11th September 2026

# ST NICHOLAS NEWSLETTER

Becoming the Best We Can Be - And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:31




**Respect** sits at the heart of life at St Nicholas. It shapes how we speak to one another, how we play, how we learn and how we treat every person who walks through our doors. It is one of our six values and one of our three rights, reminding us that every one deserves to feel valued and safe.

Jesus' words in Matthew 7.12 give us a simple guide: **"Do to others as you would have them do to you."** Respect begins with thinking about others. If I would like to be spoken to gently, included or treated fairly, then I offer those same things to others. It guides everyday choices, encouraging us to use kind words, share, listen and play safely. It also helps keep everyone safe, creating a school where all feel heard, protected and able to flourish.

Respect is not just something we talk about. It is something we practise together, every day.

A huge welcome to our new SENCO, **Miss Higgins.** Miss Higgins is an experienced SENCO and we are delighted she will be joining our team as we continue to strengthen our provision for children with additional needs.

We are also pleased to share that the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust has appointed **Kate Campbell** as the new Head of Inclusion. Kate brings a wealth of experience in special educational needs and is deeply committed to ensuring every child feels valued and supported. We're looking forward to working with her and seeing the positive impact her expertise will have on our school.

We are delighted to share our first newsletter of the year from our new school home. Beginning this term as a full primary marks an important moment in St Nicholas' story. The building already feels alive with learning, laughter and possibility.

As part of settling in, we've been listening closely to the children and capturing their first impressions of life in our new space. Their voices say far more than we ever could, so we wanted to share a few of their thoughts below.

I love the hand dryers in the bathrooms! - Jessica

I love our classrooms! - Jerry

I love how big the playground is! Millie

I love our library!- Esmae

I love everything! - Hisham



## Author of the Term

Each half term we celebrate an author whose stories spark curiosity and a love of reading across our school. This term our author is David Melling, known for his warm and funny picture books such as Hugless Douglas. If your child has any of his books at home, we encourage them to bring them in to share with their class. Celebrating an author helps children discover new stories and see how words and pictures can bring joy to every reader.

## PSHE Update

PSHE supports children to stay healthy, safe and confident as they grow. From Reception onwards, children learn about feelings, personal boundaries, recognising safe and unsafe situations and knowing how to seek help when something doesn't feel right. They also learn the correct names for body parts within a context of privacy, respect and safety, alongside age-appropriate online safety.

Our curriculum builds progressively through the school. In Reception and Year 1, children focus on identifying trusted adults, understanding simple personal boundaries and recognising early warning signs when something feels uncomfortable. As pupils move into Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, they develop the language and confidence to explain worries, understand healthy and unhealthy relationships and apply safe decision-making both online and offline.

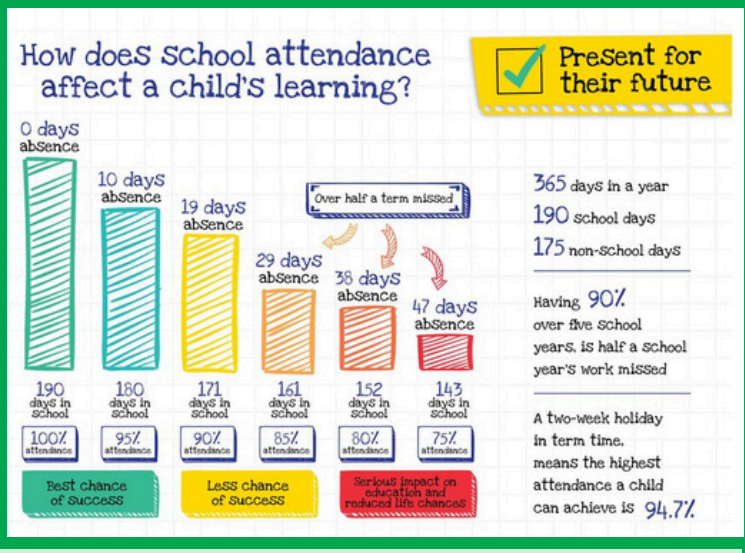
During the summer term, Year 2 will explore the Gro*wing Up* unit. This introduces the idea that bodies change as we grow and teaches the correct names for external private body parts, as set out in statutory guidance. Using accurate vocabulary supports safeguarding and aligns with the Key Stage 1 Science curriculum.

Across all year groups, lessons use impersonal scenarios and children are never expected to share personal experiences. The aim is to help pupils feel confident, informed and able to talk to trusted grown-up whenever they need support.

## Every Day Counts

This year there are only **188** school days and **every day counts.** Good attendance helps children feel settled, make progress and enjoy all the opportunities school offers.

At St Nicholas we follow the **5 Foundations 19 day escalated approach**, which means we work closely with families to support attendance. If you hear from us, it is because we want to help and make sure your child has the best chance to thrive. Working together makes a real difference.




## Time Capsule

As we begin the new school year in our wonderful new school home, we are inviting the children to help create a special time capsule to mark this moment in St Nicholas' history. Moving into our new building and starting our full primary journey is an important milestone for our community and the time capsule will capture what life at St Nicholas looks and feels like at the very start of this new chapter.

Each class will contribute items that reflect the children's experiences today, such as drawings, short messages about their hopes for the future and examples of their learning. The project encourages children to think about how they are becoming the best they can be and links closely with our school vision, "And God saw that it was good." Genesis 1.31.

If families would like to include a **family photograph or a drawing of your family**, you are warmly invited to send one in. Please give it directly to your child's class teacher so it can be added to the capsule. Please send these to school by 16th October.




The time capsule will be sealed and kept safely for the next fifty years, ready to be opened in **2076** by future pupils who will look back on the beginning of our primary journey.

# FONS NOTICEBOARD







Thank you to everyone who has taken part in **Read to the Beat** this summer. The prize draw is taking place on 15th September. If your child completed the challenge, they are welcome to bring their named certificate into school so we can celebrate their achievement.

## UPCOMING DATES FOR THE DIARY...

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| 18.09.26 | Creation Dance Project (in school event). |
| 30.09.26 | Author Visit. More Information to follow. |
| 21.10.26 | Harvest Festival. More Information to follow. |




As we settle into our new school home, we are building new relationships with the families and neighbours around us. Our value of **respect** guides how we do this. It reminds us to think about others and to show care in the small choices we make each day. One simple way we can live this out is through **considerate parking**. Please park safely and thoughtfully around the school, **keeping pavements clear** for pedestrians and **avoiding the use of private driveways as turning points**. Respectful parking helps keep everyone safe, supports our neighbours and shows the kind of community we are growing together at St Nicholas CE Primary.

## Online Safety Newsletter & Video

Make sure you have a look at our online safety newsletter. The monthly video can also been found here: https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/online-safety-monthly-videos/ with the theme of *Back to School*

The Active Communities team have free and low-cost activities starting this term in Wallingford, Cholsey and Didcot. More information can be found on their website: South and Vale Term Time Activities

