

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

'Love one another as I have loved you'



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Head Teacher Newsletter 8

Virtue to Live By: Faith

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year and a very warm welcome back to the start of the Spring term. We hope that you all enjoyed a joyful Christmas with your families and that the beginning of 2026 has been peaceful and restorative for you and your children. Thank you so much for the cards, gifts and kind wishes that were sent into school before the holidays; your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated by all the staff.

Epiphany: Today we celebrate the Epiphany, when the wise men (Magi) followed the star to visit the baby Jesus, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. This great feast reminds us that Jesus is revealed to all people as the Light of the World and King, Priest and Saviour. In the liturgical year we are still in the season of Christmas, and Epiphany marks the moment Christ is made known to the nations, before we soon move back into Ordinary Time.

Staff training and safeguarding: Yesterday was a staff training day, and the majority of our team completed a full-day update in First Aid. Regular training of this kind is an important part of our safeguarding work and helps ensure that staff are confident and prepared to respond in the event of an accident or medical emergency. Thank you for your support as we use training days to strengthen the care and protection we provide for all children.

Severe weather and snow procedures: As we move through the winter months, there may be occasions when severe weather affects the normal running of school. If heavy snow or bad weather makes it difficult to open, parents will be notified by text message as early as possible, and on some occasions a later start may be arranged to allow staff to travel safely. Updates will also be posted on our Instagram account, so please check there for the latest information.

If the weather deteriorates during the school day, or if there is an emergency such as a loss of heating, it may be necessary to close the school early; in this case, you will receive a text message and an Instagram update. We will always do everything we can to open, and remain open, during periods of bad weather, and a decision to close will only be taken if safety is judged to be at risk or if staffing levels cannot be maintained due to staff travelling from a wide geographical area. Thank you for your support and understanding; in these situations, please only contact school by phone in an emergency so that essential lines can be kept free.

Uniform, PE kits and lost property: A polite reminder that children should now be in full winter uniform, which includes a school shirt and tie. Please ensure pumps and PE kits are returned to school and kept in lockers so that children are always prepared for indoor and outdoor physical activity. As the weather is cold, it is important that children come to school with a suitable coat and, where needed, hats, scarves and gloves, as we aim to get the children outside for fresh air and play every day whenever it is safe to do so.

To help us reunite items with their owners, please clearly label all uniform and accessories, including hats, gloves and scarves. If your child has any missing items, do check the lost property box in the shelter on the playground, as we try to move all found belongings to this central point.

Mind Mate parent workshop: There will be a parent workshop led by Mind Mate on Thursday 15 January at 9.00am, focusing on children's emotional wellbeing (self-harm) and how families can be supported. Mind Mate and the Mind Mate Support Team work with schools and parents across Leeds to offer advice, short-term support and practical strategies for young people's mental health. If you would like to attend, please contact the school office to reserve a place.

Annual Science Fair: We are delighted to confirm that our Annual Science Fair will take place on Friday 30 January. This event is a much-valued part of our curriculum offer and has inspired some incredibly imaginative and thoughtful projects over the last few years, helping to foster curiosity, problem-solving and a love of science among our pupils. The children will be encouraged to investigate questions, create models or carry out simple experiments, a separate letter with more detailed information will follow shortly.

Loving God,

As we begin this new Spring term, we thank you for the rest and joy of the Christmas holidays and for the gift of a new year. We are grateful for our families, our friends and our school community, and for all the ways you are with us each day.

Bless our children as they return to their learning. Help them to grow in wisdom, kindness and confidence, to use their gifts well, and to look out for those who may feel lonely or worried.

Bless our parents and carers. Give them strength, patience and peace in busy days, and guide them as they support their children at home and in school.

Bless all the staff in our school. May they teach with enthusiasm, care with compassion and always show your love in their words and actions.

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, walk with us through this term. When work feels hard, give us perseverance; when we succeed, help us to be thankful; and in all things, keep us close to you and to one another.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

With every good wish for a happy, healthy and successful Spring term for all our families.

God Bless,

Mrs Burns

Head Teacher