

Friday 3rd February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding this week as we had to close classes due to strike action on Wednesday. I appreciate how disruptive this is for everyone and I will always seek to open as much of the school as I am safely able to do so should subsequent strikes go ahead. The next strike day is planned for **2nd March 2023** which is a Thursday, and I will communicate with you in the first week of term the arrangements for that day.

Netball Success

I was incredibly proud of our netball team this week as they played in their first tournament against Stockham and Grove this week. We came second by just 1 point and the way they played as a team means we will definitely be a force to be reckoned with when we take on teams from some of the larger schools in March.



Results

St Nics	Vs	Stockham B	4-0	WIN
Stockham A	Vs	St Nics	1-0	
St Nics	Vs	Grove	7-0	WIN

Parking

Its lovely to have a school in such a beautiful semi-rural location, however this inevitably brings accessibility issues. As we grow as a school this means more people dropping off and picking up, with a single track access to the Parish Council car park, where we would like people to park. Local residents have always been tolerant of this increased traffic, however recently a number have felt frustrated by inconsiderate parking in Sarajac Avenue. On occasions this has been across driveways preventing people from leaving for work themselves. If you are dropping off please can I ask that you consider residents as well as the dangers that parking might also create for pedestrians or other road users. I have also been informed by some parents that often engines are left running in the mornings and after school while parked in the Parish Council car park. Minimising unnecessary emissions is good for our health and the environment and your support with turning off your engines is appreciated.



St. Nicholas C of E Primary School

East Challow, Wantage, Oxon, OX12 9RY

Life in all its fullness John 10:10
Belonging, Compassion and Resilience



House Sports

Next Thursday will be our second House Sports afternoon – a chance for all the houses to play competitively against each other. This term the focus will be on netball, and our House Captains and Sports Leaders will be running this across the afternoon. Unlike the earlier House Sports in term 1, this event will not be open to parents but I will let you know how they all get on in the final newsletter of the term next week.

Children's Mental Health Week 'Let's Connect' 6th-12th February

This year's theme is 'Let's Connect' to encourage children (and adults) to look at how we can make meaningful connections. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. On Friday, we are inviting all children to come to school in whatever clothes they feel most comfortable in as part of our 'Dress to Express' day.

Finally, a reminder that next Wednesday, Mrs Rooke is planning to visit St Nics and I know many of you will be looking forward to meeting her.

What's going on around the school

Wrens

The children have been learning to sound out the letter 'a' and beginning to hold their pencils correctly to then form the letter. We have listened to instrumental sounds, which were then hidden for us to guess the instrument. Outside we listened to environmental sounds.

The water table was a great success and very popular this week, continuing with our Marvelous machines topic we had wet sand, stones, and construction vehicles. The children dug holes, carried stones and built mounds with the vehicles and got very sandy.

We read the story 'Want to Play Trucks' by Ann Stott and Bob Graham about two boys meeting up at the park but one boy liked playing with truck and the other boy liked to playing with doll with a tutu. We talked about both boys and how and what they could do to play together. The children decided that they could find a way to play together when they both compromised and joined their interests together e.g. putting the doll as a driver in the truck and then taking her tutu off to be able to drive the crane.

Mrs Betts and the Early Years Team

Kingfishers

This week has been all about robots! The children showed off their scissor skills whilst cutting parts of a robot and sticking it together, designed their own robots with labels and discussed what the purpose of their robot is. They created some fantastic robot puppets whilst looking at



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the shapes they were using. We read Harry and the Robots and created a list of what materials would be good to create a robot and connect the parts together.

A huge thank you to Benji's dad, for giving up his time to talk to the children about being an electrician/ plumber and showing them his tools. This inspired the children and they are keen to have a go at using tools themselves (1:1 with an adult!!).

For our 'No Outsiders lesson' the children listened to 'My family'. This sparked conversation about who is in our family and what we like to do with those family members. It was interesting to share the different dynamics within a household/ family. They drew and labelled drawings of their families.

The children have been enjoying group games outside such as 'what's the time Mr Wolf' and 'Duck, duck goose'. In PE we followed a 'robot cosmic yoga' and practiced some yoga techniques such as breathing and focusing on different parts of the body moving whilst lying down. The children were brilliant at this and enjoyed listening to calming music to end the lesson.

Next week we are looking at the vehicles of emergency workers. The children have been doing a lot of ambulance and hospital role play and I think they'll really enjoy the activities and lessons planned.

Ms Dyet and the Kingfishers team

Robins

This week, Robin Class have been working on completing and writing up their fantasy island setting descriptions. They also included a description of a creature who lives on the island, describing where to find it and what it looked like. The creatures ranged from humans, to lava people to unicorns!

In maths, Year 1s have continued to understand the place value numbers to 100, looking closely at the 100 square, noticing patterns, whilst the Year 2s have been exploring ways to subtract single digits, using their number knowledge, such as number bonds, doubles, near doubles and adjusting to find the answer.

In geography, we have been comparing life on the Caribbean island of Dominica with life in Great Britain. We noticed how the climate is much warmer all year round, as it is closer to the equator and found it interesting to note that it rains more in the summer than the winter. We looked at school life too and found quite a few similarities, such as uniform and subjects studied. However, we found out it is common in Dominica for children to bring left over dinner to school and that the kitchen staff heat them all up for them, which we thought was quite unusual.

In art, we have continued to work on our giant jellyfish and finally hung it on the ceiling. It might be that it still needs a little work on its tentacles but we were pleased with progress.

Ms Winter and Ms Miller

Owls

Owls have enjoyed learning and testing their knowledge of Volcanoes as part of their Geography topic. They enjoyed sharing their individual knowledge of some of the famous names, such as Mount Etna and Mount Snowden as well as impressing me on how well they remembered the terms used to classify each stage. In maths, Year 3 explored partitioning two numbers containing three digits to support their understanding of addition and Year 4 tested out the bridging method with adding two numbers over 1000. Most children worked hard to go on to the challenge questions. In PE children continued to practice ball skills required in rugby and enjoyed working in a line of four or five to reach the top of the playground whilst passing the ball smoothly between each team member.

Arthur and Bearin have also been fantastic at leading rugby this week by using their own skills and sharing them with others. A great example of being the best you can be for others!

Mrs Richards

Red Kites

We couldn't start a review of this week without saying how proud we all are of the Year 6s and their determination to be the best that they can be in the tests that they have done this week. Each and every one of them has demonstrated their progress since September and should see this as an indication of what they can do when they focus and apply themselves to the task in hand.

Year 5 have also shown compassion to their Year 6 class mates this week, which it would be wrong of us not to acknowledge.

In History, Year 5 learned all about Captain Scott and his ill-fated journey to the South Pole. Following a session reading about the expedition and another writing about it, they all told the story confidently to Year 6 on Thursday morning. The knowledge of Scott's expedition will help us next week when we consider which Antarctic explorer from the early 20th century we think was the most heroic.

Developing our understanding of dichotomous keys, we began to make careful observations and comparisons between different types of penguin this week. We found that by looking carefully, we could group them in many different ways and use this to create a series of questions to identify them. We also learned that an emperor penguin is not much shorter than many members of Red Kites (staff included).

Finally, in PE this week we explored ways to move across, under, around and through different pieces of equipment. Many members of the class challenged themselves to improve their movements so they developed into more of a performance than just a single trick. Next week we will be building on these to create short routines which bring in some dance elements in order to meet the requirements of the Task Master Children's Mental Health Week Challenge!

Mrs Mallinson



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High 5's

Wrens

Ruth Omiladu- for always being kind and caring towards her peers.

Victoria Radu- for good listening and turn taking with her peers

Kingfishers

Carter- For having a fantastic week and being the best for himself and others

Lucca- for creating a fantastic robot and taking care of it well

Robins

Phoebe and Charlotte, who went above and beyond in their wonderful fantasy island descriptions.

Owls

Phoebe and Noah for both having such a positive attitude to their learning both in the class and outside.

Red Kites

All the Year 6's for having such a positive attitude towards their mock SATS and for making such brilliant progress

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Richards and the St Nics team



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