



# 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 4<sup>th</sup> November

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although it is only just November, we have already been planning Christmas at St Nics, and there are a few key dates which all of you will need. Firstly, Friends of St Nics will be hosting a **Christmas Fair on 3<sup>rd</sup> December**; a fantastic opportunity to get Christmas gifts and enjoy the start of the festive season. We also have **the KS1 Nativity on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December** at 9.45am and **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December** at 6pm, and Early Years' will be performing on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** at 2.30pm. Christmas Dinner will be on 14<sup>th</sup> December. All these dates are on our school calendar on our new website, [www.stnicholasceprimary.org](http://www.stnicholasceprimary.org).

### Forest School and Outdoor Learning

Over the last 18 months we have created fantastic outdoor learning opportunities within the school grounds, much of which has been driven by Ms Palmer whose passion for the great outdoors led to her undertaking Forest School training. All the children have hugely benefited from these sessions since last September, however the practicalities of running them as Forest School with the high adult-child ratio required always made them challenging to run consistently.

To increase participation for all and to give us more flexibility to access our learning spaces beyond Forest School sessions, we have made the decision to replace Forest School with Outdoor Learning. From the children's perspectives, this will mean more time outdoors and more opportunities to use the natural environment to enrich their learning. It will also mean that rather than dedicated 6-week slots across the year, children will have broader access across the whole year. We will still need additional volunteers to help us facilitate these learning opportunities but rather than being coordinated by Ms Palmer, they will be led and planned for by each class teacher. I know the teachers are very excited by broadening the curriculum in this way. Wellies and waterproofs are still going to be essential items (both of which can generally be borrowed from school) and if you have any questions at all about how it will work please contact me directly. Up until Christmas Reception and Year 4 will continue to have Outdoor Learning on either Tuesday (Reception) or Wednesday (Yr4) afternoons. Please make sure they have warm outdoor clothes on those days.

### Poppies Competition

This year for Remembrance Day we are asking all the children to create either a piece of artwork or writing on 'Poppies'. This could be a drawing, poem or piece of 3D artwork to share. Everything submitted will form part of our Remembrance display in school this year. I'm looking forward to seeing how wonderfully creative everyone can be.



### St Nics' Talent Show

Britain's Got Talent is coming to St Nics! We know we have lots of very talented children here and we wanted to give them the opportunity to show off their talents in a competition which will culminate in a show for all the children to watch in the final week of term. This is being organized by School Council, with the help of Ms Batty so I know it will be a brilliant event. I believe auditions will start in the next few weeks, but any questions please get your children to ask Ms Batty or School Council.



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## **Groundforce- Garden and Grounds Autumn Clear up**

On **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November** from 10am-1pm we would like your help in clearing, and tidying our garden and grounds. Coffee, Tea squash and bacon sandwiches will be available across the morning to thank you for giving up your time for us. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

## **Friends Quiz Night!- 11<sup>th</sup> November**

Friends of St Nics are planning on holding a Family Quiz Night on Friday 11th November from 6pm – 8pm. Tickets are £3 per adult, with accompanied children going free. You can also bring your own food/drink to fuel you through the evening which promises to be lots of fun as well as an opportunity to meet other families whose children attend St Nics. Tickets can be purchased on ParentPay.

## **What's been going on around the school**

### **Wrens and Kingfishers**

Both the Wrens and the Kingfishers have come back to school eager and ready for the new term. We will be learning all about traditional fairy tales which will link nicely into the Christmas month where we will be learning and practicing for a simple nativity 'We're going on a baby hunt' for you all to come and watch.

This week we have read and discussed the fairy tales that we already know, considered the structure of a fairy tale and added our own annotations to well-known stories. We enjoyed watching 'Cinderella' the pantomime and created crowns and wands to add some magic to the classroom. The children impressed us with their scissor control and design ideas. The role play area has been a hit with many children dressing up and holding tea parties in the castle. Next week our focus is around the texts 'Goldilocks and The Three Bears' and 'Little red riding hood'.

It is great to see that the children have retained the sounds that they have learnt and are using the resources independently to practice their writing and letter recognition within 'learning through play'. This week we have learnt 'g' for goat and 'o' for octopus. The Wrens have been practicing alliteration with songs and books.

In maths we have been comparing sizes and measurements. The children used the tubes to investigate whether they were taller or shorter and developed this by standing side by side to compare heights within the classes. They have been ordering objects in size and show good understanding of which are smaller and bigger. The magic number of the week has been 7, for the Kingfishers! Ask your children to find numbers 1-7 in their environment.

Outside, the children have been sweeping and collecting huge piles of leaves and getting messy in the mud kitchen. They have demonstrated fantastic teamwork and are not afraid to get their hands dirty! Hollow tubes were used to explore sound, whispering to each other and investigating the sounds they can make by tapping them with different tools.

A new reward chart has been introduced for both classes; they move their Dojo monsters up the chart when showing positive behaviors. They all start on 'ready to learn' and have the opportunity to move to 'being the best they can be for themselves', 'being the best they can be for others and the top of the chart rewards 'belonging', 'compassion' and 'resilience'. Dojo points and stickers are given, and we are pleased to see the children trying their best to move up the chart. We will be finishing the week creating vibrant fireworks pictures and considering which words describe how fireworks sound and look.

Ms Dyet and the Early Years Team



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## Robins

This week, Robin Class have been immersing themselves in the wonderful story of Paddington Bear. They started by solving the mystery of who a broken luggage tag just bearing the word 'Please..' might have come from and wondered about what it meant. They came up with a whole host of ideas, including the message being a warning from aliens and instructions on staying away from a dangerous area. Once further clues about the shape of the tag were added, they began to consider other possibilities, including belonging to a lost bear. They visualised a picture of Paddington Bear having his first bath, from the description I read in the book and then they painted really lovely watercolour pictures of Paddington, to go on display. I was so impressed with their concentration and efforts. I will photograph some to go on Dojo.

In maths, this week has been all about shapes, recapping names and shape properties, whilst in geography we looked where London and East Challow are on the map of the UK, looked at the surrounding seas and reminded ourselves of the capital cities. In history, we made a class timeline and added the historical events that Year 2 already knew about (the Fire of London and the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II), as well as placing the reign of Queen Victoria and adding the invention of Lego and the first airplane flight.

Ms Winter and Ms Miller

## Owls

This week in Owls we have been working as curators. The children were given a HUGE challenge to create their own display cases based on the Anglo-Saxon. We looked at examples together that had been made before hand and from famous museums. We talked about how we could improve the museum cases we had studied. The children then researched their own Anglo-Saxon categories for their design. The children used a variety of materials such as felt, cardboard, paper, colours, printing and the Chromebooks for research. They did such an amazing job and were so proud of their creations.

In Science we discussed Magnetic Fields. We researched models and the children sketched these in their books. We labelled the North and South poles on the magnets, as well as the way of attraction. We discussed how strong the magnetic force can be and how the earth's core is magnetic.

In English we have started our new book called 'The Wild Child'. Within our new book we found some riddles which we discussed in our pairs and solved. These were based on nature themes and the children were brilliant at using their inference and deduction to rule out certain creatures and decide what it could be.

By Miss Batty, Matilda and Lilly (who also helped pick High Fives)

## Red Kites

This term we started with an exciting new DT (Design Technology) project which calls for us to use pneumatics. We have investigated pneumatics, learning what happens when the syringes at either end are different sizes, leading us to wonder what we can do to propel the plunger in the smaller syringe the furthest...

We have also made a start on our Science topic, learning about electricity. We have read some information about what electricity is and learned the meaning of the 'Big 6' words for this topic. In learning how a circuit works, we also modelled the flow of electricity with some cubes identifying that a bulb creates some resistance to the flow.

On Thursday, we started to write the outcome from our last unit of English work. Taking what we have learned about travel writing and guidebooks as types of non-chronological report, everyone has put together 6-slide presentation welcoming time-travelling visitors to an ancient village in China. From what I have seen so far, it will be a challenge to decide which of the villages being described to visit...

Mrs Mallinson and Mrs Richards



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## **High 5's**

### **Wrens**

Bella P for excellent sharing  
Jaxon for showing compassion towards others

### **Kingfishers**

Arthur T for determination to create his crown and show off his fantastic cutting skills  
Carter for engaging well during phonics

### **Robins**

Harley S for working so hard on his reading and writing his name.  
Alexander for working hard on his writing.

### **Owls.**

Max for trying so hard and being really resilient for PE  
Emily for trying so hard, particularly in the History museum display.

### **Red Kites**

Mathew for his fantastic contributions in maths lessons and showing he is aiming to be the best he can be for himself.  
Joshua for going out of his way to help others.

Have a lovely weekend and please enjoy any Bonfire Night festivities safely.

Best Wishes  
Heather Richards and the St Nics Team



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