



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 7th October

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all of you who have managed to sign up to Parents Meetings next week. This is a valuable opportunity to find out how your child is doing and look at targets for this year. Early Years will have their meetings in The Burrow, whereas the rest of the classes will have theirs with their teacher in the school hall, with a bell being run every ten minutes to help everyone keep to time. If you haven't been able to sign up yet, or can't make those dates please let your class teacher know so that they can arrange another time.

Snacks and Packed Lunches at St Nics

At St Nics, all our children from Reception up to Year 2 are provided by a snack of fruit or vegetables at break time. Unfortunately, the government does not fund this beyond year 2, so we ask that parents provide a fruit or vegetable snack instead. We have been lucky enough recently to receive a donation of apples from the Convent orchard, and seeing how well received they were particularly by Red Kites, I wanted to remind you of the importance of doing this. I know not all families have access to fresh fruit or vegetables every day, and over the next few weeks we will trial having fruit available for KS2 who require it. If this proves popular we can then add an option onto ParentPay for a contribution. I know some children in KS2 have been bringing in other snacks to have at breaktime, may also be healthy however with various allergies amongst our school community, and with fruit already an established snack up to year 2 only fruit or vegetables will be allowed at break.

I have been spending most lunchtimes with the children over the last few weeks, and I have noticed that some children have many things which we do not allow in a school packed lunch. As a reminder, we do not allow sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks. We would also ask that you don't fill your child's packed lunch box with lots of extras they may not eat. For those children sitting with a healthy and well-balanced packed lunch themselves, sitting next to someone with chocolates and packets of Haribo can put them off their own lunch. Equally, we cannot supervise all our children individually when they eat and by including treats, your child is more likely to eat this before the main part of their lunch. Thank you for your support with this.

House Sports

Next Friday will be the first of three 'House Sports' competitions. These involve children from Yr1-6 this time, extending to Reception from the summer term. For this one, we would like to invite any of you in to watch. It will last for an hour on Friday 14th October from 1.30-2.30pm. As this will take place outside it is very much weather dependent, and should it be forecast rain or strong winds, we will postpone.

Tok Tok and Internet Safety

On **Tuesday 4th October**, Mrs Mallinson ran Tik-Tok and Internet safety sessions to help all parents understand a bit more about how to help your child stay safe online through adequate parental controls on any device and supervision. If you were unable to attend, we have paper copies of the information sent out at the office.

Gardening Tidy up

We are looking for volunteers to come in and help do some jobs and general gardening tidy up over half term week in school. This was really successful over the summer but we appreciate that for this to work we need to fit in with your existing commitments. If you can spare a few hours, please email me directly on hrichards@stnicholasce.vale-academy.org with when you can help and I can work around your availability.



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What's been going on around the school

Wrens

We have been back to school for a month now and I am so pleased with the progress that we have made as a class. The children are well settled, forming wonderful bonds with other children and adults. They are engaging well during carpet times, singing / learning many songs as well as listening to longer stories. In the mornings, the children enjoy looking for their monster icon on Dojo and receive points for 'super sitting'. We are still familiarizing ourselves with Dojo but do expect to see many more points being given and photos being sent of your children enjoying their time at nursery. It is also a great way to communicate so please don't hesitate to message me with any questions etc. This week we have been exploring 'fantasy worlds', thinking about what we would include in our unique worlds such as the creatures and environments. The book 'You choose' has offered us lots of ideas as to what we might include, and the small world tuff tray has been a hit as the children have been using the little people and animals to build on their play. On the 'fine motor' table we have been practicing using scissors this week and I have already seen many children making progress with their snips and how they hold scissors, we will continue to work on this. The phonics focus of the week has been rhyming, using the books; The smartest giant in town, Monkey puzzle and Chicken Licken. The children are beginning to understand the concept of rhyming and will be exposed to more rhyming activities. During the day there are many opportunities to encourage the children to be independent such as changing shoes to wellies to play in the sand pit and taking ownership of their belongings, this will be ongoing and if they could be encouraged at home too that would be hugely beneficial for them. Finally, thank you for signing up for parents evening. I am looking forward to catching up with you all and talking about your brilliant children.

Ms Dyet

Kingfishers

Continuing our Let's Explore theme we have talked about our ideas for fantasy worlds and drawn our own fantasy worlds. The children have developed their ideas by looking at the many images in the book You Choose by Pippa Goodhart and Nick Sharratt. A popular idea was Candy World! Some of the children have also enjoyed making and playing with their own maps. In phonics we have been learning the letter sounds i and p this week which means so far we have covered s, a, t, i and p. As part of our phonics lessons, we have been sharing a Big Book together on the interactive white board. It is about two aliens called Nip and Nap and their adventures on earth which so far include being charged at by angry ants and nearly being sat on by an elephant. In maths we have explored position words such as



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'above' 'below' 'inside' 'outside' 'beside' 'in' 'on' 'under' 'between' 'through' 'behind' and 'in front' and have played I Spy using these words e.g. I spy something under the table. We have also been learning the following song which is set to the tune of Frere Jacques.

In, on, under, (cup small toy in hand, put on hand, put under hand)

In, on under.

In front and behind, (put in front of body and then behind)

In front and behind.

Next to me, (put next to self)

Next to me. (put next to self on the other side)

In between, (in between palms)

In between.

Playing in the indoor sand tray with cars, tunnels and blocks has given the children further opportunity to use these words. We have also continued learning about counting to 5, including learning that the count remains the same even if the objects are moved around. The children have enjoyed playing a dice board game and counting their hops, jumps etc. Finally, the children have been developing their scissor skills by making paper feathers.

Mrs Thorpe

Robins

This week, Robin Class have been working hard within our science and geography focussed Mantle story, trying to track down the gruffalo and the team were finally successful after following clues given for a helpful woodland hedgehog. The gruffalo was found sleeping in a cave in the deepest, darkest part of the wood and with careful questioning, the team discovered that the gruffalo was a little lonely but also very hungry, which is why he had been trying to eat so many of the animals. After discovering that the gruffalo is an omnivore, the Team has decided it needs to help the gruffalo find some other plant based favourite foods, to reduce the number of animals he needs to eat. To help us, we learnt more about the diets of different animals and the difference between omnivores, carnivores and herbivores.

In maths, we have continued to work on understanding number, plotting numbers in order on number lines and looking closely at the number of tens and ones in numbers, as well as gaining confidence counting up and back from 20 and 100.

We have continued our focus on our season work, drawing signs of autumn and reminding ourselves of the trees we have in Forest School.

Ms Winter and Mrs Miller

Owls

In Maths we've been learning about place value. We have been discussing how vocabulary can differ in maths questioning but can have the same meaning. The children were fantastic at different ways we can approach these questions including; number lines, number tracks, place value grids and dienes. The children then used the resources around them to solve problems.

We have been focusing a lot on handwriting this week and this will continue to be a focus throughout the year. The children are now being encouraged to join and use handwriting pens during these sessions. It would be brilliant to encourage this at home as already there is a clear improvement!

In History, we have been learning about King Alfred the Great. The children were very enthusiastic when we were looking at sources as they all recognised the statue in wantage square. We did a big quiz in teams and we were so impressed with the amount of knowledge they had retained on the Anglo-Saxon King. They were passionate about their learning due to the amount of history within the local area.

We have been looking at our school values this week, thinking about how our icons that we use in assembly. The children were able to identify the values and how the icons linked to these. Our class focused on what these values really mean and how as a school we have opportunities to show these values every day.

Written by Miss Batty and Sebastian Z

Red Kites

It has felt like a very busy week this week. Having completed our first month of the new school year, we spent time on Monday reflecting on what has gone well so far and setting targets to work on before the end of the year. Without a doubt, the best thing I read that evening were the reflections where children had made clear statements of how they wanted to be remembered at St Nics and had written, "for being kind". This ambition embodies our core values perfectly. I was also gladdened by the number of children who had said that they were excited about their leadership role in school and the opportunities it would give them to have a real impact on the lives and education of others.

Settling in to a new class can be daunting and for many members of Red Kites this is the first time they have been in the same class since they were in Year ½. Over the last week I have seen new working relationships being established and the benefits of these were seen in the written work completed on Wednesday. The children worked together to write a paragraph which would persuade a member of staff to visit the location in a photograph. The pairs worked in different ways to co-create their writing and this collaborative process challenged many of the children, however you would not have known it from the quality of the final pieces of writing.

This week has also been the first time that everyone has shown they are now familiar with our classroom routines. Transitions are becoming slicker and I don't think it will take long for our marble jar to fill up!

Mrs Mallinson and Mrs Richards

High 5's

Wrens

Arthur for being caring towards others and Amber for showing off her creative ideas during learning through play.

Kingfishers

Carter for Being the Best he can Be by choosing to work hard on his letter formation during learning through play.

Tony for showing kindness to a friend who was sad.

Robins

Rupert and Charlotte for their fantastic retelling of the Gruffalo

Owls

Sebastian Z for taking their monitor role as line leader seriously and setting an excellent example to others

Harper for always being ready to learn and being the best that she can be even when no one is watching.

Red Kites

Bertie for challenging himself to work out of his comfort zone more often.

Max for taking greater responsibility for his own learning and asking for help when he needs it



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Have a lovely weekend

Best Wishes

Heather Richards and the St Nics Team



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