

# 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 10

**Virtue to Live By: Simplicity**

Dear Parents and Carers

Last Sunday's Gospel recounts the Presentation of the Lord in the temple (Luke 2:22–40), where Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to fulfil the Law, and Simeon and Anna recognise him as the light for all nations. This beautiful moment reminds us of the joy and privilege of offering our children to God, nurturing their faith and helping them shine as a light to others – a calling we live out every day in our school community through prayer, service and love

**Mini Vinnies Mass:** Yesterday our Mini Vinnies were joined by over 50 Mini Vinnies from local Catholic primary schools to celebrate Mass together. It was a joyful occasion that reminded us of the power of children's faith and service in our community. Afterwards, the children came back to school for juice and biscuits, and there was a lovely buzz of conversation as they shared ideas about how they can continue to put their faith into action.

**Science Fair Success:** Last Friday's Science Fair was a huge success. We were delighted by the number and quality of entries and it was wonderful to see so many children excited about investigating, experimenting and explaining their ideas. Events like this add real richness to our curriculum and help to nurture our future scientists. Thank you to all families who supported the projects at home.

### Keeping Safe Online – d:side Workshops

Last week, d:side were in school delivering workshops to a range of classes about staying safe online. The sessions helped children to think carefully about how they use the internet, gaming and social media, and what to do if something worries them. To support you at home, you may find the following websites useful:

- NSPCC: Net Aware – guides to games, apps and social media
- Childnet – practical advice for families
- UK Safer Internet Centre – tips, resources and guidance for parents and carers

**National Storytelling Week:** We have thoroughly enjoyed celebrating National Storytelling Week. The children have taken part in "reading cafés" and special story sessions, and our "secret readers" (parents and carers who came in to surprise classes) have been a real highlight – thank you so much for your time and enthusiasm. Reading is fundamental to children's education, opening doors to every other subject and we are committed to helping every child develop a lifelong love of books. We use a range of strategies – from daily story time and guided reading to book talk and reading at home – to support fluency, comprehension and enjoyment.

Take a look at our Instagram- there are lots of photos of the half term's activities and children at work.-  
Instagram: @stnicholas leeds

**Sports Update – Football:** Unfortunately, our football match earlier this week had to be cancelled because of the condition of the pitch following heavy rainfall. We know this is disappointing for the team, but pupil safety must always come first. We are hopeful that the weather will improve so that more fixtures can go ahead, including a match against St Augustine's this week and Whitkirk next week.

**Year 6 – Preparation for Confirmation:** Nineteen of our Year 6 pupils have been preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation is one of the Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Church, when young people affirm for themselves the promises made at Baptism and receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit to strengthen them in their faith. We will be honoured to welcome the Bishop next **Thursday 12 February at 7:00pm** for the Confirmation Mass. Please keep these pupils and their families in your prayers as they take this important step in their faith journey.

**A Day of Love – Thursday 12th February:** Thursday 12th is a day dedicated to love, which links beautifully to our school mission to "Love one another as I have loved you." **Reception parents** are warmly invited to join their children in the hall for a **Valentine's craft morning**. It is always a pleasure to see you there – and we are never quite sure who enjoys the crafts more, the children or the adults! Later that day **at 2:30pm, Miss Chatt's Year 4 class will lead our assembly** on the theme of Valentine and Christian love. Parents are very welcome to join us for this special celebration.

**Number Day – Friday:** This Friday is Number Day. Please see the separate letter previously sent out for details about dressing up and what children can wear. Number Day is a fun way to bring maths to life and to raise the profile of numeracy across the school. We love enriching our curriculum with themed days like this, helping children to see that maths is all around them and can be enjoyable and creative.

**Youth Summit – School Council:** Some of our School Council representatives will be attending the annual Youth Summit at the Civic Hall. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to learn about how decisions are made in our area, ask questions of local leaders and get a glimpse of how democracy and politics work in our city. We are very proud of the thoughtful way our pupils represent the school and give a voice to their peers.

**Year 4 Skipping Competition** Year 4 will be in action on Monday 9th February at Corpus Christi, taking part in the skipping competition. Skipping is a great way to keep fit, build stamina and develop coordination – and it is lots of fun too. We wish all our Year 4 skippers the very best of luck.

### **Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday in the Holidays**

This year, both **Shrove Tuesday** (Pancake Day) and **Ash Wednesday** fall in the half-term break. Shrove Tuesday is traditionally a day to use up rich foods before the start of Lent and a time to reflect on what we might give up or take on to grow closer to God. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in preparation for Easter. Even though these special days are in the holidays, we encourage families to mark them at home, perhaps by attending Mass, sharing pancakes together and talking with your child about simple Lenten promises.

### **Half-Term Dates**

It has come around very quickly, but a reminder that **school closes at 3:30pm on Friday 13th February** for the half-term holiday. We **reopen to children on Tuesday 24th February**. We wish all our families a safe and restful break and we hope the rain eases off so that we can all enjoy a little winter sunshine.

With every good wish,

Mrs Burns  
Headteacher