

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

'Love one another as I have loved you'



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Newsletter 3

Monday 28 September 2026

OUR VIRTUE FOR THE TERM: Thankfulness

Like the first son who changed his mind and went to the vineyard, it's never too late to put things right. A simple "I'm sorry, can we start again?" can make all the difference and thankful for what we have.

Dear Parents and Carers

This Sunday, the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus tells the story of a father who asks his two sons to go and work in his vineyard. The first son says "No, I won't," but later thinks better of it and goes. The second son says "Yes, of course," but never turns up. Jesus asks which one did what his father wanted – and the answer is clear. It is not our words but our actions that show what is truly in our hearts, and it is never too late to change our minds and choose to do the right thing.

This is a message we see lived out every day in school. We see it when a child who found something hard yesterday decides to try again today, when someone says sorry and makes things right, and when our children quietly help a friend without being asked. As you will read below, it has been a busy few weeks full of faith in action – from our Year 6 buddies caring for our youngest children to our Mini Vinnies serving at the Macmillan Coffee Morning. Thank you, as always, for the part you play in helping our children to be people whose "yes" really means yes.

Key Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event
Tuesday 29th September	Guide Dogs visit – whole-school assembly, followed by a workshop with Year 5
Wednesday 30th September	Year 6 depart for their residential at PGL Newby Wiske
Thursday 1st October	Staff Mass with local Catholic schools at St Patrick's (evening)
Thursday 1st October onwards	Voluntary rosary led by our Chaplaincy children throughout October
1st – 7th October	"One Million Children Praying the Rosary" – we join Pope Leo and children worldwide in praying for peace
Tuesday 6th October	Individual school photographs (sibling photographs also available)
Wednesday 7th October	Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary
Thursday 8th October	Harvest assembly – more information to follow
Now until 15th January 2027	Reception September 2027 – tours available; please contact the school office

Looking After Our Mental Health

Just as we care for our bodies, it is so important that we care for our minds. Last week, the whole school took part in MindMate assemblies, which helped our children to understand that everyone has feelings – happy, sad, worried, angry and everything in between – and that all of these feelings are normal. The children talked about ways to help themselves feel calm and, most importantly, about who they can talk to when things feel difficult.

Good mental health helps children to learn, make friends and grow in confidence. You can support this at home by making time to chat, listening without rushing to fix things, and noticing changes in mood, sleep or appetite. The MindMate website (www.mindmate.org.uk) has a dedicated area for parents and carers with helpful advice and local support. If you ever have concerns about your child's wellbeing, please speak to your child's class teacher – we are always here to help.

Reception Craft Mornings

It was wonderful to see so many of our new Reception parents and carers joining their children for our craft mornings. The classrooms were full of glue, glitter, laughter and proud faces – and we are honestly not sure who enjoyed the activities more, the children or the parents! Strong links between home and school make such a difference to how happily and quickly children settle, and to how well they learn. Thank you for giving up your time; we look forward to welcoming you into school again soon.

Parent Information Evenings

Thank you to everyone who came along to our parent information evenings last week – it was a fantastic turnout. We hope you found them interesting and informative. These evenings are a great opportunity to ask questions and to find out in more detail how English and maths are taught in your child's year group, which in turn helps you to support your child's learning at home. For anyone who was unable to attend, the presentations will be added to the school website shortly.

Our New School Website

Speaking of the website... our brand-new school website has now launched! It took a little longer than we expected, but we hope you agree that it was worth the wait. We are constantly updating and adding to it at the moment, so please take a look and check back regularly for news, class pages, letters and key information.

Year 6 Buddies

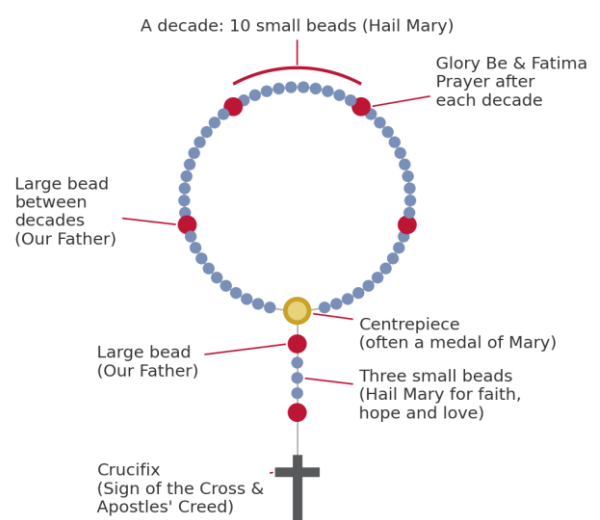
Being a buddy is one of the most eagerly anticipated jobs in school, and our Year 6 children have made a wonderful start. It was lovely to hear their welcome assembly last week, where they spoke so thoughtfully about what being a buddy means to them. This important role helps our Reception children to settle into school life, giving them a familiar, friendly face at lunchtime, on the playground and at special events. It also allows our oldest children to show leadership, kindness and responsibility. In the summer term, it will be the Reception children's turn to stand up and tell us all about their buddies – we can't wait!

October: The Month of the Holy Rosary

October is traditionally dedicated to Our Lady and to the Holy Rosary, and our Chaplaincy children will be leading a voluntary rosary throughout the month. All children are warmly welcome to join in.

The rosary is a prayer that helps us think about the life of Jesus through the eyes of His mother, Mary. We begin at the crucifix with the Sign of the Cross and the Apostles' Creed, then pray an Our Father on each large bead and a Hail Mary on each small bead. The main loop is made up of five "decades" of ten Hail Marys, each finishing with the Glory Be.

While praying each decade, we reflect on a "mystery" – a special moment in the lives of Jesus and Mary. There are four sets: the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries. It is a lovely prayer to share at home, even just one decade together.



The parts of the rosary

Praying for peace with Pope Leo

This year, we will be joining Pope Leo XIV and children around the world in the "One Million Children Praying the Rosary" campaign, organised by the charity Aid to the Church in Need. On Thursday 1st October, the Holy Father will pray the rosary for peace with hundreds of children from schools and parishes in Rome in the Vatican Gardens. For the first time, the campaign runs for a whole week, from 1st to 7th October, ending on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Children in countries affected by war, poverty and hardship will be praying too, and it is very special for our children to know that their prayers are joined with theirs. The campaign is inspired by the words of St Padre Pio: "When a million children pray the rosary, the world will change."

Macmillan Coffee Morning

One of our favourite events of the autumn term is our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning, and once again you did not disappoint! Thank you so much for your amazing donations of cakes and bakes, and to everyone from school and the Parish who joined us. Macmillan Cancer Support helps so many people and families at an incredibly difficult time, and you are always so generous in supporting such a worthwhile cause. A special thank you to our Mini Vinnies, who helped to serve and welcome our visitors – a wonderful example of Catholic Social Teaching in action, caring for others and working for the common good. The total amount raised was £268.10.

Year 6 Residential – PGL Newby Wiske

Our Year 6 children set off on Wednesday for their residential at PGL Newby Wiske in North Yorkshire. We hope they have an amazing time taking on the outdoor adventure activities, building their confidence, trying new challenges and making memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you to the staff giving up their time to go with them.

Visit from Guide Dogs

On Tuesday we are looking forward to a visit from Guide Dogs, who will lead a whole-school assembly before working with our Year 5 children. This is a lovely opportunity for the children to learn how guide dogs are trained, how they help people with sight loss to live independently, and how we can all be respectful and considerate when we meet a working dog.

Staff Mass – Celebrating the Year of St Francis

On Thursday evening, our staff will join colleagues from other local Catholic schools to celebrate Mass together at St Patrick's. It is always a wonderful opportunity to come together as a family of Catholic schools and to pray for all of the children in our care. This year's Mass celebrates the Year of St Francis. Pope Leo has declared a special Jubilee Year, running from January 2026 to January 2027, to mark 800 years since the death of St Francis of Assisi on 3rd October 1226. St Francis gave up his wealth to live simply and serve the poor, loved all of God's creation – calling the sun, moon and animals his brothers and sisters – and worked tirelessly for peace. Pope Leo has invited all of us to follow his example by becoming peacemakers. With St Francis' feast day on Sunday 4th October, it is the perfect time to celebrate him.

School Photographs

Individual school photographs will be taken in school on Tuesday 6th October. If your child has brothers or sisters in school, there will also be an opportunity for them to have a photograph taken together. Please make sure your child comes to school in full, smart school uniform – and with their best smile!

Reception Places for September 2027

We are already looking ahead to welcoming our new Reception children for September 2027. If you have a child due to start school, or know neighbours, family or friends who do, please encourage them to contact the school office. We have several dates in the diary for families to look around school, meet staff and ask any questions. The closing date for primary school applications is 15th January 2027.

Harvest Assembly

Our Harvest assembly will take place on Thursday 8th October, when we will give thanks for the gifts of God's creation and think about how we can share them with those in need. More information will follow shortly.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support. Wishing you all a restful weekend and God's blessings.

Kind regards, Mrs Burns

Head Teacher