

# St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

*'Love one another as I have loved you'*



**Headteacher:** Mrs J. Burns BA QTS (Hons) NPQH  
**Address:** Oakwood Lane, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS9 6QY  
**Telephone:** 01132 930 318  
**Email:** [schooloffice@stnicholasprimaryleeds.org.uk](mailto:schooloffice@stnicholasprimaryleeds.org.uk)  
**Website:** [www.stnicholasprimaryleeds.org.uk](http://www.stnicholasprimaryleeds.org.uk)

## Head Teacher Newsletter 4

**Virtue to Live By: Thankfulness**

20 October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of this first half term, we take a moment to pause and reflect. In Sunday's Gospel (Luke 18:1–8), Jesus tells the story of the persistent widow who never gave up in seeking justice. Her faith and perseverance remind us that prayer, patience and trust in God's timing are central to our lives. As we break for half term, may this message encourage us all to pause, pray and give thanks for the many blessings of this term — the friendships formed, the learning achieved and the kindness shown across our school community.

### Parent Partnership

It was wonderful to see so many of you at Parents' Evening last week. These meetings are such valuable moments where we can celebrate each child's progress and work together to ensure they continue to flourish. Your engagement in your child's education — through conversations at home, reading together and supporting school routines — makes a tremendous difference. Strong partnership between home and school remains at the heart of all we do here at St. Nicholas.

### Harvest Celebration

Our Harvest appeal has once again demonstrated the generosity of our families. With the help of our Mini Vinnies, all donated goods have now been distributed to our three chosen causes. Each organisation has expressed heartfelt thanks for the kindness and compassion shown by our school community. The children truly enjoyed taking part in this act of service, living out our mission to care for others and putting faith into action.

### Wellbeing and Emotional Literacy

This half term, we have continued to prioritise wellbeing across the school. On Monday, our friends from MindMate led an engaging assembly focusing on recognising and managing emotions. The children discussed strategies to help them talk about how they feel and support one another. In school, we use the *Zones of Regulation* approach — a simple, visual tool that helps children identify which "zone" their feelings fall into: blue (sad or tired), green (calm), yellow (worried or excited), and red (angry or overwhelmed). It encourages pupils to recognise their emotions early, regulate them positively and develop empathy towards others.

### Prospective Families

Over recent weeks, we have enjoyed welcoming some lovely prospective families who are considering St. Nicholas for their child's Reception place in September 2026. It has been wonderful to share the warmth and spirit of our community with them. We will be hosting further school tours after half term, so please do spread the word — if any friends or family are interested, they can contact the school office to arrange a visit.

### **Parent Workshop – Sleep and Wellbeing**

On Friday morning at 9:00am, there will be a parent workshop on *Sleep*, exploring routines and healthy strategies to support children's rest and development. We encourage all interested parents to attend — it promises to be an informative and practical session.

### **Health and Safety Focus**

Safety remains a top priority in our school. Last week, I led an assembly to remind all pupils what to do in the event of an evacuation, explaining how we move safely, calmly and quietly. We also introduced the idea of an *invacuation* or *lockdown*, explaining that these are rare but important safety practices. During this week, we will be carrying out drills for both. Please don't be concerned if your child mentions fire alarms or lockdown practices — these are precautionary and form part of our statutory duty to ensure all children know what to do should we ever need to use these procedures for real.

### **Religious Education – Learning About Other Faiths**

In RE this week, children across the school will be studying other world faiths. Reception will be learning about Diwali and the Hindu traditions celebrated at this time of year. The rest of the school will be exploring different aspects of Islam, deepening their understanding of prayer, community and belief. This forms an important part of our Catholic curriculum, helping children grow in respect and appreciation for faiths and cultures across our world.

### **Year 5 Educational Visit**

We are delighted that our Year 5 pupils have been invited to visit Elland Road this week. The visit includes a guided tour of the stadium and a safety workshop led by our local PCSO, Luke, who has kindly organised this brilliant opportunity. The children are very excited — and it promises to be a memorable and educational experience linking community, sport and citizenship.

### **Reception Stay and Play**

A reminder to our Reception parents that you are warmly invited to join your child in class for a Stay and Play session on either Wednesday or Thursday morning. This is a wonderful chance to see your child in their learning environment and to join in with some of their favourite classroom activities. Please ensure you have completed the Google form if you plan to attend — we look forward to seeing many of you there.

### **Half Term**

School will close for the half term break on **Friday at 3:30pm** and will reopen to all pupils on **Monday 3rd November**. We wish all our families a restful and enjoyable half term. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and positivity this term. It has been a wonderful start to the school year, full of energy, kindness and community spirit.

### **A Prayer for the Week**

Loving God,  
As we reach the end of this half term,  
we thank you for the learning shared,  
the laughter enjoyed, and the love that surrounds us.  
Help us to rest, reflect, and return renewed in faith and joy.  
Keep all our families safe over the holiday,  
and guide us always to walk in your light.  
Amen.

God Bless,

Mrs Burns  
Head Teacher