



**St Nicholas**<sup>CE</sup>  
**First School**

learnina and believina. arowina and achievina

St. Nicholas CE(VC)  
First School, Codsall  
Belvide Gardens  
Codsall  
Wolverhampton



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Parents

Happy New Year from all at St Nicholas First School! We hope you had a lovely Christmas, we have enjoyed seeing the children back this week, full of excitement, ready to tell us about their visit from Father Christmas. You will be glad to know that Jingle the St Nicholas elf has returned to the North Pole now and is ready for some rest and recuperation along with Santa and his reindeer!

The Spring Term is always a very busy one for us in school and although a short one, it is a time where we often see the children making the most progress, as they are settled in to classes and maturing to understand the demands of their curriculum and the teacher's expectation. We look forward to sharing your child's progress with you later in the term at our Parent's Evening.

May I remind you of arrangements for Inspiration Days next week (taken from previous newsletter):

### **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January**

#### **Nursery**

This half term Nursery will be learning through the topic of "Let's Pretend." For Inspiration Day children are invited to wear dressing up costumes. The book of the week will be "Potion Commotion." The children will each make a magic wand so that they can perform their very own magic! We will be needing our wands for our experiment, which will create an unstoppable magic potion (vinegar, baking powder and food colouring)! The children will also have access to many other exciting activities and crafts. Please note that although every effort will be made to keep children clean, and paint will be avoided, children will still have access to sensory play.

#### **Reception**

As we wave goodbye to Santa's elves we are due to welcome some new friends to Reception in our topic 'Let's Pretend'. On our Inspiration Day we invite the children to come to school pretending to be anything they like - what a magical idea to be anything you like? Perhaps your child will choose to be a football playing magician, or a tutu wearing cowboy/cowgirl, or even a dancing giraffe - the possibilities are endless. By giving your child a voice in deciding what they want to be for the day, the children will immerse themselves in a topic of great interest. On this day we will be getting to know who we are, what we are best at and how we can help each other. During this time we will be going on a hunt for our new friends, therefore clothing must be suitable for the outdoors and of course all the other

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messy elements of early years learning that makes learning engaging and exciting for young children. Please don't send your child to school in something that will leave them upset if they become muddy or get a bit of glue or paint on it. We hope you are just as excited as we are for this child led topic!

## Year 2

Year 2 will start the New Year setting sail across the great oceans of the world in our new topic. We will be learning about some of the great sea explorers from the past, the history of boats and ships as well as learning about the creatures living beneath the surface of the sea. For our inspiration day we would like the children to dress as either sailors (not pirates) or divers or fishermen or mermaids or even a sea creature! (Please do not go to the expense of buying a costume. The things the children already have or make with a little imagination make the best costumes.)

## Year 3

Year 3 will be learning about Viking invasions in their topic in January. On Inspiration Day we will be building our very own Viking Longships. Cereal Boxes will be required! This will give children an opportunity to explore and investigate what life was like on a longship as well as consider the design and layout. This topic builds upon the Autumn topic of Romans which will allow children the opportunity to compare and contrast the different invaders. Children will also be beginning to learn the songs for their exciting 'Viking' assembly for parents which will take place on Wednesday 14th March at 2.15pm. A separate letter will come out with information relating to this closer to the time.

## **Wednesday 10th January**

### Year 1

Children will be starting our topic of "Castles" as part of the 'We are Britain' unit of work. To launch this exciting topic, we are inviting children to come to school on Wednesday 10th January dressed up as someone who worked in a medieval castle such as a knight, jester, king or queen. We also need lots of junk modelling (boxes, cardboard tubes, yoghurt pots etc.,) so please start saving these over the holidays and send them in as soon as you can.

### Year 4

Take a breath as we step back around 2700 years in time as we explore the common experiences and beliefs of Ancient Greece. Our first stop will be investigating a range of historical sources related to Ancient Greek pottery, where we will make inferences about life in Ancient Greece by focusing on the role of different shapes and sizes of pottery in every day life and how the use of pictures depicts common events. Of course, we will be making our very own pieces of Ancient Greek pottery using different materials. Who will be able to create the most historically accurate? After that, we will move onto comparing the Ancient Greek alphabetical system and learning all about the Greek Gods, where we will write riddles about each God using the ancient symbols and our partners will not only need to translate each riddle but also try and solve it – indeed, we will be excited for adventurous use of language choices. We will then be taking our inspirational learning experiences outside to participate in a range of common Ancient Greek Olympic Game activities, comparing and measuring our attempts by converting between different units of measure! Who will succeed by triumphing against the Year 4 staff? One of our key learning questions (What was it like

to live in Ancient Greece?) will be investigated by us independently carrying out some research on the common human and physical geographical features, using different sources, taking our new-found knowledge to persuade an audience to visit an Ancient Greek City using a digital presentation. What a busy and productive day it is going to be! As we are going to taking part in a range of activities, please can you send your child into school with clothes that you do not mind getting messy, ideally in a pair of joggers (which will be comfy) to save changing into PE kits, in order to maximise the learning time and activities we have during the day.

Topic Maps for all year groups can now be found online in the year group pages or by following the links below.

[Nursery](#)

[Reception](#)

[Year 1](#)

[Year 2](#)

[Year 3](#)

[Year 4](#)

If any parents feel able to support their child's topics with artefacts, books, or specialist knowledge this is always appreciated. Please do speak to your child's class teacher about how you can help or email in to myself at [headteacher@st-nicholas.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@st-nicholas.staffs.sch.uk) and I will forward any messages on to relevant year groups.

### **Visits to Church**

Next week children in Y1-4 will be walking down to church with their class teachers as part of a little study on our local church. Working in partnership with St Nicholas Church community, children will have an opportunity to look around the church freely, ask questions about what different things are used for, find out a bit more about the church within local history and links to the school. We visit the church regularly, as parents are aware, for worship, but we thought it would be good for children to go on a fact finding mission and really explore the church and gain a better understanding of how Christians worship and use a church. Thanks to all at St Nicholas Church for accommodating us. Years 1 and 4 will go on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January in the morning and Years 2 and 3 on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January in the morning.

### **Information to note**

Can we ask that parents ensure children come suitably wrapped up in hats, gloves, coats etc during these early months of the year where it can be bitterly cold at playtimes please? We will encourage the children to be as active as possible and to keep themselves warm.

### **Chicken Pox**

Both before and after Christmas we have had some confirmed cases of Chicken Pox in school. Please be vigilant should your child develop any spots and if in doubt consult school about whether your child should be in school or not.

Best wishes

Miss J Parker

Head Teacher