



St Nicholas^{CE}
First School

learning and believing, growing and achieving

St. Nicholas CE
First School, Codsall
Belvide Gardens
Codsall
Wolverhampton
WV8 1AN

Friday 15th September 2017

Dear Parents

At the end of the first week of the Autumn term I am pleased to report that children have had an excellent start back to school. A big well done to all of our new starters in Nursery, Reception and later years who have settled well into school life and started to grow in confidence and independence. We understand that this is an important time for families and would also like to thank parents for their help in preparing and supporting their children for these important first few weeks. I have been particularly impressed with this year's Reception cohort who have come into school along the yellow brick road showing such independence. Thank you to their parents for facilitating this!

Please do ask your children how they have got on at school each day, whether it be talking about learning or asking about how their playtime has been, this first interaction with your child upon collection is so crucial in developing partnership between home and school. If ever you or your child has any worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to talk to staff about them so that we can help you to and your child to feel happy and reassured. We look forward to offering you an opportunity this half term to meet your child's class teacher and discuss their new targets for the term in the coming weeks. Look out for information about booking appointments in future newsletters.

In previous year we have been blessed with beautiful, long sunshiney days at the start of the Autumn Term. This year this has not been the case unfortunately, please do send your child to school with a suitable outdoor coat that is named for ease of return should it be left out on the playground or mislaid.

As many of our returning parents have noticed the school site has had some re-modelling and development over the Summer break. The new entrance to Nursery means that the children can be collected and dropped off safely, as well as our evening wraparound children. Some parents have asked how to get between Nursery and other entrances in a morning e.g Reception/Year 1/ Year 4 or Reception. (For Year 2 and 3, it would be better to go down the road and through the gate at the side of the car park across the zebra crossing).

We are currently trialling opening the Reception playground back gate (if you don't know where this is ask a member of staff to show you) and allowing Nursery drop off parents access across the Reception playground through the back and back on to the main playground. Can we ask that you do not go around the path where Year 4 are being dropped off (where Mrs Clay is stationed) and that you are mindful of the Reception children sensibly and independently walking down their yellow brick road. There should be no scooter and bike riding along this route.

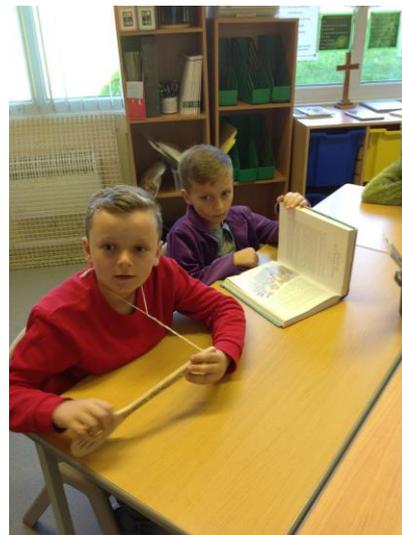
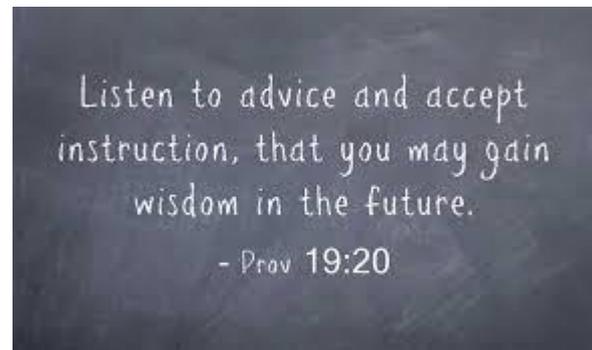
Email: headteacher@st-nicholas.staffs.sch.uk
Enquiries: 01902 842998
Web: st-nicholas.staffs.sch.uk

Another issue that we have is the congestion around Year 2. We are currently investigating how this could be improved, building upon a parent suggestion. However we do experience this difficulty every year at the start of the year. If non Year 2 traffic can pass on the left hand side of the pathway, allowing Year 2 traffic to pass on the right this would help. Also a polite plea to Year 2 parents, when it is evening collection time, please keep your eye on the door and make yourself known with a little wave to help the teachers. It can be very difficult to make out where parents are when there are a lot of people gathered in a confined space. As the teachers become more familiar with faces, again I am sure hand over will speed up and improve. Thank you for your support and patience with these measures.

Finally I hope all of the children have enjoyed their week. They looked absolutely wonderful dressed up for Roald Dahl day. The children enjoyed learning linked to the Enormous Crocodile by Roald Dahl and have produced some lovely pieces of work as a result. Thank you for your support with this. **All children should come to school for inspiration day in school uniform please.**

Best wishes

Miss J Parker
Head Teacher



A few snaps of Year 4 on Roald Dahl Day!

Superstars of the week!

Class/Award	Name	Reason
N1	Erin Andrews	For settling well into Nursery life and doing some lovely writing!
N2	Eden Cunningham	For settling into Nursery well and having a go at a wide range of different activities.
RB	Harper Brennan	For making a beautiful picture of her family this week!
RP	Fraser Ashcroft	For completing many challenges in Reception including writing all the letters of the alphabet.
1W	Aiden Gumn	For making a very settled start to Year 1!
1R	Lily-May Tomlinson	For super effort and enjoyment in everything she does! A fantastic start to Year 1!
2A	Kiki Guest	For making a fantastic start in writing in Year 2!
2S	Kiyra Smith	For taking very good care with her presentation this week.
3HW	Callum Davies	For super understanding of a character's actions!
3M	Ben Qualters	For independent work in Maths this week on place value.
4W	Holly Weaver	For excellent work in both Maths and Literacy this week!
4G	Benjamin Crosby	For outstanding work in all lessons this week!
Forest School	Mason McLaughlin	For being curious and enthusiastic in the session!

Advance Notice – Harvest Project 2017

Following our successful fundraiser last year with Send a Cow, this year we will be raising money for WaterAid with St. Nicholas Church. We would like the children to use an empty water bottle, decorate it and then collect loose change in their bottles over the weeks leading up to our Harvest Festival service on 10th October. We would ask that all water bottle donations are brought to school the Friday before so that monies can be collected and then adapted to make rain shakers which the children will take to church to accompany our hymn "The Water of Life".

There will be a prize for the best decorated bottle in each class and the class that raises the most will have an extra playtime! Whilst Nursery and Reception children do not come to church for the Harvest Service, they are actively encouraged to join in and have some fun supporting this good cause.



 **WaterAid**

Inspiration Day Information

Each term we have a special day called and Inspiration Day whereby we kick-start the learning within the Foundation Subjects (History, Geography, Art, Dt etc). During this day normal timetable is suspended and children are fully immersed in multi-sensory, collaborative, child led activities that encourage curiosity and interest in the term's theme. Whilst it is important that children are taught English and Maths skills to a high standard, this must not be to the exclusion of a broad and balanced curriculum that excites them and fosters a love of learning in a range of subjects. We hope your child comes home enthused about what they have learnt and achieved in their Inspiration Day next Monday. Please see below for a flavour of what the children will be getting stuck into.

Nursery

This term Nursery are exploring the topic of All About Me. Children will be learning through Superheroes, and how all the Superheroes are different just like us! They will be making an "I Am Special" mirror, which will remind them that even though we may look different and like different things, we are all special and wonderful



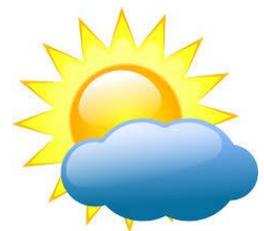
Reception

Reception's inspiration day will focus on our senses. We will look at each sense and develop children's knowledge about what each sense is used for. We will have the opportunity to taste some unusual flavours in our tasting station deciding which taste is our favourite. We will see how good our noses are at smelling, seeing if children can name some of the unusual smells. We will have a touch station where children won't be able to see the object but use only their sense of touch, children will develop their descriptive language to describe what they can feel. We'll see how good the children's listening skills are in our outdoor listening walk. Inspiration day is set to be a busy day, learning all about ourselves.



Year 1

We will launch our topic of the weather by learning about the wind. We will be making wind streamers and finding out which direction the wind is blowing. The children will also be learning to recite part of a weather poem.



Year 2



This term Year 2 are exploring different climate zones in the World. On our inspiration day we will updating our passports, packing our suitcases and flying off to the African Savannah! We will be learning about the climate and about the different animals that live there. We shall complete an African fact sheet and in the afternoon make an African Silhouette painting!

The children will be bringing some homework home this weekend to research interesting facts about the African Savannah ready to share on our inspiration day.

Year 3

Year 3 will be learning about the Romans this term. On inspiration day, we will be finding out about the Roman army. The children will be designing and making Roman shields, and learning army formations. They will also be introduced to Roman numerals and enjoy a Roman Quiz!



Year 4



Year 4 at St Nics' are going to step back in time, where the nation pulled together and united as one. We will explore, design, make and evaluate our very own Anderson Shelters, using a range of testing techniques to see whether they may have withstood the events of World War 2. Soon after, we move into the air and explore the role of the RAF, using modelling materials to build our own RAF plane. If that wasn't enough, keep an eye on your TV, as our children step into the lenses of a camera and a green screen to role play a scenario from World War 2, showing empathy for the lives of those that would have lived back then. Furthermore, we will develop empathy by rationing food and clothes, using our maths skills, to acknowledge the difficulties many people faced. To top it all off, if we have time that is, we will be learning a famous WW2 dance, applying this in a group situation; who do you think has the Jitterbug?

Have you got a skill or a talent you can offer the school community?

Whether it be gardening, hearing readers, admin tasks and organisation or crafts, please do let us know if you have something you can support us with!

PTFA AGM next Wednesday at 7pm in school – all welcome – please do come along!

Dates For The Half Term (Please also see the school website)

Monday 18 th September	Open Classrooms Reception 3.50pm-4.15pm (see note later in newsletter)
Monday 18 th September	Inspiration Day
Tuesday 19 th September	Open Classrooms Morning Nursery 11.45am-12.10pm. Afternoon Nursery and Year 4 3.50pm-4.15pm (see note later in newsletter)
Tuesday 19 th September	Meeting with Cllr Robbie Marshall about parking around the school – open invitation 6pm-7.30pm (entry via main entrance)
Wednesday 20 th September	PTFA AGM All welcome (especially new parents), entry via main entrance at 7pm
Friday 22 nd September	Toddlers and Tiddlers (all toddlers and parents welcome to attend, including friends who may not be at the school). 9.15am Running every Friday thereafter! ☺
Tuesday 26 th September	St Nics @ St Nics (look out for flyers)
Saturday 30 th September	PTFA Football Tournament
Monday 2 nd October and Tuesday 3 rd October 4-7pm	Parents Evening in the school hall Entry via main entrance. Appointments only bookable online.
Thursday 5 th October	School individual pupil and sibling group photos
Monday 9 th October	Reception Family Learning project 10-11.15 for RB parents and children, 2-3.15pm for RP parents and children (please look out for letter with details)
Tuesday 10 th October	Harvest Festival 10am in church Y1-4 (all parents welcome to attend)
Tuesday 17 th October	St Nics @ St Nics (look out for flyers)
Friday 20 th October	Children break up for half term.
Monday 30 th October	Teacher training day
Tuesday 31 st October	Children return to school

There will inevitably be new dates to add to the list as the week's go on. I will always notify parents of these via individual letters, newsletter or of course the school website.

Clubs for this half term

Please see the [school website](#) for information about clubs available this term, costs and who and how to pay. We have a wide range of clubs on offer this term and hope to invite back Mad Science and Glass Art also as the year progresses. If in any doubt please contact the school office for help.

Open Classrooms

As we have relocated and had some work done in Nursery and Year 4 we would like to invite the parents of children in those classes in to look around their child's classroom. This will be a tour led by your child, showing where they sit, what they like about their room etc. It is not a Parent's Evening as this is later on in the term. We annually invite our Reception parents in any way to look around, the children get so much out of showing off their room and how independent they have become!

Classrooms will be open for Reception classes on Monday 18th September from 3.50pm-4.15pm and for Afternoon Nursery, and Year 4 classes on Tuesday 19th September from 3.50pm-4.15pm. **Morning Nursery parents are welcome to come in after their session on Tuesday 19th for a quick look around from 11.45-12.10.** We hope this may be of interest to some of you.

St Nics @ St Nics NEXT WEEK!

Please do come along and join the children and church visitors

St.NiC's@St.NiC's

Tuesday 26th September
3.30pm to 4.30pm in the School Hall

Make a musical instrument



Come and
join the
fun

ACTIVITIES AND SONGS

Year 1 - 4 Bring a parent (and anyone else from your family) or ask someone to fill in the permission slip:
Nursery and Reception children need an adult to accompany them and be responsible for them.

Give permission for _____
to come to the st.nic's@st.nic's service on Tuesday 26th September 2017
They will be collected from school at 4.30pm.

Signed _____ (parent/guardian)

PTFA Black Tie Ball The Event



The Christmas Ball 2017 will take place at Codsall High School, located 10 minutes' walk from St Nicholas First School. The main hall will be transformed into a luxurious "Winter Wonderland".

Upon arrival, guests will be greeted with a sparkling wine reception whilst being entertained by one of the 3 amazing performances of the night. Guests will be able to cast their eyes over a host of luxury prizes to be won and auction items to bid for throughout the night. In the main hall, guests will be treated to a lavish dinner of seasonal food and wine to match. The evening will conclude with one of the Midlands' most impressive performing groups who will ensure the evening ends on a high! We are aiming to achieve a night to remember which will be talked about for months to come in the local community, as well as raise funds to purchase the much-needed exercise equipment for our little ones!



Help needed!

If any of our parents work for a company that would be able to donate, sponsor or get involved with this event with lots of opportunities for publicity, including a high profile local magazine, that covers such events, please do get in touch with Ian Tunnicliff on 0121 651 1062 ian.tunnicliff@colossusassociates.com or Miss Parker on 01902 842998 headteacher@st-nicholas.staffs.sch.uk as soon as possible.

How can you help?

There are so many ways you can help. We are looking for the following:

- Financial donations (sponsorship) to help us put the event together
- Raffle ticket prizes
- Donations of resources (Auction Items, Food items for the event, Drinks & Alcohol for sale
- Decorations for the evening
- People who can help on the evening

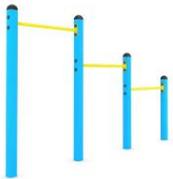
What can we offer you?

Excellent and far reaching publicity sharing your organisation's support for the event (media, local publicity, event programmes and posters etc). Association with a stylish, glamorous event which has the potential to become an annual night out to remember. An opportunity if required to attend the event and showcase the work of your organisation. Opportunities are available for major sponsors who would be looking for their brand to be included on all marketing material, as well as a presence / presentation at the event.



Why we need your help?

We need your help to enable us to develop the outdoor play space for our 5-8 year olds. As you will be aware school budgets are squeezed and expected to stretch further and further, sometimes meaning that the things that are important to children feel unobtainable! The children in our school really need a challenging, but safe outdoor play space to give them opportunities to take risks, imagine, explore and crucially develop and improve their fitness and wellbeing.



More information about the event to come out in due course!

