



# 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*



Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week Team St Nics ran their socks off at the Cross Country in Wantage Park. This competition was open to Yr3/4 and Yr5/6 boys and girls and although I couldn't be there myself to see them run, the photos posted by Ms Palmer on Classdojo show how proud all of them were of their performance as I was too. Mr Chadwick hasn't sent the final results yet however I do know that Theo came 1<sup>st</sup> overall in the yr3/4 boys event, who also came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. I know from the staff that accompanied the children, that all of them showed support and encouragement for each other, particularly Emma who stayed back with a teammate who was struggling. Well done all of you – being the best you can be for yourself and for others today.

As a small school, it is always very challenging to get children to competitions and this year I would like to take part in more, but I will need the support of parents to help me get children to them. Below are some of the other competitions available for us to enter as a school, which I am hoping to enter. If your child is involved in it, please consider whether you can offer to help with transport to facilitate this happening. Sport, and in particular competitive sport is an important part of our school curriculum and enrichment opportunities. It teaches important lessons in resilience, learning from mistakes and that ability is not fixed and can always be changed with hard work and dedication. It also helps develop teamwork, valuing the contributions of others and appreciating that you can often learn more by losing than winning.

<b>Basketball</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Charlton Primary School</b>	<b>330-530</b>	5 a side Basketball competition. Main penalty rules that we will follow will be double dribble (bounce ball, stop then bounce again), moving 2 steps without bouncing or passing (ie travelling) Tackling is allowed but it is a non contact sport so any contact would be deemed a foul.
<b>Tag Rugby</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Stockham School</b>	<b>330-530</b>	Year 5/6 mixed. Squads of 10 with 7 on the pitch. Multiple teams can enter 4:3 Ratio gender

Next Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September we will be holding our 'Books and Bears' evening. This will include an information session for parents around phonics and how you can support your child with their reading. This will also be a great opportunity to meet other parents, particularly if you are new to our school.

## What's been going on around the school

### Wrens

Another exciting week getting to know the Wrens. The key focus has been to be consistent with routines, which they are grasping extremely well. For example, engaging in the morning registration carpet time, washing hands and sitting as a group for snack/ lunch and finding their names for self-registration in the mornings. We have been modelling how to use the resources to get the most out of learning through play. The children have been building houses using



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blocks and I have been impressed by their knowledge of shapes and ability to share their construction ideas with other children. There appears to be many budding artists within the class, crafting with tissue paper throughout the week in a variety of ways and drawing many wonderful pictures. We will be displaying the children's art in the room to give them a sense of pride for their work. In our outside space we have introduced builders role play accessories to extend their building, they have practiced using the tools and look very professional in their high-vis vests and helmets. The children enjoyed listening to 'we're going on a bear hunt' in the garden and acted out the story with friends. It was great to see them recalling parts of the story. The Wrens are developing a good understanding of the meaning of kindness and its importance. They are beginning to recognize that being kind means thinking about other people's feelings and sharing. We hope to see as many faces as possible at the Bears, Books and Bed event on Tuesday.

Ms Dyet

### Kingfishers

In Kingfishers, as part of our Let's Explore theme, we have been carefully exploring areas of our classroom and learning how to use them to support our learning through play. This included looking at books independently in the reading den; playing counting games at the maths table; and practising using threading cards at the fine motor skills table. We have enjoyed sharing the story We're Going on a Bear hunt and acting it out with our own actions. We have talked about the school rule "Be Respectful" and tried to show respect to the school environment by helping to tidy up. We have been making our arms and fingers strong by doing small move and big moves to upbeat music. Outside we have enjoyed mark making with different resources and pretending to be builders in role play.

Mrs Thorpe



### Robins

This week, Robin Class have really enjoyed exploring the Gruffalo story in more depth. On Thursday, they use watercolours to create some really detailed images of the Gruffalo. They also really enjoyed the Mantle of the Expert project work, where they had to help the mouse, who wanted the team of animal experts, which the children were being, to track down the Gruffalo to talk to him about his intentions. First, they needed to work as geographers outside the story to create an accurate map of Nut Wood, using their mapping skills, plotting likely hiding places and woodland physical and human features. Alongside this, back in the story, they thought about what equipment they might need to track such a creature. I was really impressed with their compassion as they thought of ways to track but not harm the Gruffalo, in order to talk to him and find out what he was doing in Nut

Wood. Next week, the team start tracking!

In science, they having been looking at different kinds of animals, considering what kind of animals mice, owls, snakes and foxes are, using the words mammals, birds and reptiles.

In English, the children have been describing the main characters in the story and are continuing to learn the story to tell.

In maths, the children have continued to work on their understanding of place value, with Year 1s seeing teen numbers such as 14 as one full ten and four ones, whilst the Year 2s have been understanding the place value of two digit numbers within 100, for example, looking at 55 and seeing the 5s in the tens column as being worth 5 tens and a 5 in the ones column worth 5 ones.

The children are continuing to work on their ball skills in PE and are learning more about harvest in RE. It's been a busy week with lots of reading and singing too!

Ms Winter and Mrs Miller

## Owls

This week in Maths we have been focusing on number lines in our place value unit topic. Constructing a number line can be very challenging, particularly using certain measurements and number individual sections. It is safe to say that although many Owls found this very hard, they put all their efforts into being precise and supporting each other with this task. This will remain a focus for us and the children are starting to understand the relationship of cm squared books and how that can support their learning.



In French we started our new topic, beginning with greetings. The children were fantastic in learning the French greeting song, which we will sing at the start of a new lesson. This will help the children to rehearse the words they have learnt in their previous learning and improve their French accent.



In RE, we are learning about the holy communion. For prior knowledge to this topic, we have been focusing on *The Last Supper*. The children understood what the bread and wine symbolised, and began to make the connection on how this is used in a Church setting. The

children enjoyed the story and were given the task of reordering freeze frames given to them from the story. As they were doing this the children analysed the pictures before them and used their inference skills. It was a pleasure to see the children giving this topic so much thought and really thinking about some of the values we can learn from this story.

Ms Batty

## Red Kites

We have continued to find out about life in China during the Shang Dynasty, in particular what life was like for farmers. In science we have continued to learn about light, exploring how shadows are made and why they change shape. We also found out that it is possible to have more than one shadow at once. In English, we have focused on using speech and improving our ability to edit our own writing. We will be reflecting on the stories we wrote in the first week of term to set our own targets for the next piece of writing that we will do.



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Maths has continued to be looking at place value in big numbers and I have been impressed by the way that everyone has approached their learning. When a few people finished their Maths On Track tasks, I offered them last year's Primary Maths Challenge to have a go at. It was lovely to have over half the class ask to have a go at it- it really isn't that easy- and the resilience that they then modelled in tackling it. Finally, on Thursday, a group of 8 Year 5s joined children from Owls to represent the school at the Cross-Country competition. We were very proud of each of them for the effort they put into this.

Mrs Mallinson and Mrs Richards

## High 5's

### Wrens

My high fives go to Louis for being super helpful and Bella for always joining in enthusiastically with group singing sessions.

### Kingfishers

This week's high Fives go to Jakub for becoming more confident using our outdoor learning space and to Daisy for her amazing tissue paper creations.

### Robins

This week's High Fives go to Huxley and Alfie for trying their hardest in every lesson. Well done!

### Owls

Theo for being so resilient in basket ball and being a good role model to others  
Hayden for being so confident in class discussion this week and contributing to everyone's learning.

### Red Kites

Have a lovely weekend

Best Wishes

Heather Richards and the St Nics Team



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