



Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the last week we have been without both Mrs Riggs and Ms Hooper in the office which has impacted on how well we can respond to questions or queries you may have, particularly with bookings for lunches, Breakfast and Fun Club. Mrs Hitchings is providing temporary cover at present and as she is becoming more familiar with our school systems, I know this will make life easier for everyone. She has been made to feel very welcome and the central team at the Trust are also supporting us at this time.

This weekend we have our Christmas Fair, which Friends of St Nics have been working hard on over the last few months to organise. Please do come along and support from 1-4pm on Saturday. This year Mrs Mallinson and myself will also be running 'The Wrapping Room – No Parents Allowed'. This 'child only' room will give your children the opportunity to go shopping without you for something special for you under our supervision and leave with a beautifully wrapped gift complete with gift tag. Everything in our room will cost £2 or less. Other stalls and activities will be available across the school, and Santa will also be paying us a visit.

#### Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner is still 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.

#### Parking – Polite Reminder

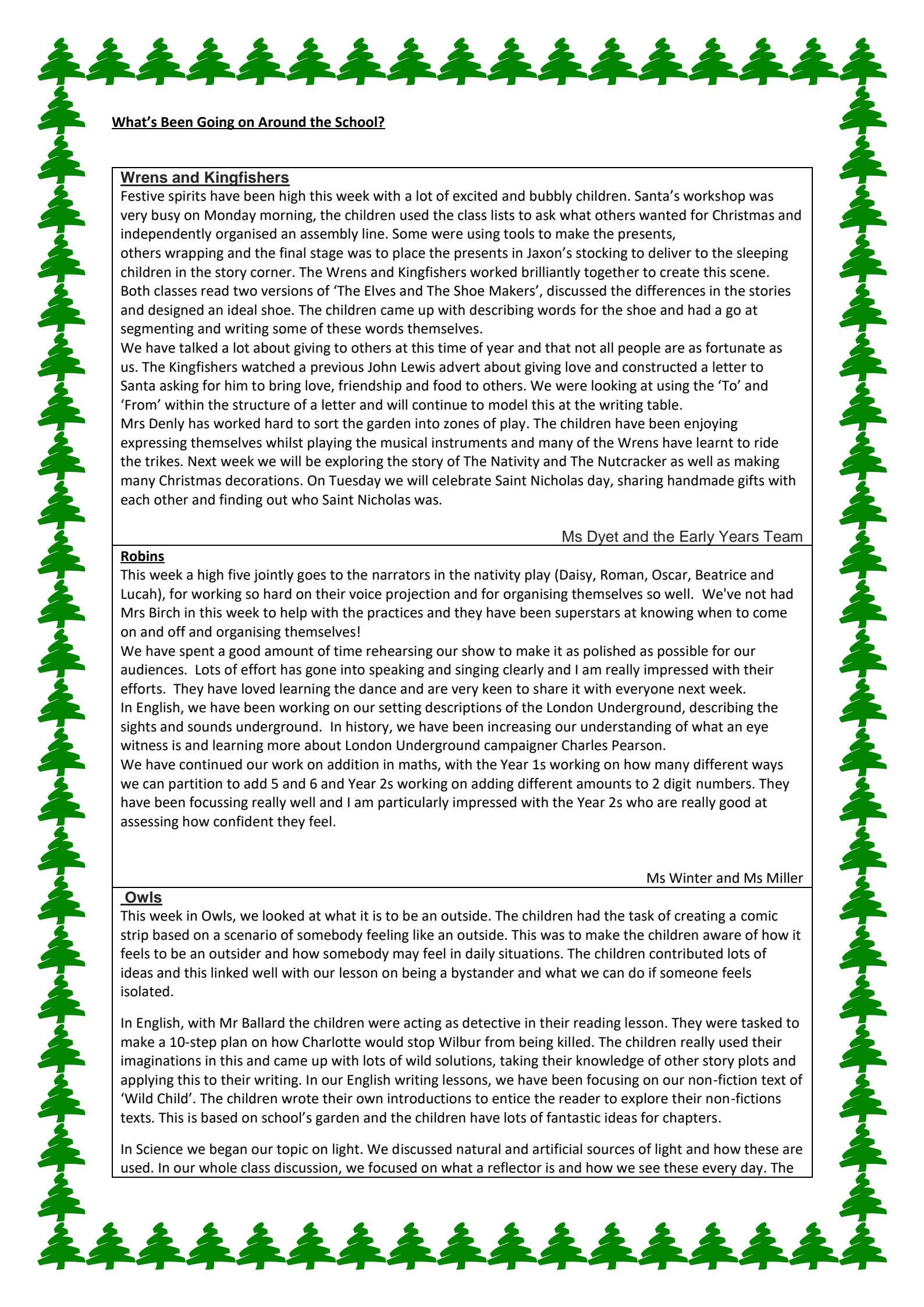
Following on from my reminder on Clasdojo about not parking on Sarajac Avenue when driving to school, thank you to those of you who have made the effort to use the Parish Council carpark. It is appreciated by residents.

#### 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.stnicholasprimary.org](http://www.stnicholasprimary.org).



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

### Wrens and Kingfishers

Festive spirits have been high this week with a lot of excited and bubbly children. Santa's workshop was very busy on Monday morning, the children used the class lists to ask what others wanted for Christmas and independently organised an assembly line. Some were using tools to make the presents, others wrapping and the final stage was to place the presents in Jaxon's stocking to deliver to the sleeping children in the story corner. The Wrens and Kingfishers worked brilliantly together to create this scene. Both classes read two versions of 'The Elves and The Shoe Makers', discussed the differences in the stories and designed an ideal shoe. The children came up with describing words for the shoe and had a go at segmenting and writing some of these words themselves.

We have talked a lot about giving to others at this time of year and that not all people are as fortunate as us. The Kingfishers watched a previous John Lewis advert about giving love and constructed a letter to Santa asking for him to bring love, friendship and food to others. We were looking at using the 'To' and 'From' within the structure of a letter and will continue to model this at the writing table.

Mrs Denly has worked hard to sort the garden into zones of play. The children have been enjoying expressing themselves whilst playing the musical instruments and many of the Wrens have learnt to ride the trikes. Next week we will be exploring the story of The Nativity and The Nutcracker as well as making many Christmas decorations. On Tuesday we will celebrate Saint Nicholas day, sharing handmade gifts with each other and finding out who Saint Nicholas was.

Ms Dyet and the Early Years Team

### Robins

This week a high five jointly goes to the narrators in the nativity play (Daisy, Roman, Oscar, Beatrice and Lucah), for working so hard on their voice projection and for organising themselves so well. We've not had Mrs Birch in this week to help with the practices and they have been superstars at knowing when to come on and off and organising themselves!

We have spent a good amount of time rehearsing our show to make it as polished as possible for our audiences. Lots of effort has gone into speaking and singing clearly and I am really impressed with their efforts. They have loved learning the dance and are very keen to share it with everyone next week.

In English, we have been working on our setting descriptions of the London Underground, describing the sights and sounds underground. In history, we have been increasing our understanding of what an eye witness is and learning more about London Underground campaigner Charles Pearson.

We have continued our work on addition in maths, with the Year 1s working on how many different ways we can partition to add 5 and 6 and Year 2s working on adding different amounts to 2 digit numbers. They have been focussing really well and I am particularly impressed with the Year 2s who are really good at assessing how confident they feel.


Ms Winter and Ms Miller

### Owls

This week in Owls, we looked at what it is to be an outside. The children had the task of creating a comic strip based on a scenario of somebody feeling like an outside. This was to make the children aware of how it feels to be an outsider and how somebody may feel in daily situations. The children contributed lots of ideas and this linked well with our lesson on being a bystander and what we can do if someone feels isolated.

In English, with Mr Ballard the children were acting as detective in their reading lesson. They were tasked to make a 10-step plan on how Charlotte would stop Wilbur from being killed. The children really used their imaginations in this and came up with lots of wild solutions, taking their knowledge of other story plots and applying this to their writing. In our English writing lessons, we have been focusing on our non-fiction text of 'Wild Child'. The children wrote their own introductions to entice the reader to explore their non-fiction texts. This is based on school's garden and the children have lots of fantastic ideas for chapters.

In Science we began our topic on light. We discussed natural and artificial sources of light and how these are used. In our whole class discussion, we focused on what a reflector is and how we see these every day. The



class had lots of knowledge on the changing of the seasons and how the sun affects the earth with temperature. Looking at how the sun lights up the moon and how it rotates. Owl class began to make the connections with our last topic and how light can be described as electromagnetic radiation.

Ms Batty and Mrs Palmer

### Red Kites

On Wednesday afternoon we began our research into the tomb of Lady Fu Hao. One of King Wu Ding's 64 wives, she was a high priestess and military leader. The discovery of her tomb in the 1970s has been likened to the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb as it was one which had lain undisturbed for thousands of years.

Using a range of sources, the children have been gathering information to present their learning in way which they feel will engage their reader. So far, we have brightly coloured double page spreads, power points, lift-the-flap pages, interactive diagrams and cutaway drawings. We will be sure to share photographs when they are complete.

We have also been working hard on our use of cohesive devices in English. We have talked about how texts which flow are easier to read and more engaging too. Using a scene from the film and book where Howl despairs over accidentally changing the colour of his hair, we have practiced not only what we have learned about cohesive texts, but also how we can use synonyms to accentuate a particular feature. In this case the grimness of the gloom Howl produces.

Year 5 have completed a maths test this week to help us all to see which elements of their learning they have secured so far this year. They all set about this with a very positive attitude. We have also begun to use a web-based app called LBQ (learning by questions) to revisit and secure our learning.

Mrs Mallinson and Mrs Richards

### High Fives

#### Wrens and Kingfishers

Lucca for showing kindness and compassion towards others. He was concerned for a friend when they were sad and cheered them up.

Louis for his lovely manners, always saying please and thank you.

#### Robins

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#### Owls

Henley for being the best he can be and being such a clear role model to others.

Arthur for contributing so much in Science and sharing his knowledge.

#### Red Kites

Tyler for his thoughtful and creative history work

Riley for making a determined effort to manage his distractions

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Mrs Richards and the St Nics team