

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

'Love one another as I have loved you'



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Head Teacher Newsletter 9

Virtue to Live By: Faith

Dear Parents and Carers

Yesterday's Gospel reminded us of Jesus calling his first disciples to follow him and trust in his plan. This call to listen, to respond and to walk closely with Jesus is at the heart of our life in school this week, as we encourage the children to support one another, make good choices and use their gifts in the service of others.

Safeguarding: Our **Safeguarding** Team continues to work hard to keep all children safe and to support families where necessary. If you have any worries or concerns about the safety and well-being of your child, or of any child in our school, please contact a member of the Safeguarding Team and make your concern clear to us. The team works confidentially and sensitively with families and can help when difficulties arise at home or in the community.

Our Safeguarding Team consists of:

- Mrs Fox (Mrs Burns)
- Mrs Doherty
- Miss McAndrew
- Miss Pearson
- Miss McGoldrick



Please do speak to one of us at the gate or contact the school office if you ever need advice or support.

Attendance and reading rewards: Well done to all the children who came to school every day last term and achieved 100% attendance. It was nearly one third of the school, which is a fantastic achievement and something the children should be very proud of. As a reward, last week those children were given a gold token to put in the book vending machine and were able to choose a free book to take home and keep. The excitement in the hall was wonderful to see and we hope the new books will help to foster a lifelong love of reading. We are already wondering who will manage 100% attendance this term!



Sports and wider opportunities: There is lots of football action this half term. Our Under 10s are in action this week against Dixons Academy and next week at home to Our Lady's. We wish all the children taking part the very best of luck and know they will represent St Nicholas with determination, teamwork and sportsmanship. We will share results and match highlights with the children in assembly.

Staffing updates: We are delighted to announce that Mrs Roberts and Mrs Churlish are both pregnant and expecting babies in the summer term. This is wonderful news for them and their families and we know you will join us in offering your prayers and good wishes. We will confirm cover arrangements for their classes nearer the time and ensure that transitions for the children are carefully planned.

Last week, Mrs Wade left St Nicholas to pursue a career in nursing. We thank her sincerely for all her hard work and care for the children during her time with us, and we wish her every success in her new role.

At half term, Miss Loney's temporary contract will come to an end. We are very grateful for all that she has done for the children and for the energy she has brought to school, and we wish her well in her future teaching career. Year 1/2 will remain in the experienced hands of Mrs Doherty and Mrs Smith-Cottle, ensuring continuity and stability for the children.

SEND drop-ins and MindMate: Drop-ins to the SEND Team continue this week. If this is your scheduled week, you will already have been contacted about an appointment time. These sessions are a valuable opportunity to talk about your child's needs, progress and support in more detail. If you are unsure whether this is your week, or you would like to request a future drop-in, please contact the SEND Team via the school office.

MindMate will be in school on Thursday delivering two assemblies, one for Key Stage 1 and one for Key Stage 2. The focus will be on self-esteem and simple strategies children can use to look after their mental health. This work supports the ongoing PSHE curriculum in school and helps children to understand that it is important and OK to talk about how they feel.

Buddies and healthy eating: Our Year 6 Buddies will be joining Reception for lunch on Thursday. The children love spending time with their buddies and this special role helps our oldest pupils to develop responsibility, patience and kindness, while giving our youngest children a friendly face to look out for around school.

Our Key Stage 2 children are also learning about the importance of nutrition from our visitor, Ingrid. Through these sessions, the children are finding out more about how food choices affect energy, concentration and health, both now and in the future. Understanding what a balanced diet looks like helps them to make good decisions for life, and links closely with our science and PSHE curriculum.

Science Week reminder: You should all have received a letter about our upcoming Science Fair. Science is a key part of our curriculum, helping children to develop curiosity, problem-solving skills and an understanding of the world around them.

The Science Fair gives children the chance to plan and carry out their own investigations, present their findings and explain what they have discovered. These experiences are not only enjoyable, but they also build skills that are valuable for future learning and for many careers in later life. Please do encourage your child to get involved, even with a simple idea – sometimes the smallest experiments lead to the biggest learning.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and partnership. It is very much appreciated and helps to make St Nicholas a happy, safe and thriving community for all our children.