

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

'Love one another as I have loved you'



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Virtue to Live By: Courage

Head Teacher Newsletter 16 1 June 2026

☒ Sunday Gospel Reflection ☒

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." This beautiful and profound verse from Sunday's Gospel reminds us of the extraordinary depth of God's love for each and every one of us. As we gather our school community together at the start of this final half term, we are called to reflect on what it means to live in the light of that love — with generosity, hope, and care for one another. It is a message that runs through everything we do here at St Nicholas, and one we carry with us through every season of the school year.

John 3:16-18

Welcome Back — We Hope You Had a Wonderful Half Term!

We hope the half-term break brought rest, and plenty of sunshine! The glorious weather we enjoyed was a real treat, and we hope families were able to make the most of it — It is always lovely to see the children returning to school refreshed, full of stories, and ready to learn. Whatever you got up to, we hope it was a well-deserved break for everyone.

The Final Half Term — Time Really Does Fly!

It is hard to believe that this is already the final half term of the school year. The weeks have truly flown by, and what a year it has been! While it may be tempting to start winding down, there is still an enormous amount to look forward to and plenty to fit in before we reach the summer holidays. From sacraments and sports days to careers weeks and cycling sessions, this half term is packed with wonderful experiences for our children. Please do keep a close eye on the key dates below and make sure these are in your diary — we would hate for anyone to miss out!

Year 3 — A Fabulous Day at Mission Out!

Before the half-term break, our wonderful Year 3 children had an absolutely fabulous day at Mission Out! This exciting outdoor education experience gave our children the opportunity to step beyond the classroom and explore their environment. By all accounts, it was a truly memorable day —

Date	Event
Tuesday 2nd June	Mindmate Transition Session (Year 6 parents invited) 9am-9:45am
Thursday 4th June	Pro Ride - Key Stage 1
Friday 5th June	Pro Ride - Years 3 & 4
Sunday 7th June	First Holy Communion - St Nicholas Church, 11am
w/c 8th June	National Multiplication Tables Check (Year 4) Phonics Screening
Wednesday 10th June	Panathlon (small group KS2)
11th June	New Reception Parents 2026 Welcome Week
Tuesday 16th June	Sports Day (postponed date)
17th June	Year 6 Railway trip
Monday 22nd June	Careers Week Begins
Friday 26th June	Buddy Assembly
7th & 8th July	Y5/6 Production
Tuesday 14th July	Leaver's Mass
Wednesday 15th July	Leavers Assembly & Party
Friday 17th July	Last Day of Term close @ 1:15pm

curiosity and their teamwork skills in a vibrant and engaging environment. By all accounts, it was a truly memorable day — the children came back buzzing with enthusiasm and full

of stories to share. A huge well done to Year 3 and their teachers for making the most of this special opportunity. These kinds of real-world, hands-on experiences are so valuable in bringing learning to life, and we are delighted that our children were able to take part.

Year 4 — First Holy Communion

This Sunday marks one of the most significant and joyful days in the lives of our Year 4 children, as they receive their First Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church at 11am. Our children have worked so hard in preparing for this special sacrament, and it has been a privilege to watch them grow in faith, understanding, and readiness over recent weeks and months.

First Holy Communion is one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church and represents a deeply meaningful milestone in a child's spiritual journey. It is the first time a baptised Catholic receives the Eucharist — the body and blood of Christ — and marks a profound moment of unity with God and the wider Church community. It is a day filled with grace, celebration, and love.

We wish each of our Year 4 children and their families a truly beautiful and memorable Sunday. This is a moment to treasure, and we have no doubt it will be one they carry in their hearts for the rest of their lives. Our school community will be holding you all in prayer.

Year 6 — Preparing for the Big Move!

It is hard to believe that our Year 6 children are approaching the end of their primary school journey. This final half term is a busy and exciting one for them, as they begin to look ahead to the next chapter at high school. We are fully committed to making this transition as smooth, positive, and confidence-building as possible.

Tomorrow, we are delighted to welcome parents of Year 6 children to a transition session led by Mindmate. Mindmate do wonderful work supporting the emotional wellbeing and mental health of young people, and this session will provide both children and families with practical tools, strategies, and reassurance as they prepare for the change ahead. We really do encourage all Year 6 parents to attend if they are able — it promises to be a genuinely valuable morning.

Alongside this, our Year 6 children will also be taking part in a range of high school visits and transition activities over the coming weeks, helping them to get familiar with their new environments, meet new teachers, and begin building friendships before September. We are proud of every single one of them and cannot wait to see them flourish in the next stage of their education.

Year 4 — National Multiplication Tables Check

Over the next couple of weeks, our Year 4 children will be taking part in the National Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) — a government assessment taken by all Year 4 pupils across England. The check involves children answering 25 multiplication questions on a computer, with a short time limit for each answer. It is designed to assess how well children know their times tables up to 12 x 12.

Please do not worry — the MTC is not a formal exam, and it is a supportive and low-pressure experience for children. However, knowing times tables fluently is genuinely one of the most important foundations for future maths learning. Rapid recall of multiplication facts helps children access everything from long division and fractions to algebra and problem-solving with far greater confidence and ease. If you would like to support your child at home in the run-up to the check, practising on Times Tables Rockstars or similar apps for just a few minutes each day can make a real difference. We are very proud of how hard our Year 4 children have worked this year!

Year 1 — National Phonics Screening Check

Year 1 children will soon be taking part in the National Phonics Screening Check — a short, national assessment that takes place every summer. The check is a simple and friendly one-to-one activity where children read 40 words aloud to their teacher, including a mix of real words and specially created 'pseudo-words' (nonsense words designed to test phonics knowledge rather than memory). It typically takes around 5 to 10 minutes and is conducted in a calm and supportive way.

Phonics — the ability to decode letters and sounds — is the absolute bedrock of reading. Children who are confident with phonics are better placed to become fluent, enthusiastic readers, and the benefits of reading for pleasure are truly lifelong: from vocabulary and comprehension to imagination, empathy, and academic success across every subject. If you are reading regularly with your child at home, even just for 10 minutes a day, you are making a wonderful and lasting difference. Thank you!

Cycling in School — Pro Ride Sessions

We are thrilled to welcome Pro Ride into school this week! Pro Ride will be working with our Key Stage 1 children on Thursday, and with Years 3 and 4 on Friday, delivering expert cycling sessions that are as fun as they are skill-building.

Learning to ride a bike is one of those wonderful life skills that, once mastered, opens up a world of independence, outdoor adventure, and healthy activity. Pro Ride's qualified instructors bring enthusiasm and expertise in equal measure, and we

know the children absolutely love these sessions. Whether your child is a confident cyclist or still building their confidence, there will be something brilliant in store for everyone.

You should already have received information about these sessions, including any specific requirements or kit needed. If you have any questions or have not yet received the details, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office and we will be happy to help.

Careers Week — Beginning 22nd June

We are so excited to announce that our Careers Week is returning, beginning on Monday 22nd June! Further details will be sent out to families very soon, so watch this space. Those who were with us the last time we ran a Careers Week will know just how exciting, inspiring, and genuinely eye-opening it was for our children — with visitors from a huge range of professions sharing their stories, passions, and journeys in a way that really captured imaginations and sparked ambition.

As a wonderful lead-up to Careers Week, some of our Year 6 children will be visiting the National Science Museum for a special careers and skills visit. This is a fantastic opportunity to explore the world of science, technology, and innovation — and to see first-hand just how many exciting paths are available to them as they grow. We cannot wait to hear all about it!

Welcoming Our New Reception Families 2026

Next week, we will be opening our doors to our new Reception families joining us in September 2026, as we begin their transition process into school life at St Nicholas. This is always one of our absolute favourite times of year — welcoming new children and their families into our warm and caring community is a privilege we never take for granted.

These early transition sessions are so important in helping little ones feel safe, excited, and ready for their first big adventure in school. We look forward to getting to know each new family and to beginning what we hope will be many happy years together. A very warm welcome to all our new families — we are delighted you are joining us!

Sports Day — Fingers Crossed for Sunshine!

We are keeping everything firmly crossed for a beautiful sunny day as we look ahead to our postponed Sports Day, currently planned for Tuesday 16th June! After the earlier date was not possible, we are very much looking forward to bringing the whole school community together for a fantastic day of fun, friendly competition, and school spirit.

A new Google Form will be sent out to all parents shortly to reflect this change of date — please do look out for it and respond as soon as you can so we can plan the day as well as possible. We truly hope the sun will shine for us and that it will be a brilliant occasion for children and families alike.

Baby News!

And finally, we received the wonderful news that Mrs Churlish has had a beautiful bay girl, Billie Etta. We wish her and her family a heartfelt congratulations and we cannot wait to meet her.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. It is a joy to share this journey with you.



With warmest wishes,

Mrs Burns

Head Teacher