



# ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Road, Hurst, Berkshire RG10 0DR

**NEWSLETTER 11 – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022**



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.*

## ST NICHOLAS HURST CHURCH SERVICE

[www.thru-christ.org.uk](http://www.thru-christ.org.uk)

[www.achurchnearyou.com/stnicholashurst](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/stnicholashurst)

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb** 11am Holy Communion

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb** 11am Messy Church

## Lunar New Year - the Year of the Tiger

On Tuesday February 1<sup>st</sup> February we celebrated the Lunar New Year.

Every class made some decorations. In Longfellow, we made illusion cards, math sheets and reading comprehensions for the New Year.

We celebrate New Year's Eve with a dinner.

People put up a lot of decorations such as Chinese lanterns, firecrackers, fai chun and give out red packets to children.

*By Azriel and Florence, Longfellow*



## EVENTS CALENDAR

### February

Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Life in Ancient Greece Day - TS Eliot/Longfellow  
Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Valentine's Day Cake Sale & School Council Book Sale, 3pm

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> **INSET DAY – School Closed**

21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> **HALF TERM – School Closed**

Mon 28<sup>th</sup> School re-opens from 8:35am

### March

Thu 3<sup>rd</sup> World Book Day  
Fri 4<sup>th</sup> 'Celebrating our Individuality' Day  
Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Bikeability Level 3 (Group A)  
Tue 8<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Bikeability Level 3 (Group B)  
Tues 8<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultations 3:30-6:30pm  
Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultations 3:30-6:30pm  
Tue 15<sup>th</sup> EYFS pupils – National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) Visit by School Nurse team  
Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Red Nose Day/Comic Relief  
Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday

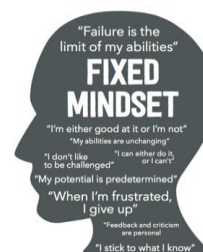
### April

Thu 7<sup>th</sup> KS1 Sport Activity Afternoon, Forest Air Dome  
Thu 7<sup>th</sup> Y6 Parent Information Evening – RSE lessons  
Fri 8<sup>th</sup> **Last Day of Spring Term 1.30pm finish**  
**11<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Easter Holiday – School Closed**  
Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Summer term: School re-opens from 8:35am

## GOLD AWARDS



**Congratulations to**  
**Annabelle, Courtney, Ivy, Freddie,**  
**Henry, Mollie, Sean and Seb**  
**in Year 1**  
**who all achieved a Gold Award**



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

**"Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud."**  
*Maya Angelou*

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

### *Dear Parents and Carers*

I would like to take a moment to personally thank our amazing community at St Nicholas. We have been overwhelmed with messages of support and appreciation where the hard work and commitment of the team has been recognised by parents, governors, visitors and our children.

It has been a difficult couple of weeks for all staff, but strength and determination continue to drive our school forward. Staff have pulled together making exciting plans and activities for our children in the coming weeks.

We are looking forward to a sports event at Forest School for our infant pupils, a Greek Day and World Book Day. We will be seeing exciting changes in our reward systems, driven by our School Council and Pupil Voice. There have been several strategic developments where staff have been developing and enriching the curriculum and we are looking forward to some partner schools visiting St Nicholas to help us continue to improve. Thank you, again for your continued support and kind words.

*Sarah Hilling, Acting Headteacher*



#### **New way forward for Rewards!**

A School Council led initiative has brought great discussion amongst our children over the last few weeks about rewards in school. Children have discussed what they like and how they want our reward systems to improve. It has been really interesting listening to the pupils' voices and opinions. All children, from EYFS to Year Six decided that "Stars of the Week" and weekly Merits felt, in their opinion, unfair. They could rarely remember what their reward was for and knew that once they were the "Star of the Week", it would likely be several weeks before their "turn" came around again.

Therefore, the children have decided that they would like to remove the Stars and Merits at St Nicholas and replace them with a more focused, more immediate form of reward for following our School values. Stars and Merits will be replaced by an improved use of our house system in school and house points, class-based reward systems and team goals. We will see the introduction of the 'Reward Postcard' where teachers can give an instant reward card to take home.

The School Council is running a second-hand book sale after school on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February, at the same time as the PTA Cake Sale to raise funds for playground resources.

#### **Friday Celebration Assemblies**

Celebration assemblies will continue for the children where they will be encouraged to bring into school certificates and achievements from their extra-curricular activities. We will be encouraging the musicians, dancers and gymnasts to perform for the school and share their talents. We invite artists, photographers, swimmers and footballers to share their work and certificates with us. With so many children joining in so many exciting activities outside of school, there is so much to share. Celebration assemblies will be on Fridays and anything bought in must be named and handed to the class teacher.

#### **Internet Safety Day (8<sup>th</sup> February)**

Please see attached useful information for parents and carers on Internet Safety put together by the Wokingham ICT in Schools Team. For more information please visit [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk) and <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2022>

### Year 6 Science

Year 6 have been studying the circulatory system in Science, and instead of making their teachers blood boil, they have impressed by creating their own blood bags! We started by looking at what is actually in our blood (red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets and plasma) and then made our own versions using marshmallows, cheerios and coloured water. We were surprised to learn that over half of our blood is made up of a yellow liquid called plasma! Coincidentally, I went to give blood this week, but when I went in they shouted at me to get out, saying that 'They didn't need **My Type** in here!'



### Lunar New Year

Children in Donaldson class celebrated Lunar New Year by creating their own Dragon pictures for good luck.

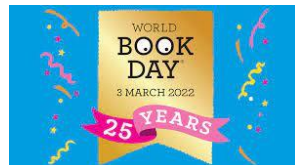
Pupils in TS Eliot spent the afternoon of the beginning of the Lunar New Year Celebrations, learning how Chinese Communities throughout the world celebrate. We researched how different years are represented by different animals. We learned that this year is the year of the tiger. We learned about the different characteristics associated with each of the animals. We created paper chains and bookmarks to celebrate this special time of year for Chinese communities everywhere.





## World Book Day – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

To celebrate World Book Day and making reading for pleasure a habit for life, children will bring home a £1 book token. The token is valid from 17 February - 27 March 2022 and entitles you to a FREE World Book Day book from a range of age-related titles or £1 off a book/audiobook costing £2.99 or more. For a full list of participating retailers where you can redeem it, please visit [www.booksaremybag.com](http://www.booksaremybag.com). Spare vouchers are available from the office.



As part of our learning, children will be focusing on a book by Laura Henry-Allain called 'My Skin, Your Skin' which is about celebrating who each of us are, and empowering children to be the best versions of themselves; to have self-love, self-esteem and self-worth, irrespective of their skin colour.

## Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March – 'My Skin, Your Skin', Celebrating our Individuality

To avoid the pressure on parents to purchase or make elaborate costumes for a specific book character 'dressing-up' day, we are inviting children to come to school on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March** wearing what best represents their personality or interests, i.e. football kit, Brownies/Scouts uniform, or a favourite character from a film, cartoon or book (if you already have something at home). This is entirely optional, and if they wish to just wear their own clothes that represents their personality, or their school uniform, that is fine. *There will be no PE on this day, so children do not need to bring a separate PE kit.*

**Book Wagon** will be visiting us in the summer term to talk through some of their selected books with each class, and will run an expertly curated pop-up book fair after school so that parents have the opportunity to browse and buy. Book Wagon is a small, independent children's bookseller founded by Bronnie Mayho, a former senior educator and children's literature specialist. They only sell books which have been personally read and loved so that every book is known to the team and so can make informed recommendations.



The certificates awarded to children for both TT Rockstars and Numbots are the result of much perseverance, and it is always a pleasure to record the children's efforts.

This week **William SS** (TS Eliot) has worked hard to reach Rock Legend status, **Zoe** (Longfellow) has persevered to become a Rockstar and **Otto** (TS Eliot) is now Headliner.

**William**, along with **Theo** (TS Eliot) have achieved the greatest increase in correct answers whilst **Colette** (TS Eliot) has had the greatest increase in speed. Well done also to two new players in Year 2 – **Eva and Georgia D** – who have worked hard to improve their accuracy. Finally, **Giovanna** (TS Eliot) and **Bruno** (TS Eliot) have had the biggest increase in coins earned. Congratulations all!

The Numbots journey also requires effort and determination. Well done to the following children who have completed their next stage: **Henry W** (Donaldson) – Chrome; **Giovanna** (TS Eliot) – Rust and Iron; **Jack** (Milne) – Glass; **Luna** (Donaldson) – Steel; **Scarlett B** (Milne) – Iron; **Sophie** (Milne) – Rust and **Xander** (Milne) – Copper.



**Bruno** and **Sean** (Donaldson) have had the greatest improvement in correct answers and coins earned whereas **Mollie** (Milne) improved her accuracy as did **Marcus** (Milne). A fantastic effort, everybody!

## PTA UPDATE

Croeso, sut dych chi? Has anyone tried the latest cool smartphone app, Duolingo? With well-structured incremental lessons you can learn a new language at your own pace. We have started to learn Welsh in our family, which has turned out to be strangely useful because the School Lottery is now providing Welsh language versions of their main leaflets. Dw i'n hoffi dysgu cymraeg a dw i'n hoffi ysgol Nicholas Sant!

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January saw the latest PTA meeting take place via Zoom. As well as plotting to ambush parents with cakes (see below) we came up with plans for various Easter activities including an Easter Egg Hunt. Another non-uniform day is on the cards.



### Valentine's Day Cake Sale - Monday 14th February

What could make a more romantic gift for the one you love than bringing home a selection of the finest home-baked sweet treats? Let's face it, nothing says "I love you" more than a fairy cake and an iced donut. So come along to the Donaldson Class cake sale on Monday from 3pm to purchase a cake for your Cassanova or a bun for your Beau.

### PTA Secretary

We need to recruit a PTA Secretary. The essential part of the role involves taking minutes at the PTA meetings along with optional involvement in events. Please consider helping out with the important fundraising work we do on behalf of the school.

### Davis Tate

Our generous friends at Davis Tate will give the school £250 if you sell through them.



### Dates for your Diary

- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February - Valentine's Day Cake Ambush Sale, 3pm

### Your School Lottery

Congratulations to Mrs H who was a winner this week.

Guaranteed winner from our community each week!

If you'd like to take part in our School Lottery, simply follow this link – Good Luck!

[Support St Nicholas CE Primary School when you play Your School Lottery - Your School Lottery](#)



## Easy ways to support Fundraising for St Nicholas School

Tickets cost just £1 a week, and all profits go towards school funds. Guaranteed winner from our community each week. If you'd like to take part in our School Lottery, simply follow this link:

[Support St Nicholas CE Primary School when you play Your School Lottery - Your School Lottery](#)



Aren't we all online shopping these days? As well as being very convenient it can now earn funds for your favourite village school! Support us by selecting us as your chosen charity, St Nicholas Hurst PTA. It's quick and easy to do! [smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1002238-0](https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1002238-0)

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



[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stnicholasprimaryhurst/](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.



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