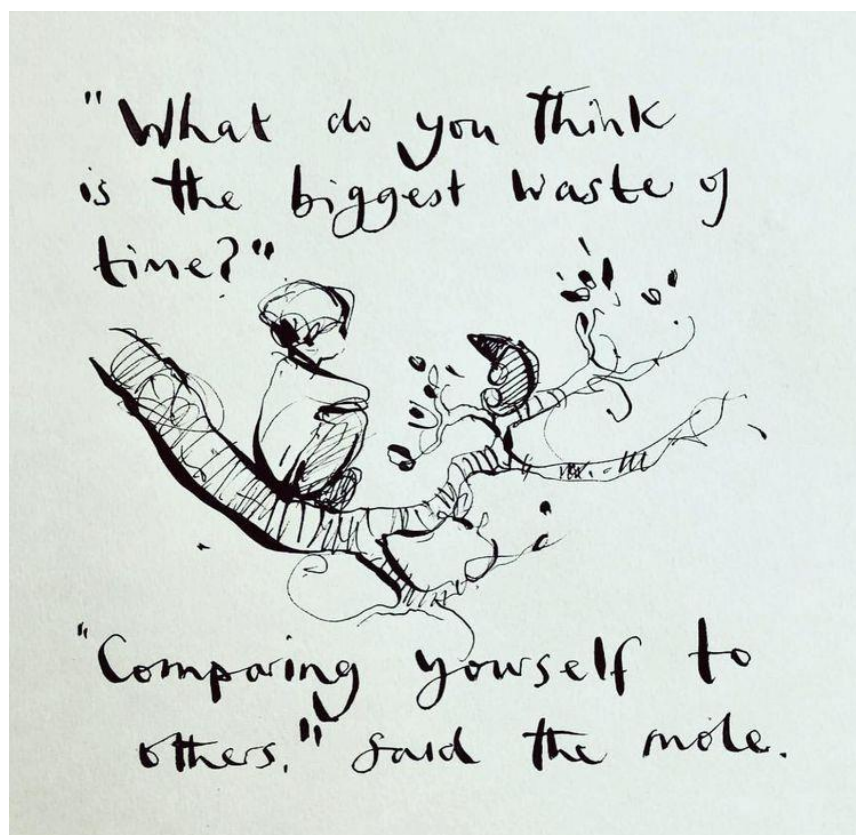
#### **Remember that routine**

Our wellbeing is often nurtured by having a daily routine, a structure to our lives. If the day feels endless and without a plan, anxiety can easily be triggered, for both adults and children. But it is not easy. Where possible, if everyone's daily plans work well together, you will also benefit from an agreed time for shared activities or quiet time. This working together as a family will also help to boost wellbeing. At present, juggling the multiple roles of parenting, home schooling and working can leave us feeling that we are spread too thinly - and that we're not doing a good job at any of our roles.

Finally, ask for help. Our whole community are here to help each other.

This is hard. You are not alone.  
You are doing an amazing job.

Sarah Hilling, SENCo



Charlie Mackesy

### **Denise Lynch celebrates 30 years' service at St Nicholas School**

Congratulations to Denise Lynch who has completed an astounding 30 years' service as our lunchtime controller. All the children through the years have benefitted from Denise's kind and caring nature. She is a very popular member of staff with pupils and adults including the Caterlink staff who serve our school meals. As with all lockdown events, there is a sense of frustration that all the pupils and staff are not on site to help commemorate the 30 year anniversary with Denise. We are presenting Denise with flowers tomorrow. We are encouraging pupils to send messages to Denise via 'Teams' and we will compile these messages into a book for her.

The Governors, staff and pupils all send their very best wishes and heartfelt thanks to Denise for the unstinting dedication, hard work and kindness she has shown at St Nicholas Primary school over the last 30 years.



There is wonderful news this week; St Nicholas has another Rock Hero! Well to **Cruz** (Blake) who joins the select band of St Nicholas children to reach the highest level. A massive achievement!

There have also been several other achievements with the following children moving up a level:

**Henry G** (TS Eliot) – Breakthrough Artist; **Jayden** (TS Eliot) – Support Artist; **Sammy J** (TS Eliot) – Rock Star; **Sean** (Blake) – Headliner; **Sunni** (Blake) – Headliner and **William R** (TS Eliot) – Support Artist

Congratulations to all of you for your hard work.

**Cruz** consolidated his success with the most correct answers and coins. It is wonderful to see other players coming to the fore. Well done to **William R** who had the greatest improvement in speed and to **Sean** whose accuracy improved the most.

**Year 6** dominated the Rockstars Battle last week achieving an amazing 22,148 correct answers, in what was a fantastic team effort! Well done to them.

Year 2 continue to power through the stages in Numbots. This week there has been success for the following children:



**Ethan** – Tin; **Felix** – Tin; **Leo** – Chrome; **Noah** – Tin; **Primrose** – Tin and **Theo** – Glass. Great work, Year 2!

Milne Class have also been working hard. There has been a great effort from **Annabelle** who had the greatest increase in coins and **Arthur** who achieved certificates for the most levels and answers. Three children also completed a stage: congratulations to **Annabelle** for finishing Iron; **Ronnie** for completing Rust and **Sienna** for achieving her Iron certificate.

## PTA NEWS UPDATE

Hello everyone, it's been a quiet week for PTA news while we all think about the realities of an extended lockdown therefore apologies for lack of content in this newsletter. Going forward we are considering emailing the PTA newsletter once a month, at least while we're restricted by the pandemic.

General PTA Meeting is tomorrow, 29<sup>th</sup> January 9:30am. Please email [d.yonjan@gmail.com](mailto:d.yonjan@gmail.com) if you wish to attend.

### Questions or Feedback

When we aren't in lockdown, parents and staff can leave an anonymous note in the PTA suggestion box, just outside the reception area or email [stnicholashurstpta@outlook.com](mailto:stnicholashurstpta@outlook.com). Your thoughts, opinions or suggestions will be shared with the PTA Board. You may also email us or attend any of our meetings. We welcome new ideas and suggestions on how to better serve our children!



Please support us by selecting us as your chosen charity, St Nicholas Hurst PTA.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1002238-0>

It's quick and easy to do!

Once signed up, shop on Amazon as normal and Amazon will donate 0.5% of purchases towards the PTA.



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**Amazon donates to your chosen charity**  
Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases.



Easy Fundraising App <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stnicholasprimaryhurst/>

Thank you to everyone who has already downloaded this app. It's simple and free to use! It has helped turn everyday shopping into free donations for the school.

If you haven't already done downloaded the app and would like some support in doing so, please talk to us or your class reps.