



St Nicholas^{CE} First School

learning and believing, growing and achieving

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

Friday 9th June 2017

Dear Parents

We hope you had a peaceful time with the children during half term. It is hard to believe that we are entering our final term for this academic year already. We have much planned for this half term including many of the traditional events and one or two new things to try, we hope you will be able to join us for some of these. As always look out for news on the school website, diary dates and of course the weekly newsletter.

This week the children returned smartly for their class photographs. Unfortunately due to the downpour all the photos had to be taken indoors this year in the school hall but we hope that you will be pleased with the results nevertheless.

Over the holidays a lot of work was carried out internally to upgrade computers throughout the school, as mentioned previously thanks to Mr Morris, one of our parents. We now have additional computing capacity available in the main school corridor and in Reception classrooms which we think the children will enjoy making the most of.

This week some of our oldest pupils have been off on a fact finding mission to Codsall Middle School as part of our transition programme. They will be reporting back to classmates, answering some questions they may have in advance of their whole class transition days. Mrs Lowe and Mrs Clay said that it was particularly nice to bump into past pupils who were very proud to show how grown up they have become in just under a year. A big well done to all who went along. I have been informed that the children did brilliantly!



A big thank you to the children in KS2 this week who have been involved in the interview process for a new teacher for September for KS2. The children involved were so grown up and we valued their comments about why they enjoyed the lessons taught and why they thought each candidate might be suitable for St Nicholas. Much can be learned from seeing how potential new staff engage with our children in a variety of contexts. We are pleased to welcome Mr J Watkins to our KS2 team in September.

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you to support your children in the coming term!

Best wishes

Miss J Parker
Head Teacher

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School Educational Visits

As a school we value the importance of taking children off site to experience new places, new things and new experiences that will enrich their learning in school as well as their understanding of the world in which they live. This year we have been fortunate that the PTFA have allocated £300 towards the cost of a coach for each year group in an attempt to try and reduce the cost to parents.

When teachers plan a visit, I am always very conscious of the costs involved so as to ensure where possible that they don't leave families too stretched financially. Equally when we have a big expense such as an overnight residential, we always give parents advance notice and an opportunity to pay in instalments if that helps them.

We can only ask for a voluntary contribution towards trips, we CANNOT demand that parents pay for the visit if it falls within the school day. We are prohibited from excluding a child from attending a visit who is unable to pay (and nor would we wish to!). However we are finding that trips that we have running currently are not being sufficiently contributed to, leaving a considerable shortfall that will need to be provided for from the school budget which will inevitably take away from funds for other resources, staffing and experiences in school.

As a school we do send reminder texts out to parents (which we understand can feel like a nag or a moan), and we do not wish to harass our families or put them under financial pressure. However, we are aware that some families are able to contribute towards visits, do not actually mind contributing, but simply forget to. It leaves us in a very awkward position as a school as to how to handle this sensitively, but also try and offer what we believe will be in the best interests of the children.

Therefore can I ask that if parents are able to contribute (voluntarily) to the cost of a visit (even if not always the full amount), that they do so in as timely a fashion as possible, so as to help us manage trip administration and planning that would be a real help. Unfortunately if we do not get sufficient funds in to make a visit viable we will have to cancel some of the visits we have planned and refund those parents who have paid contributions to date. Aside from the cost of the transport and entrance etc which is passed on to parents, as a school we already have to pay for additional staffing both for the visit to be safe and also to cover back in school which is an additional expense we have to account for.

I am aware that other schools are in a similar position and as such are limiting the number of trips they offer to the children to one a year, which I think would be a shame. However, this is something we may have to consider and consult parents on in the future. Thanks for your consideration of this.

Summer Fayre Preparation

We would kindly like to ask parents to donate items in readiness for our PTFA Summer Fayre as below. We would like all donations in next Friday on the 16th June please. Thank you for your support!

Nursery, Reception and Year 3	New children's toys for tombola prizes
Year 1	Beer
Year 2 and Year 4	Bottle tombola prizes (alcoholic or otherwise)

THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE IS HERE!!!!

What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

Every year, thousands of families all over the country take part in the UK's biggest reading event for children in libraries, the Summer Reading Challenge, run by the charity **The Reading Agency**.

The aim of the challenge is to get children to read any six books of their choice from their library during the summer holidays.

Every year there's a different theme; this year it's Animal Agents, illustrated by the UK's best-selling children's illustrator Tony Ross. The Animal Agents love solving mysteries and they need YOU to help them crack their biggest case yet.

Who has painted graffiti on the library wall?
Why are things suddenly going missing?

Join the Animal Agents for the **Summer Reading Challenge 2017** and help them uncover the truth!

Taking part is simple – when your summer holidays start, you can sign up at your local library. Read six library books (or more!) over the holidays to collect special stickers and complete the Challenge. Each time you visit the library, you'll discover new clues and evidence that will help you solve this cryptic case.

We will be taking children down to the library where they will have an opportunity to sign up to the challenge. In order to do so, children must return the slip which is being sent home to school.

Wed 28th June

9.30am-10.15 - 2S Year 2
10.15-11.00 - RB Reception
11.00-11.45 - 2A Year 2
1.30-2.15 – 1R Year 1

Wed 12th July

9.30am-10.15 - 3P Year 3
10.15-11.00 – RP Reception
11.00-11.45 - 3HW Year 3
1.30-2.15 - 1M Year 1

Superstars of the week!

Class/Award	Name	Reason
N1	Riley Pinches	For showing good listening and applying learning within the classroom.
N2	Ruby Rhodes	For confidently speaking about what she did over the half term holiday!
RB	Lilly Rickards	For trying hard when reading her new book with Miss Bolton and not giving up as it got a little bit tricky.
RP	Archie Spittle	For his wonderful "wanted poster" about Wizard Lizard using excellent phonic skills.
1M	Lexii Williams	For super counting in 2s and copy writing her numbers to 20.
1R	Sienna Rogers	For always producing work of a high standard and her excellent writing about whales!
2A	Callum Davies	For trying hard with his independent writing.
2S	Nicholas Jevons	For beautiful handwriting in school, showing super joining!
3HW	Emily Myatt	For excellent Maths and increased independence in writing.
3P	Annabelle Berry	For showing high levels of enthusiasm in all of her lessons. Well done!
4C	Zayne Sharma	For fantastic acting this week in Literacy and also in our worship!
4S	Benjamin Hasell	For consistently hard work in Maths, especially with Roman Numerals.
Sportsperson of the week	Iestyn Gibby	For being an excellent sports person this week in PE!
Fantastic Forest Schooler	George Qualters	For very intelligent questions asked during the fire time.



With the awful events that have been in the news over the last few weeks, we think it is really important that our children are taught the importance of peaceful living within their communities and school. We are working hard to ensure all of our children feel safe and thrive. If any parents have concerns about how they should tackle such issues that are being widely publicised then do let us know, there are resources we can signpost you to for your consideration.