

Walking in the footsteps of Jesus with Respect, Perseverance, Care, Trust and Thankfulness.

5th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year at St Nicholas First School! We hope you all had an enjoyable summer break. It has been absolutely wonderful to welcome our children back this week. The school has been filled with smiles, laughter, and the buzz of learning. We are especially proud of our new starters, who have settled in beautifully. The children's confidence, curiosity, and kindness have already made a big impression, and we're so pleased to have them and their parents join our school family.

It has been an eventful week with the thunder and lightning which led to a fire, I can assure parents that the children were a credit to you and that we found that emergency procedures stood up to the test in practice! It is never what we would have wanted for our new starters first week at big school but it will be something we will laugh about in years to come in their Leavers Service in church I am sure!



For those who are new to the school can I advise you to consult the newsletter weekly for everything you need to know about life at St Nicholas. From time to time we will also send out text messages or links to web articles, we want you to have all the information you need. If there is anything you are unsure of then please do contact the school office in person or by stopping a member of staff or myself on the playground to clarify.

In this newsletter I'd like to bring a few key things to your attention to help you support your child's learning journey this year as well as some organisational changes that you need to be aware of.

Codsall MAT

I'm delighted to be entering my second year as CEO of Codsall Multi Academy Trust, which includes St Nicholas First School, Codsall Middle

School, and Birches First School. As I continue to focus on the development of the Trust, Mr Gough will be supporting the leadership of St Nicholas on Mondays and Tuesdays, particularly when he is not class-based.

This arrangement allows me to dedicate time to strategic work across the Trust, while ensuring that the leadership of our school remains strong and consistent. Mr Gough and I work very closely together, and you'll often find us both in school, collaborating to support our children and staff. I'm really looking forward to widening Mr Gough's capacity to help lead our school forward on its exciting journey.

SEND

As of September 2025, Mrs Walton has chosen to step down as school SENCo. Going forward I will be supported through the Trust by Mrs Connolly, who many of you will have come to know over the last year or two. She, Mr Gough and I will create a small team who manage SEND at St Nicholas. Mrs Connolly is a highly experienced SENCo, well regarded by the Local Authority, and we are excited to draw on her expertise as we continue to work closely with our children and families with SEND. Her work will be supported by myself and Mr Gough, ensuring continuity and strong collaboration.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Walton for the significant number of years she has dedicated to supporting children and families at St Nicholas. Her hard work, commitment, and care in the role have made a lasting impact, and I know colleagues would also very much like to thank her for her advice, support, and guidance over the years. In her ongoing role as EYFS Lead and Assistant Head Teacher, Mrs Walton will continue to play a key part in supporting our youngest learners and indeed all families, especially where early identification and support are so important.



Expectations for Learning at home in Maths and English

Over the past term, we've been exploring educational research and looking at what other schools are doing well to make a real impact on areas such as mental arithmetic and spelling. As a result, from September, we'll be

implementing some simple but effective changes to strengthen our approach. Our English Lead, Miss Wild, and Maths Lead, Mrs Robb, have outlined what we need from parents to support children at each stage of their journey here at St Nicholas. We know that when school and families work in partnership, children achieve the very best possible outcomes—and we're excited to continue building that partnership with you. See the end of the newsletter for more information.

Other general reminders

School Uniform

We are proud of our school uniform and expect all pupils to wear it with pride. Please ensure your child is dressed in the correct uniform, including appropriate footwear, as outlined in our school policy. If you have any questions or need support with obtaining the uniform, please don't hesitate to contact the school office. Please name jumpers, cardigans, coats and hats so that they can be returned to your child, should they leave them.

Healthy Lunchboxes

I would like to use this opportunity to remind parents about healthy lunchboxes and snacks. Simply put, we would not expect to see any chocolate bars or packets of sweets in lunchboxes. Lunchboxes should promote a balanced approach to eating and incorporate different food groups.

We appreciate that we do have some children who can be restrictive with their diet, but **chocolate bars and sweets** are not permitted.

Can I also ask that grapes, olives, tomatoes (and other such shaped food items) are chopped vertically to minimise choking hazard. It is also worth mentioning that in school we sometimes see lunchboxes that are very full. Again we appreciate that this may be to offer choice and that parents don't expect children to eat everything, however this can be quite overwhelming in particular for our littles ones who struggle to choose and feel that they have a mountain of lunch to get through. You know your child best, but I just wanted to raise that something that may be done with best of intentions can actually have a negative impact on our young diners.

Allergies In Schools

St Nicholas CE First School is a nut-free environment. We kindly ask all parents and carers to ensure that no nut products are included in packed lunches or snacks to safeguard the health of our pupils with allergies. This includes all forms of nuts. For all pupils, we maintain a healthy snack policy. Please provide your child with fruit only for their break-time snack. We can no longer accept cereal bars etc due to the nature of the allergies we have in school. Pressed fruit may be sent in as an alternative to fresh fruit should children like these. Of course our **KS1 and EYFS pupils get government funded fruit daily too so they do not need snack.**

Summer Reading Challenge

If your child completed the Summer Reading Challenge this year and wants to bring their certificate or medal in to show, please do so by Friday 19th September where they will bring them into assembly. Many have already told me that they have completed it and are very proud of themselves!

Parking

Parking in and around the school site is notoriously problematic and at times dangerous. Please do not park on corners, obstruct driveways or allow children to cycle, scoot or run across the gardens of our neighbours. We want to work in harmony with our neighbours and make them proud of the school that they live near to. Where possible walking/scooting/cycling to school is the preferred way for children to come to school and this provides some exercise too. I know that many also park outside of the estate itself and walk in the last bit where this is prohibitive due to distance. Thank you for your help with this.

Scooters, Bicycles, Dogs and Balls On The Playground

All children must **walk** with their bikes and scooters on the playground please to avoid collisions at such a busy time of day. As we know young children can be unpredictable in their movement and we do not want any of our children or adults hurt by being crashed into. If staff see your child

doing this in your care they have been asked to address it as a matter of Health and Safety.

Dogs are prohibited from entering the site and should not be left unattended or tied up on the site periphery where children and adults walk past. We do not allow balls on the playground in the morning (for the same reason as bikes and scooters). It is too busy and there is a high likelihood of site users becoming hurt. Children have lots of active time in school and are allowed a ball at playtime (subject to sensible use). If you find a ball has blown off the roof overnight (sometimes they get kicked up there by accident) or been left out from PE, then please ask your child to hold it and return to their teacher on entry to school and ensure that a game of football does not ensue.



I am sorry if that feels like a list of dos and don'ts but I think it is important that everyone has clarity about what is expected at St Nicholas so that we can keep every child and their family members safe and enjoying a positive experience on our site.

Thank you for your support to prepare your children for their return to school as you have. We are excited for the term ahead and look forward to working together to make this year a happy and successful one for all our children.

Warm regards,

J Parker
Head Teacher

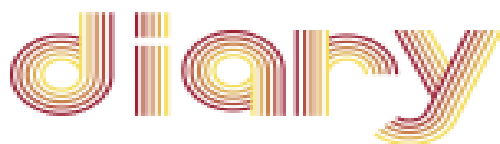


Stars of The Week

Class/Award	Name	Reason
1M	Elliot M	For a really brilliant first week, such a star in assembly and class!
1R	Charlotte B-B	For being very kind and caring to all of the children in 1R! You are a great friend to others!
2AB	Rohan M	For following the St Nicholas Way and having a great start in Year 2!
2S	James M	For always demonstrating the St Nicholas Way – a great start to the year!
3N	Rex E	For showing respect all week, always ready to learn with a smile!
3P	Tommy S	For being caring and trustworthy and for persevering to present his best work! A superb start to Year 3.
4SG	Isla W	For amazing enthusiasm for learning!
4W	Grace W	For amazing ideas in English and settling so well into Year 4!
Head Teacher's Award	Elsie B, John-Paul H from RG, Imogen S from RW, Emmie B, Ashiya M-D and Zoe C from N Eleanor J, Elijah B-S, Florence S-C and Noah W from 3P Jessika C from 3P Aurora B from 2AB	For being very grown up children at their first time at Breakfast Club this week. We are super proud of you! For excellent comic strip fables! For doing a drawing of Oakley, the tree from our story in worship this week! For being cool-headed, quick thinking and a great communicator.

Click the question to read the NHS guidance.

Is my child too ill for school?



Important School Year Diary Dates

Tues 9 th Sept	Toilet Roll Tuesday (parents are asked to send a toilet roll or two into school with their child to donate to the Food Bank)
Fri 19 th Sept	Children who have completed the Summer Reading Challenge bring their certificates and awards in to assembly!
Fri 26 th Sept	Individual Photos
Mon 6 th Oct	Flu Immunisations for Reception – Year 4
Tues 7 th Oct	Toilet Roll Tuesday (parents are asked to send a toilet roll or two into school with their child to donate to the Food Bank)
w/c 13 th Oct	A supermarket trolley will be on the playground to collect donations of tinned goods for the Food Bank.
Mon 13 th and Wed 15 th Oct 4-7pm	Parents Evening – virtual (face to face in the Spring Term)
Mon 3 rd Nov	INSET DAY School closed to children
Tues 4 th Nov	Toilet Roll Tuesday (parents are asked to send a toilet roll or two into school with their child to donate to the Food Bank)
Mon 1 st Dec 2pm and Tues 2 nd Dec 10am	Reception Nativities
Tues 2 nd Dec	Toilet Roll Tuesday (parents are asked to send a toilet roll or two into school with their child to donate to the Food Bank)
Thurs 4 th Dec 10am	Nursery Christmas Sing A Long
w/c 8 th Dec	A supermarket trolley will be on the playground to collect donations of tinned goods for the Food Bank.

Tues 9 th Dec	PTFA Funded Pantomime in school for children
Wed 10 th Dec 10am and Thurs 11 th Dec 2pm	Y1 Nativities
Fri 12 th Dec 2pm	Y2 Carols and Cake
Tues 15 th Dec 9am	3P Nativity Shoebox
Wed 17 th Dec 9am	3N Nativity Shoebox
Thurs 18 th Dec	Last day of school
Fri 19 th Dec	INSET Day School closed to children
Mon 5 th Jan	School reopens for the Spring Term
Fri 13 th Feb	Break up for half term
Mon 23 rd Feb	School reopens
Fri 27 th Mar	End of Spring Term
Mon 13 th Apr	Start of Summer Term
Mon 4 th May	May Day School is closed to all.
Tues 5 th –Wed 6 th May	Y4 on Residential at Standon Bowers
Thurs 22 nd May	Y1 Trip to Kingswood
Fri 23 rd May	Break up for half term
Mon 1 st Jun	School reopens to children
Thurs 16 th Jul	Last day of academic year for children
Fri 17 th Jul and Mon 20 th Jul	INSET Days School closed to children



Please make sure
children have a named
waterproof, weather
appropriate coat in
school daily this term!
Many thanks 😊



Home Learning

At St Nics we know that home life can be extremely busy with clubs and family activities that take place each day, but we also know how valuable your part is in helping to educate your child. The values and work ethics that you instil in your child at this early stage in their life will set them in good stead as they progress through their schooling.

Maths

We are asking for you to support your child at home with short sessions of maths recall to help them to secure the basic facts which will give them a solid grounding in calculations.

The expectations for each year group are set out below.

Year group	Expectations	10 club / 99 club end of year expectations.
Reception	Playing on Numbots for 3 minutes a day 4 times per week.	N/A
Year 1	Playing on Numbots for 3 minutes a day 4 times per week. Practising 10 club number facts ready for the following week. 2 x 5 minute sessions	Super 10 club 2
Year 2	Playing on Numbots for 3 minutes a day 4 times per week.	Super 20 club 2

	Practising 10 club number facts ready for the following week. 2 x 5 minute sessions	33 club.
Year 3	Playing on TTRockstars for 3 minutes a day 4 times per week. Practising 99 club number facts ready for the following week. 2 x 5 minute sessions	55 club
Year 4	Playing on TT Rockstars for 3 minutes a day 5 times per week. Practising 99 club number facts ready for the following week. 2 x 5 minute sessions	99 club.

For more information on the 10 club and 99 club please see [here](#).
I hope that you find this a useful guide to our expectations towards maths homework for this new academic year and that you will see the improvements and gains made by your child in mental maths through completing these short tasks.



Reading

Year group	Reading Expectations
Reception	• Read aloud to someone <u>at least three times a week</u> for around 10 minutes each time. • Don't forget to record any reading in your Reading Diary. • Please make sure books are in school bags every day. • Check understanding by asking your child questions about what they have read.
Year 1	• Read aloud to someone <u>at least three times a week</u> for around 10 minutes each time.

	• Don't forget to record any reading in your Reading Diary. • Please make sure books are in school bags every day. • Check understanding by asking your child questions about what they have read.
Year 2	• Read aloud to someone <u>at least three times a week</u> for around 10 minutes each time. • Don't forget to record any reading in your Reading Diary. • Please make sure books are in school bags every day. • Check understanding by asking your child questions about what they have read.
Year 3	• Read <u>at least three times a week</u> for around 15/20 minutes each time. • Don't forget to record any reading in your Reading Diary. • Please make sure books are in school bags every day. • Check understanding by asking your child questions about what they have read. <i>(Children can read silently at times, but it's important they also practise reading aloud to build fluency and develop expression. Reading aloud also helps with pronunciation and understanding of new vocabulary.)</i>
Year 4	• Read <u>at least three times a week</u> for around 15/20 minutes each time. • Don't forget to record any reading in your Reading Diary. • Please make sure books are in school bags every day. • Check understanding by asking your child questions about what they have read. <i>(Children can read silently at times, but it's important they also practise reading aloud to build fluency and develop expression. Reading aloud also helps with pronunciation and understanding of new vocabulary.)</i>



Spelling

We will no longer hold weekly spelling tests, as they often lead to short-term memorisation and are not proven to improve spelling longer term. However, **spelling will remain a key focus**. Weekly word lists and rules will be shared on the [Weebly](#). Children should practise spelling the words and write some of them in sentences—this can be done in their reading diaries. Spelling Shed will still be available for extra practice through games. At the end of each week, children will complete a dictated sentence activity to apply the spelling rule in context.

Year group Spelling Expectations

Year group	Spelling Expectations
Reception	N/A
Year 1	No spelling lists will be sent home. Instead, appropriately matched phonics sheets will be provided, with specific pages to complete each week to support learning. These will not be returned home, once they have been received in school. The purpose of these is to give children additional practise within the home environment.
Year 2	• Weekly spelling lists are available on the Weebly. • Children can use Spelling Shed for online spelling games. • Practice spellings using the weekly spelling rule. • Write 5 simple sentences in their reading diary, using 5 words from the spelling list.
Year 3	• Weekly spelling lists are available on the Weebly. • Children can use Spelling Shed for online spelling games. • Practice spellings using the weekly spelling rule. • Write <u>at least</u> 5 sentences in their reading diary, using 5 words from the spelling list
Year 4	• Weekly spelling lists are available on the Weebly. • Children can use Spelling Shed for online spelling games. • Practice spellings using the weekly spelling rule. • Write <u>at least</u> 5 sentences in their reading diary, using 5 words from the spelling list.

If you have any questions or concerns about Maths, Reading or Spellings, please speak to your child's class teacher or Miss Wild (Y4) or Mrs Robb (Y1) who will be able to give you more info. **If you need login details the please [complete the form here](#) by Next Wednesday.**

Who are your Safeguarding Leads?

Parents and carers can report concerns to any member of the St Nicholas team. It is the responsibility of everyone to safeguard children and young people. At St Nicholas we have specially trained Safeguarding Leads who have expertise in a range of areas who anyone can report concerns too. A visual reminder of who these are can be found below. If in doubt, share information with school who can then take the necessary actions to support.

St Nicholas Safeguarding Leads

Designated Safeguarding Lead Head Teacher Miss J Parker	Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead Assistant Head Teacher Mrs S Walton
	
Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead Assistant Head Teacher Mrs S Robb	Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead Assistant Head Teacher Mr R Gough
	