

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the news yesterday of the sad passing of the Queen, we have taken time today in school to reflect on her life and the huge contribution she has made to our country over the years. At times like this, emotions are stirred in many of us and we have talked about respecting others and the feelings they may have around events such as these. As we enter a period of national mourning there will be much for us as a nation to process and our thoughts are of course with the royal family at this time.

Yesterday 'The Burrow' was officially opened and blessed by Bishop Gavin Collins. This marks a historic day for the school and the end of much hard work and patience amongst the school community. It was lovely to welcome so many of you in to look around the building after school and I'm sure you will agree it is a real asset to our school.



Volunteers – we need you!



We rely on volunteers at St Nics to offer the enrichment activities we know our children benefit so much from. Please have a look at these and if you are interested in any of them, either sign up on the clipboards in the office, or email the office directly who will forward it on to the relevant staff member.

Aspiration Ambassadors

Would you like to share with the children what you do as a job? We would like to provide our children with a range of aspirational role models from across our school community to share what they do as a job and why they enjoy it so much. We welcome everyone in, and you will be supported throughout the assembly by school staff.

Reading Volunteers

Listening to children read regularly is one of the most important things we can do to support early reading. In school we don't have the staff available to do this with all our children, and as a reading volunteer you will make a valuable contribution to the children at St Nics. Working around when you are available, we will give you training on how best to support children of all ages when listening to them read so you are confident when you are supporting. We will also organise a DBS check for volunteers if you do not have a current one.

Gardening Supporters



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



Our garden and grounds are a fantastic asset to the school but we don't have a school caretaker or grounds maintenance team, so to keep it looking fantastic we rely on volunteers. In the summer we had an army of helpers who kept watering our garden in the drought which is why it is looking so brilliant now. We need this help across the year if we are to keep everything growing. We will have three days a year where we invite the whole school community in to do a tidy up, but if you have a few hours to spare during the week or weekend, please let us know.

Permissions

Just a reminder that if you haven't completed the online permission slips for this year please do so here.

<https://forms.gle/3XqkSwECR8S2bYi37> . If you would prefer a paper copy, please contact the office.

Clubs

TA Sports continue to run a 'Multisports' after school club for us on Mondays for Years 1-3. To book this please go to their website to book directly with them.

This term we will also be offering netball club again on Fridays, open to Year 3-6. We would like to also offer a football club however as we no longer have Mr Chadwick with us at St Nics, I am still trying to find someone who would be happy to run this for us. If you are interested in volunteering to run this alongside school staff, please contact me directly.

Finally, we will be running a **Cookery Club on Wednesdays from 3-4.15pm**. This is open to all children from Year 2 upwards however we will be restricting numbers to a maximum of 10. The club will run in 5 week blocks repeated with the same recipes across the year and to ensure everyone who wants to attend can attend across the year, they can only do one block per year, unless we have spaces. There is a cost of £1 per week to cover basic ingredients.

Sign up for all clubs will be via email to the office, with places allocated based on first-come basis, using the time emails are sent in the event of over subscription.

Mondays	Multisports TA Sports	Yr1-3	3.15-4.15pm	Book via their website
Wednesdays	Cookery Club Mrs Ambrose, Rosie Richards and Elizabeth Bacon	Maximum 10 places Yr2-6	3pm – 4.15pm	Email the office to request a place by Wednesday 14th September
Fridays	Netball Club Sue Terry	Maximum 16 Yr3-6	3-4pm	Email the office to request a place by Wednesday 14th September



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Forest School Timetable

We will be using our outdoor learning spaces across the year, however each year group will also have Forest School sessions too. These are timetabled below. Please do volunteer if you can to help either when your child is attending or across the school year. Those parents who gave up their time last year found it also benefited their own mental wellbeing as it gave them a regular opportunity to connect with nature as well as giving back something to the school community.

	Tuesdays 1.30-3pm	Wednesdays 1.30-3pm
Term 1	Reception	Year Three
Term 2	Reception	Year Four
Term 3	Year One	Year Two
Term 4	Year Five	Year Six
Term 5	Year Three	Year One
Term 6	Year Four	Year Two

High 5's

This week all the classes have been settling into new routines and I have been thoroughly impressed by the way everyone has adapted to life back at school. There is a real thirst to learn and be the best they can be amongst the children and I know the teachers have found it incredibly difficult to choose their High 5's this week because of this.

Robins

Jamie and Jack for being such fantastic role models to the year 1's and Oscar H for being so focused on learning and being the best he can be.

Owls



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Louie has been fantastic at following instructions and the new routines in Owls.
Celine has really impressed Ms Batty by aiming high in all her work and being the best she can be for herself and others.

Red Kites

Ewan has been focused on his learning and has shown himself to be a great role model as a year 6 both in class and outside.

Ella has shown courage by being the first to share a retelling of the class story, inspiring others with her actions.

Finally, all of us are being impacted by the **cost of living** crisis at present some more than others. If you are struggling please do **contact me directly** so that I can meet and look at support available. If your circumstances have changed, you may also qualify for Pupil Premium support. Please email the office directly if you would like us to look into this for you. As a community we all stand together and are here to help where we can.

Have a lovely weekend

Best Wishes
Heather Richards and the St Nics Team



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