

# 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 5

**Virtue to Live By: Hope/Prayer**

Dear Parents and Carers

Sunday's Gospel reading reminded us of the importance of being ready and alert for the Lord's coming — to live with faith, love and hope at the heart of our daily lives. At this time of year, we are invited to reflect on those values as we honour all who gave their lives for our freedom and peace.

This week, we will mark Armistice Day together with a special **Assembly of Remembrance**, led by Miss Newland's class and her pupils, on **Tuesday 11th November at 9:10am in the school hall**. Parents are most welcome to join us as we pause to remember and give thanks.

Last week it was wonderful to start the new half term with a whole-school Mass on All Souls' Day, where pupils prayed reverently for loved ones and members of our parish community who have died. Many thanks to Father Saji for celebrating Mass with us and to all who helped prepare the liturgy.

I hope everyone enjoyed a restful half-term break. The children have returned with lots of energy and enthusiasm for the learning ahead. As the weather turns colder, please make sure that pupils come to school in **full winter uniform**, which includes a collared white shirt and school tie. Hats and coats should be clearly named, as we already have a growing collection of stray items in the lost-property box!

Our **Reception Class** are especially excited about their class trip to **Lotherton Hall** this Wednesday. This visit will support their current topic work and help to bring learning to life through opportunities to explore the gardens and exhibitions. We look forward to sharing photographs and highlights next week.

We are already preparing for one of our favourite community events — the **Christmas Table-Top Fair** on **Saturday 29th November**. This promises to be a great day with stalls, crafts, treats and plenty of festive cheer. If you or someone you know would like to have a stall at the event, please contact the office. Donations of bottles and raffle prizes will be gratefully received nearer the time.

Sport continues to play an important role in school life. Our **football team** faced a strong match against Shakespeare Primary last week. Although victory wasn't ours this time, the boys and girls played with real determination and team spirit — a credit to our school. Meanwhile, our

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**Cross-country runners** took part in their first ever competition at St Theresa's and showed great perseverance and resilience. We're very proud of their achievements and look forward to building on this excellent start.

You should have received an email last week about the **Parent Governor vacancy**. If you are interested in becoming more involved in school governance, please complete the application form by the deadline stated. Governors play a vital role in shaping the life of our school and ensuring our continued success.

Next week, we will welcome **D:Side** into school to deliver age-appropriate sessions about drug awareness and making safe, healthy choices. This is always a valuable opportunity for pupils to learn about personal safety and wellbeing in a supportive and understanding environment.

If you know families currently exploring schools for **Reception places in September 2026**, please do encourage them to contact the office to arrange a guided visit. We are always delighted to show prospective parents what makes our school such a caring and inclusive community.

Date for diary – Bishop Markus has confirmed that the **Sacrament of Confirmation** will take place on Thursday **12<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm** in St Nicholas Church. The children eligible to make this Sacrament will receive information shortly.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the importance of mutual respect in all communications between parents and staff. We are very proud of the strong partnerships we share with families, which contribute immensely to the success of our children. However, there have been a few occasions recently when staff have experienced unkind or disrespectful language. Such behaviour is never acceptable and goes against our values as a Catholic community. We ask that all concerns be raised calmly and politely, so that we can work together to find positive solutions in the best interests of the children. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Excerpt from Laurence Binyon's "For the Fallen":

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*



Wishing you a peaceful week ahead.  
God Bless,

Mrs Burns  
Head Teacher