



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas always feels it has properly started once we have watched the KS1 Nativity and the Wiggly Nativity has absolutely been the highlight of this week for me. To see how confidently all the children performed and sung was testimony to all the hard work staff have put in and how much all of them want to be the best they can be for themselves and others. There was some brilliant comic timing with the donkey and I loved the camels bobbing up and down with the kings on board. Well done Robins! Next week I am looking forward to seeing Kingfishers and Wrens share their Christmas story with us too.

#### **Staffing Update**

Mrs Couling has been working in Nursery this term and has brought a range of experience to our Early Years team. Unfortunately, she was only able to commit to providing short-term cover while we managed to appoint someone more permanent and I am very pleased to let you know that Mrs Betts, a very experienced Nursery teacher will be joining us on secondment from Millbrook Primary until the end of this academic year. Mrs Betts came in yesterday to meet the children and staff, and has worked alongside Ms Dyet planning for next term. She is very much looking forward to getting to know all Nursery parents and their children. If you have any questions in the meantime please contact me directly.

#### **Christmas Thanks**

At this time of year appreciating things which people selflessly do for others is more important than ever. Over the last few weeks I have been very much impressed with Ella and Eleanor in Red Kites' work in our school garden as they have emptied the beds and got everything ready for winter. This commitment and kindness for all of us means that come spring we will be ready to sow our seeds again for another year, however it's the hard work now which will make this possible. We also have many other people within our school community who give up their time to help others. Parents who have volunteered to be readers, Open the Book who bring the word of the lord to life through creative re-enactments, and those parents and members of staff who give up their own time to help at school events are all examples we see every day at St Nics and we are very thankful for you all.

#### **St Nics has Talent**

We now have a running order for Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December for our first, and hopefully not the last, St Nics has talent. All the acts have been confirmed yesterday directly with the children and we will run

the event on Monday afternoon with a break in the middle. As this is the first time we have done this, we have made the decision to restrict the audience to just school children however I've no doubt they will all come home having been thoroughly inspired by the talent we have here. If your child needs any instruments or costumes, please drop off on Monday morning.

### **What's been going on around the School this week**

#### **Kingfishers and Wrens**

This week we have focused on the story of Christmas. We noticed that whilst learning the words and songs for our nativity, the children didn't know who a lot of the characters were, such as the shepherds. We enjoyed reading the story, acting it out and even watching the older children perform their nativity (which all the Kingfishers thought was brilliant!). I observed a group of boys using small world nativity characters to dance to their singing of George Ezra, a modern take of the nativity. Just a reminder that our short performance is on Tuesday at 2:30 in the Burrows.

Saint Nicholas day sparked many interesting conversations after sharing simple facts about who he was and why we celebrate him. They made little gifts for each other to spread the kindness that we had learnt about.

The Burrows have gone glitter mad this week, adding it to the playdough, craft and the children seem to be covered in it. There have also been some fantastic examples of the children's mark making and writing. The Wrens have been asking others what they would like to Christmas and marking the responses on paper and the Kingfishers have put thought into their writing, considering what the initial sound of the word is and segmenting the word. As the last week approaches before Christmas, we will be recapping the letters and numbers that we have learnt so far (both the Wrens and Kingfishers).

The children have been noticing the changes in the weather and one boy came in excited to tell his friends that Jack Frost has been, which was very sweet and has inspired us to add this story for next week's key text and explore the winter weather. With the temperature dropping so much, please may all children have warm coats, hats etc. as they are still keen to get out.

Ms Dyet

#### **Robins**

This week, Robin Class have been finalising preparations for Wiggly Nativity and have put on three brilliant performances. Each and every child has joined in and tried so hard and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow across the term. Well done Robin Class!

Alongside this, the children have been learning about the illustrator Carol Barker and her fabulously coloured London Underground posters, aimed at encouraging families to visit London and use the Underground. They really enjoyed using oil pastels to experiments

with the shapes and colours she used and next week will be exploring using wax resist techniques to explore her work further.

In English and geography, we have been looking at a map of London, learning about some London Landmarks and thinking about which ones we would like to visit if we went to London. The most popular ones were the London Eye (although there was a bit of concern about how high it would feel at the top), the Tower of London, Tower Bridge and the Natural History museum (there were lots of children who wanted to see the dinosaur skeletons). The children were also keen to see the Paddington statue on Platform 1 at Paddington Station.



In maths, we have continued to work on their addition skills and Year 2 have been working really hard to get to a place of confidence adding two digit numbers together. We will continue this next week.

Ms Winter and Ms Miller

### Owls

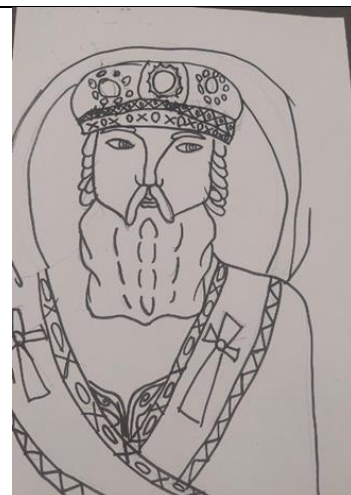
This week in Owls we celebrating St Nicholas day! The children created fact files on St Nicholas and thought about how kind and caring he was. We looked at lots of stories centered around St Nicholas and the children were amazed at how much they learnt! We then focused on a video by an artist who did an incredibly detailed sketch on St Nicholas. As a class we drew together, focusing on the tiny details of a portrait.

This week we used the chrome books to focus on computer programming. The children had to independently pick their own backgrounds and characters. Once they had done this using the programme 'Purple Mash', they were given the task of editing these by adding audio to their characters. This



was a very new experience for them and they were resilient in their approach, having to practice several times to gain confidence.

We have had lots of Owls helping in the garden at lunchtimes, clearing the garden and tidying up. This has been amazing as it will allow for everyone to enjoy the garden and grow new produce in the upcoming year. Owls also loved watching the nativity and were discussing how amazing it was – Well done Robins!



### Red Kites

This week we have been working on our DT projects- prototype Christmas toys which move using pneumatics. I have been amazed by the variety of designs that groups have come up with. Checking against the design criteria, they are working hard on making sure

that their designs have a high-quality finish, as well as checking that they operate smoothly.

In English, we have spent time planning a fantasy story, either using a video we have watched or our own ideas. There are a range stories on the horizon, including lots involving Pokémon!

Year 6 have reached the end of their unit on the Order of Operations, and have all worked really hard to understand how each element of a mixed calculation is handled. Their next step is to look at some multi-step problems and write the calculations which match. Year 5 have a few more steps in their addition and subtraction unit left, but they have managed the challenge of adding decimal numbers with different numbers of decimals well. Once we have looked at how to subtract mixed decimals, they will also be applying their understanding to multi-step problems.

Finally, we have had fun playing the categories game just before lunch so I am planning to spend my weekend trying to work out which challenging categories to include next week. A car beginning with an 'i' left us all rather stumped on Thursday...

Mrs Mallinson and Mrs Richards

### **High 5's**

#### **Wrens and Kingfishers**

Kingfishers-Tony for showing that he is ready to learn on the carpet and Daisy for speaking and singing clearly in the nativity practice.

Wrens- Jaxon for trying his best to form the letters within his name.

#### **Robins**

I'd like to give a high five to Harry W and Mary for joining in so well in the nativity play shows.

#### **Owls**

Louie for focusing hard in reading and writing and being the best, he can be

Isabelle for trying hard this week on being ready to learn at the start of lesson

#### **Red Kites**

Leo and Bonny for great teamwork in PE on Thursday. You did a great job working together.



Finally, as we go into the Christmas period, we are aware that for some families in our communities this will be an especially difficult time. We want everyone in our school community to be able to access the right support they need. Below are some useful contacts should you need them.

**Anxiety UK** (Support for those suffering Anxiety) [support@anxietyuk.org](mailto:support@anxietyuk.org) , 03444775 774

**Bullying UK** (Part of Family Lives) Helpline 0808800222

**National Bullying Helpline** (advice and support for parents and young people) 08452255 787

**Childline** Helpline 0800 1111

**No Panic** (Support for those with panic attacks) Youth Helpline 03306061174

**Young Minds** (Free confidential advice for anyone worried about the emotional and mental wellbeing of a young person or child) Tel: 0808 802 5544 9.30am-4.00pm Mon-Fri

**Samaritans:** Tel: 116 123 (24hrs a day)

### **Safeguarding**

Below are avenues of support should you have an urgent safeguarding concern. These are particularly important to be aware of if you have a safeguarding concern outside the school day.

#### ***WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?***

It is everybody's responsibility to keep children and young people safe. If you're concerned that a child is being abused or neglected you should report it so that the child can be protected.

If you think a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999.

If you have a concern about a child, please call MASH\* on 0345 050 7666.

(Office hours: 8.30am – 5.00pm, Monday to Thursday; 8.30am – 4.00pm, Friday)

Outside office hours: Emergency Duty Team: 0800 833 408

**MASH\*** (The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) is the front door to Children's Social Care for all child protection and immediate safeguarding concerns. If there is an immediate safeguarding concern where a child is deemed at risk or has potentially suffered significant harm, the MASH team should be contacted immediately.

**CEOPS** If you are worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with a child online:

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre>

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Richards and the St Nics Team