



Friday 23rd September 2016

Dear Parents

Children enjoyed their Inspiration Day in school this week on Monday. Governors came into school to carry out some monitoring and to look at the Inspiration day format and were delighted with how well the children were able to discuss their learning. Indeed one child was so enthralled in Mrs Mayer's class they exclaimed, "This has been my best day in Year 1 ever!"

I did notice how a number of families had sent in artefacts and items to support the topic. Thank you for the ways in which you reinforce and enhance the topic for your children and those who also benefit in their classes, it is appreciated by the teachers.

This week we hosted 2 very well attended meetings for parents to explain the school's approach to assessment in the aim of trying to support parents in discussing their child's learning and progress. It was lovely to see so many families in attendance, including some of the new members of the school community, as well as the stalwarts who may be in their final stages of their child's time at St Nicholas. These opportunities to explain and explore things together are invaluable. Mr Price and I were pleased with the feedback we received from those who came along and would like to draw parent's attention to the presentation which can be found online on the school website in the [news section](#).

Also this week the second of our Year 2 groups enjoyed an afternoon in Forest School with trained teacher Mrs McKinnon. Children enjoyed the session working in the great outdoors and making the most of the wonderful grounds we are so fortunate to have at our disposal at St Nicholas. This term Forest School will be for Year 2. It will be provided for Year 1 children in the Spring Term and then Reception children in the Summer Term.

Have a lovely weekend,

Miss J Parker
Head Teacher



Don't forget we have our PTFA AGM next Wednesday at 7.30pm in school, please do come along and support if you are able. We have a number of PTFA officers who intend to step down and very much need parents to get involved and maintain the momentum and activity of the PTFA.

Superstars of the week!

Class/Award	Name	Reason
N1	Eadee Robb	For settling in well to Nursery and being very kind and helpful.
N2	Zayn Nwenwu	For playing nicely with other children and being helpful to his grown ups.
RB	Indie Barratt	For being kind and helpful in Reception and always doing her best.
RP	Hollie Harris	For her wonderful phonics! Hollie has a go at all the challenges set and is beginning to write simple sentences.
1M	Jack Rhodes	For super Maths using a number track and working hard.
1R	Noah Hydon	For working independently in Literacy and sequencing his story correctly. Well done!
2A	Emily Hilton	For trying extra hard in Maths this week, especially with written addition sums.
2S	India Williams	For her well organised fact sheet on cats where she used a range of conjunctions.
3HW	Grace-Louise Holden	For beautiful behaviour and an excellent attitude to learning
3P	Jay-Lee Hall	For never giving up and showing resilience in Maths lessons.
4C	Thomas Kelly	For excellent participation and working hard in Literacy this week.
4S	Lucie Dodd	For super Maths work, especially solving 2 step problems independently.
Sportsperson of the week	Natasha Williams	For such a positive attitude and very good listening at Football Club this week, setting a good example to all!

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



Reminder as per last week's newsletter, we will be holding a Coffee and Cake afternoon next Friday at 2pm in the school hall (access gained by rear hall door and gate by Nursery). We would ask any families that are able to support this (whether they can come to the event itself or not) by donating cakes.

If you are able to donate, please send these in to school with your children on the morning of Friday 30th September. Please do try and come along and support Mrs Dubberley-Potts in her fundraising effort should you be free to do so. We will choose a small number of Year 4 children to help her organise the event on the day too.

Introducing.....



Teachers and I have met to plan an exciting new time for our children in school where we hope to further foster their love and interest in reading. Whilst the children have lots of planned opportunities to read in school, these are often with an objective in mind, where children are challenged with tricky questions, taking it in turns to listen to others or reading a text that has been specifically chosen and matched to their ability or class topic.

How many of us read like this in real life? We may have the policies or letters etc at work that we have to read, but mainly our reading is self-directed, for pleasure or own interest. Even the most avid readers as adults will swap a book that they just can't get in to without too long.

As such we will be providing children throughout the school from Reception through to Year 4 with an opportunity to read for pleasure, a text of their own choosing. We will let you know the dates of these sessions (where possible, but not exclusively, the last Friday of a month) as below so that you can ensure your child brings a text that they are interested in to school to enjoy. Texts may be anything and everything such as: books, comics, magazines, letters, postcards, instruction manuals, football programmes, recipes, newspapers. **Really whatever interests your child!** Staff throughout the school will also be asked to down tools momentarily for this 30 minute period and read a text of their own choosing so as to model that reading is pleasurable and that it is not just something that we do, just because we are at school and we have to!

We would ask that parents monitor what their child chooses to bring into school to ensure it has content that is appropriate in terms of images and language.

Dates for this are as follows:

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer Term
Fri 30th Sept Fri 14th Oct Fri 25th Nov Fri 9th Dec	Fri 27th Jan Fri 17th Feb Fri 31st March	Fri 28th April Fri 26th May Fri 30th June Fri 14th July

We look forward to welcoming some students from Codsall Middle School to join us in the Big Read sessions too! Once these sessions are well established it may be that we are able to invite parents or grandparents who wish to come along, to come in and join in with the Big Read too!



A message from Rev Simon Witcombe

St.Nic's@St.Nic's is an after school activity run once a month by volunteers from St. Nicholas Church with a story and activity, songs, and things to make. **The next one is on Tuesday 27th Sept from, 3.30pm - 4.30pm in the Hall.** There will be flyers with a permission slip for Yrs 1 - 4; Reception children are



welcome with an adult. This month, by special request, we're looking at the story of **Joseph and his brothers** - thinking about dreams, making coloured biscuits, and creating a giant cow for the school's Harvest project. I hope to see you or your child there!

Completely
Totally
Proud of
You

Well done to Sasha and little brother Charlie for their responsible whole school attitude to solve a problem this week. The siblings noticed the lunchtime Art boxes were getting a bit messy and muddled and so wrote to Miss Parker with their suggestion as to how they could sort this out. They did so providing laminated labels which were also Dyslexia Friendly and suitable for our youngest children with lovely pictures as well as words! Thank you both!



Above: Mrs Gollins carrying out a Governor Monitoring Visit and popping into Nursery for a chat and a play!

Right: Year 3 use the Roman shields they made in their Inspiration Day to re-enact (safely) battle and defensive positions.



Above: Children in Year 1 have been painting to show different emotions on their Inspiration Day.

Right: Miss Hughes (our new member of staff) is helping Reception children learn about shapes linked to the text [Funny Bones](#) by Janet and Allan Ahlberg.

Please see below for an up to date list of after school clubs that are on offer at St Nicholas for our children!

Day	Activity	Time	Location	Year Group	Staff/Company	Cost per session
Monday	Dodgeball	3.30 - 4.30	Hall	Y 1 - 4	Mr T Mills	£3.00
Tuesday	Football	3.30 - 4.30	Field	Y 3 - 4	Mr T Mills + 1	£3.00
Wednesday	Football	3.30 - 4.30	Field	Y 1 - 2	Mr T Mills + 1	£3.00
	Choir	3.30 - 4.30	Hall	Y 3 - 4	Mrs Witcombe	No Charge
	Art Club	3.30 - 4.30	3HW	Y 3 - 4	Mrs Manning	£1.50
Thursday	Running Club	3.30 - 4.30	Field	Y 2 - 4	Mr T Mills	£3.00
	Art Club	3.30-4.30	3HW	Y 3 - 4	Mrs Manning	£1.50
	Theatre Company	3.30 - 5.00	Hall	Y 3 - 4	Mrs Carey Miss Jessop	£5.00