



St Nicholas^{CE}
First School

learning and believing, growing and achieving

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

19th October 2017

Dear Parents

Half term is upon us and the children have made a good start to their year's learning. Our visitor who was in school conducting a teaching and learning review last week, commented positively about the children's attitude to learning and the school's approach to teaching English and Mathematics, a big well done to children and staff!

This year we are focused on improving writing throughout the school. Children from Reception through to Year 2 are learning to join in a cursive style and a parent's guide to this will be coming home to parents, if it has not already done so. In addition to this we will be working hard to develop your child's stamina for writing to improve speed, whilst maintaining accuracy and ensuring children continue to have a wide range of real life and imaginative contexts in which to write. Mrs Sollom and Mrs Hammond will be taking the lead on this and look forward to sharing some developments with you through the course of the year.

We have been excited this week with the work carried out by Mr Gough in the arena of E Safety. Within his Computing responsibility he will be appointing Digital Leaders throughout the school who will champion the E Safety message; act as a point of reference and support for peers with regard to technical issues and show a high level of skill in the use of technology. Mr Gough will also be launching a competition for children to design our very own St Nics Digital Hero character. The winning character (who should also have an alliterative name e.g Digital Dave or Digital Delilah), will be responsible for publicising handy tips and E-Safety messages in a light bite format for the school community. Look out for information about this competition coming out soon. The winner will be announced in school and will win an Amazon Kindle Fire which has been provided by Concero.

Please see later in the newsletter for key dates for the half term for reference. ***However as always some of these dates are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.*** If and when this is the case we will of course try and give you maximum notice possible.

This week we bid farewell to Mrs Witcombe and Rev Simon. We wish them all the very best in this next stage of their lives and thank them for all that they have provided for the school community, they will be greatly missed by us all at school, as well as the Codsall community.

Have a lovely half term holiday, please remember we have a training day on Monday 30th October down at Codsall Middle School where we will also join with staff from Birches First School to focus on pedagogies. **School will re-open to children on Tuesday 31st October.**

Best wishes
Miss J Parker
Head Teacher

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Superstars of the week!

Class/Award	Name	Reason
N1	Joseph Green	For sharing his knowledge of animals that hibernate and wanting to find out more!
N2	Holly Perry	For making a lovely diva pot with the playdough and trying hard with her writing.
RB	Jackson Smart	For knowing and discussing all of his 2D and 3D shapes!
RP	Jessica Staffiere	For writing a super list about what we need for our Diwali celebration!
1W	Harley Smith	For writing excellent labels to explain how the water cycle works!
1R	Taylor Bennett	For excellent problem solving in Mathematics!
2A	Oliver Sharratt	For working so hard in Maths this week!
2S	Reginald Myers	For working so hard in all of his lessons to ensure he does his very best!
3HW	Harley Purchase	For always working really hard in lessons and producing work that is to the highest standard possible!
3M	Erin Phillips	For excellent work with 3D shape reasoning!
4W	Imogen Andrews	For a brilliant image poem using similes.
4G	Maisie Colyer	For exceptional contributions to lesson discussions.
Forest Schoolers of the week	Jay-Lee Hall	For excellent behaviour and careful listening
	Finley Claxton	For making excellent survival gear in the session!
	Ellie Barlow	For always getting stuck in to every session!

Poppy Appeal

After half term we will have Year 4 children selling poppies to children around school. I will send a text out to parents to give notice of this if this is something you would like to support. At the front of school, on the walk down towards Year 2 you can see our 50 year (of the school site being opened) commemorative poppy which is always something that the children are very proud of. It is important that the children know how they live in a free world underpinned by [British Values](#) and are thankful of the sacrifices of the past, of course without some of the horror and gore!



Dates For The Half Term

Mon 30 th October	Training Day – School closed to children
Tues 31 st October	School re-opens to children
Thurs 2 nd November	Cross Country Competition Year 3 and 4 @ Perton Middle (invited pupils)
Fri 3 rd November	PTFA Firework Night
Tues 7 th November 9.30am	Parent Walking Bus Meeting
Wed 8 th November 6pm	E Safety Parent meeting @ Codsall Middle
Thurs 9 th November	Basketball Competition @ St Christopher's (invited pupils)
Fri 17 th November 7.30pm	PTFA Strictly St Nicholas @ Codsall High (limited tickets still available!)
Tues 28 th November 10am	Year 2 Nativity
Tues 28 th November	St Nics@St Nics
Tues 28 th November 6pm	Maths Parent Workshop Reception and Year 1
Wed 29 th November 2pm	Year 2 Nativity
Sat 2 nd December	PTFA Black Tie Christmas Ball (limited tickets still available!)
Thurs 7 th December 10am	Reception Nativity
Fri 8 th December 2pm	Reception Nativity
Sat 9 th December	PTFA Breakfast with Santa
Tues 12 th December 9.30am – Reception and KS1 11am – KS2	Christmas Church Service at St Nicholas Church all welcome
Wed 13 th December 10.30am 2.30pm	Morning Nursery Nativity Afternoon Nursery Nativity
Fri 15 th December	Save The Children Wear Your Christmas Jumper To School day
Mon 18 th December	Nursery and Reception Christmas Party Year 1 and 2 Christmas Party
Tues 19 th December	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Party School closes for Christmas
Wednesday 3 rd January	School re-opens for Spring Term.

Water Aid Appeal!

This year parents and children really went the extra mile to raise a staggering £1010 for [Water Aid](#)! This is the most generous donation we have given at Harvest time in my time at St Nicholas. A big thank you from Water Aid and us all at school for really getting behind this project and of course to Mrs Sollom for setting the children the challenge. The designs were amazing!

NSPCC Online Safety Resources

Online safety is an issue that is of utmost importance at St Nicholas so as to prepare the children to be safe in the online domain.

This week I attended some really useful training linked to this and as a result I would like to share the following videos created by the NSPCC that some parents may feel suitable to use with their children. In the best instances parents and child should watch together and then discuss the issues involved.

Some of the videos contain material that some families may feel unsuitable for their child (depending upon age, understanding level, maturity and family values), although I would advocate that the children really do need to understand these issues whether it be through video or discussion.

Many of us feel we know what the children are doing online and how they use technology, however research shows that children can be in the same room "supervised" by an adult using technology and still get themselves into bother. Please do take time to watch the videos when your children aren't around and assess whether they will be a good way for you to open a conversation with your child if you feel they are appropriate.

If any parents do find them useful and have successful conversations with their children, please do let us know! All KS2 children will access a theatrical production in the Spring term from [Saltmine](#) called [ESCape](#) on Safer Internet Day in February as governors believe this is an important message to educate our children about too!

[Video 1](#) about sending inappropriate pictures of body parts and the implications.

[Video 2](#) about sharing pictures online and not knowing who you are talking to.

[Video 3](#) about private parts being private

[Video 4](#) a short message for parents





Dear Parent/Guardian,

Once again the Halloween and Bonfire Night season is upon us.

In conjunction with our partners, Staffordshire Trading Standards, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service (FARS), the District Community Safety Partnerships and our local schools we hope to keep this a safe and enjoyable time of year for all members of our communities.

As such we ask for your help in ensuring that you make your children aware of the distressing impact that trick or treating can have on some of the more elderly and vulnerable members of our community.

Whilst not wishing to spoil their fun, we would ask you to ensure that a responsible adult is present should your children go trick or treating, and that the wishes of anybody displaying a no trick or treat sign are respected.

We would also ask that you remind your children to be aware of the dangers of fireworks. Every year on Bonfire Night there are hundreds of accidents across the UK, and lots of them happen to children. A third of parents and grandparents have witnessed an injury during Bonfire night celebrations. Please ensure your children understand Fireworks are really dangerous and should only be handled by adults.

Many thanks for your assistance,

South Staffs Local Policing Team