



Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, thank you to those parents who were able to help out with our working party last Sunday to clear and today the school garden and outdoor areas. It makes a huge difference to how we use our outdoor space and it was lovely to see the children who came along to help so involved. As all of us know, keeping on top of our own gardens can be difficult and with grounds the size of ours and no caretaker or grounds person on site we rely on people giving up their time to help keep the school well maintained. We have a great group of children who also regularly help clear up in the garden during our community jobs time on Friday afternoons.

### **Christmas Fair**

With our Christmas Fair next weekend – 3<sup>rd</sup> December- Friends are also still looking or volunteers to help run stalls, even if its just for 30 minutes across the afternoon. It runs from 1pm-3pm and we hope to see as many of you there as possible!

### **Christmas Dinner**

Christmas Dinner is on ParentPay to book now, which is always a highlight of the year. As always there will be festive crackers as well as Turkey and all the trimmings. This will also be our Christmas Jumper Day (14<sup>th</sup> December) which will make it even more festive! This year we are opening this up to our Nursery children too.

### **Key Dates**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** - Friends of St Nics Christmas Fair

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December** at 9.45am **and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December** at 6pm

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December** Home Clothes for Hamper Donations

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** at 2.30pm - Early Years Christmas Performance

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December** Red Kites Trip to RAL for Christmas Lanterns workshop  
Christmas Dinner **(and Jumper)** Day

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December** School Christmas Church Service\*

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December** St Nics has talent\*

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** 12.00 - End of Term 2

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January** 8:50 Start of Term 3

Please note that events marked \* are in school events and listed for information only

All these dates can be found on our school calendar on our new website, [www.stnicholasceprimary.org](http://www.stnicholasceprimary.org).

## **What's Been Going on Around the School?**

### **Wrens and Kingfishers**

Fraiser from the Kingfishers for trying his best with his learning and Evie-Marie from the Wrens for independently working on her letter formation.

What a wet and windy week it has been. Thank you to those who helped clear the leaves in our garden, it was a big job, and your efforts are much appreciated. The children were happy to get their wet weather gear on and jump in puddles. It has been a good opportunity for them to practice trying to do their own zips up and if they can be encouraged to have a go themselves when getting ready at home it'll help with their independence. During outdoor learning we read *The Gruffalo* and went on a Gruffalo hunt, they love to explore the forest school area and impressed us with their climbing and balancing skills on the ladder and tires. A small group of children were role playing kings and queens, organizing roles and listening to each other's ideas, which was lovely to see.

After reading *Jack and the Beanstalk* the Kingfishers discussed the lifecycle of a bean and were excited to watch a video to learn about what the bean needs for growth. It is fantastic to see how intrigued the children are in the outside world. We will revisit this lesson tomorrow to label the picture of the bean.

The Wrens enjoyed reading *The Princess and the Pea* and used a selection of materials to layer the bed for the princess and see if they could feel the pea. Both the Kingfishers and Wrens participated in a circle time game- Ruler of the day. Each child was chosen to be the king or queen and enforce a new rule. The most popular rule was to eat sweets/ ice cream/ chocolate for every meal and the most inventive rule was that each person must count to 100 before speaking- testing this out was an interesting challenge and as I'm sure you can imagine, didn't last very long!

The Wrens have been focusing on number four and the Kingfishers on number 9, they are showing great improvements in their problem-solving skills and looking to be challenged during maths inputs. The use of number songs to learn about adding and taking away is very popular. All children have been using magnetic letters and white boards during learning through play to practice their letter recognition and constructing simple words, we are so pleased with the progress that they are making.

We are all working hard to learn and remember the words/songs to our nativity, and we are excited to perform for the parents in the Burrow on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The Christmas dinner on the 14<sup>th</sup> will be available for both the Kingfishers and the Wrens who stay for lunch on a Wednesday, if you choose to book a meal for your child, this option will be available on ParentPay for Wrens for this meal only.

Next week we will be kicking off the Christmas festivities, using the book 'The Elves and the Shoe Makes' as our key text. I am going to transform the roleplay area into 'Santa's workshop' and ask if you have any old boxes or wrapping paper, please could you donate them to add to the children's role play.

Thank you.

Ms Dyet and the Early Years Team

### **Robins**

This week, in English, Robin Class have been working on creating a setting description as Paddington Bear experiences it in the *Paddington Goes Underground* episode of the

iconic 1970s tv series (available to view on You tube - it was one of my favourites as a child of the 1970s). They created plans and then worked from these to create some vivid descriptions, which we will continue next week.

In design and technology, we evaluated the raspberry chocolate brownies, which we made and tasted previously and thought about what had worked well, what we thought the Gruffalo would like about them and also what and how we could improve upon them. In general, the children thought the Gruffalo would love them but some were worried about the sourness of the raspberries, so they thought of various solutions for this.

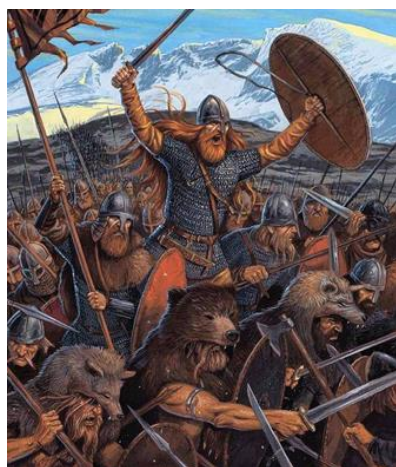
In maths, the children have continued to work on using their addition skills and Year 1 have also explored partitioning five objects in different ways and consider how to record this.

Not surprisingly, we have spent quite a lot of time working on our nativity play, which is coming along well. Mrs Birch and Mrs Sulley have been sorting all the costumes. Please don't forget that all children need a named plastic bag, so we can store each costume separately.

Ms Winter and Ms Miller

### Owls

This week in Owls we had a fantastic time with outdoor learning. It was a shame that the wind was so strong, but we did still go out to scavenge lots of natural things to create our Viking weapons. We discussed a variety of Viking weapons and their uses. Including the length of different weapons and how strategic they were about hiding them. The kids came in and began to create their weapons and we still have lots we want to do with them!



In Art we have been focusing on the skill of sketching and how even though we can feel time pressure, this is about precision and being proud of our work. We looked at typical Viking scenes in war with fine details on the ships and soldiers. At first the children became completely overwhelmed with the challenge but what they have produced is truly incredible. They have taken their time and were so encouraging towards each other about their drawings.

Ms Batty and Mrs Palmer

### Red Kites

We have slowly been watching more of Howl's Moving Castle to support us in writing detailed character sketches. Having compared the presentation of the characters in the book and film at the end of last week, we have been thinking about how to create a vivid picture of the characters in a reader's mind, using a description of The Frostman as a model. Reading over the first drafts on Thursday evening it was clear to see that Calcifer, the fire demon, has particularly caught their imaginations. I look forward to reading the revised descriptions over the weekend following a lesson on Friday morning to look at how we can improve our word choices to be more precise (and a little less waffly)!

In Maths, we have taken a break from number and calculation to spend a week looking at geometry. While Year Five have been exploring the nets of different 3D shapes and revisiting their knowledge of the properties of both 2D and 3D shapes, Year Six have been looking at mathematical movement. Extending the coordinate grid beyond the first quadrant, Year Six have learned that by using translation and reflection shapes can be moved on a grid. We have spent time thinking about the difference between translation and transformation, ensuring that our shapes remain congruent. As well as considering the difference between rotation and reflection. Next week, both year groups will start their final unit of this term; Year 5 will be looking at mental and written methods for the addition and subtraction of decimal numbers, while Year 6 revisit addition and subtraction of fractions before learning how to multiply and divide them.

Finally, we have spent time this week thinking about what makes a good leader and comparing this to the information historians have about the Shang Kings in order to decide whether we think the modern and ancient worlds agree on what makes good leaders. This is the start of the second part of our study of the Shang Dynasty, in which we are going to consider how reliable the written and archaeological sources of information about the period are. The children will finish the unit by presenting their learning in a written format of their choice in order to teach other members of the school about the Shang Dynasty in an interesting way.

Mrs Mallinson and Mrs Richards

### **High Fives**

#### **Wrens and Kingfishers**

Fraiser from the Kingfishers for trying his best with his learning and Evie-Marie from the Wrens for independently working on her letter formation.

#### **Robins**

High fives this week for Hadley for working so hard in science and Osiris for her great effort at writing this week.

#### **Owls**

.Phoebe and Laila for a massively positive attitude towards everything, both independently and towards others

#### **Red Kites**

Amy for having a positive attitude towards her maths learning this week.  
Zsombor for setting high expectations for himself across the curriculum.

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Mrs Richards and the St Nics team