9th October 2026

# ST NICHOLAS NEWSLETTER

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




**Respect** continues to shape our reflections this half term as we think about what it means to become the best we can be. **Our school vision is rooted in the words from Genesis 1.31**, where God looks at creation and sees that it is good. This reminds us that everyone is made with value and potential and that the world around us is a gift to be cared for.

Children have been exploring how respect is shown not only in how we speak and act but also in how we care for God's creation. They have been thinking about the choices they can make to look after the environment, from reducing waste to protecting nature. These ideas link closely with our work on **sustainability** and help children understand that respect includes how we treat the world we share.

By showing respect in their daily actions, children help our community flourish. They learn that becoming the best we can be involves kindness, fairness and responsibility, including caring for the planet God has entrusted to us.

You can also see **Year 2's** display about respect in the school foyer, where the children have shared what respect means to them.




This week we held our **School Council** elections and the children impressed us with the thoughtful ideas they shared about helping our school on its journey to becoming the best it can be. They showed real confidence and respect in how they presented their ideas to their peers, which can feel daunting.

We look forward to announcing our new School Council soon.




**A glimpse of a few of the children's posters, showing the ideas they confidently presented to their peers.**

Thank you to everyone who joined in with Hello Yellow on World Mental Health Day. The splashes of yellow across school brought such a bright, positive atmosphere and helped us share the message that no child is ever alone with how they feel.

We are grateful for the kindness shown through donations to YoungMinds, and for the support from our whole community in keeping mental wellbeing at the heart of school life.

# Reading

Reading continues to be at the heart of our curriculum and it's been wonderful to see children across the school enjoying a wide range of books. In Early Years and KS1, children take home their weekly **mini book**, carefully matched to the sounds they have been learning, helping them build confidence and celebrate those early "I can read this" moments. Alongside this, our **Rhino Readers app** offers engaging, fully decodable books that support children as they move through each phonics stage. If your child does not yet have their Rhino Readers login, please speak to their class teacher who will be happy to help.

Children also bring home a **reading book** to allow them to practise their reading and comprehension skills, as well as a **library book** each week to share and enjoy at home. These books are a lovely way to build reading routines, spark conversations and explore stories together.

In KS2, children enjoy shared reading, where they explore high-quality texts together, discussing vocabulary, characters and themes. Year 3 have been reading and thoroughly enjoying *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown. If you would like to, you might enjoy reading this at home with your child so they can share the characters and ideas they've been exploring.




**As we celebrate Harvest this year, we are reflecting on our school value of respect, and the words from Matthew 7.12: "Do to others as you would have them do to you."**

**Harvest gives us a meaningful chance to put these values into action by caring for those around us.**

**As in previous years, we will be supporting the Wallingford Food Bank, whose work makes a real difference to families in our local area. If you should feel able, we will be collecting unopened, in-date, non-perishable items to donate. The Food Bank is particularly in need of items such as tinned meats, tinned vegetables and toiletries, helping to stock the shelves and show care for our wider community.**

**Donations can be brought into school from Monday 5th October and will be shared during our Harvest Celebration Worship.**

Sometimes we all feel a bit under the weather and it can be hard to know whether a child needs to stay at home or if they're well enough to come in. **Every day in school matters and being here helps children feel settled and keep learning.** The NHS chart below offers clear guidance to help you decide when your child should stay at home and when they can still come to school.

## Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

**Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)?** YES Keep them off school until it goes away. NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

| Should go in | Should go in (let the school know) | Seek treatment before returning to school | Keep them off (at first) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **A cough, cold or sore throat**<br>Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature. | **Cold sores**<br>Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels. | **Impetigo**<br>They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school. | **Ear infection**<br>If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away. |
| **Threadworms**<br>Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment. | **Conjunctivitis**<br>Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly. | **Ringworm**<br>See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment. | **Measles**<br>They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system. |
| | **Head lice & nits**<br>You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP. | **Scarlet fever**<br>They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics. | **Vomiting & diarrhoea**<br>Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours). |
| | **Hand, foot & mouth disease**<br>If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly. | **Chickenpox**<br>Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared. | |
| | **Slapped cheek syndrome**<br>Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome. | | |

**Feeling worried or anxious:** It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

# FONS NOTICEBOARD

## Thank You!

We would like to send a massive thank you to all those who attended our FONS PTA AGM & Committee Meeting last week. We had a fantastic turnout, shared brilliant ideas, and established clear goals for the future of the students at St Nicholas CE Primary School. Your time and energy make a massive difference to our school community!

Next Committee Meeting: If you couldn't make it this time, you're more than welcome to join us on Wednesday 4th November (time and location TBC).

We would also like to extend our thanks to all the volunteers who have put themselves forward for the Wallingford 1155 community Bonfire Night event on Saturday, 7th November. Your participation will have a huge impact on fees awarded directly to FONS.

Another fantastic way to support St Nicholas CE Primary School is to join the lottery set up by FONS. Tickets are just £1, 40% goes directly to our school, and you could win up to £25,000! Buy your tickets at www.yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for Friends of St Nicholas School (FONS).

## UPCOMING DATES FOR THE DIARY...

| | |
|---|---|
| TODAY | Hello Yellow - World Mental Health Day. See letter sent on 18th Sept. |
| 20.10.26 | Year 3 Museum Visit in school. See letter sent on 24th Sept. |
| 21.10.26 | Harvest Festival. See letter sent on 30th Sept. |
| 22.10.26 | Year 2 Collective Worship - 2.35pm. Parents welcome. |

REMEMBER!

**A quick reminder about the best ways to contact school staff.**

Class Dojo is a great tool for sharing news and celebrating learning but it isn't monitored for messages. This means it isn't a reliable way to communicate with us about anything important.

If you need to contact the school office about absence, lunches, pick-up arrangements or anything similar, please phone the office on 01491 836408 or email office@st-nicholas.co.uk.

If you need to speak with your child's class teacher, please let the office know. They will pass your message on and the teacher will get back to you as soon as they can.

## 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 *Digital Wellbeing*

St. Leonard's Churchyard, Wallingford (OX10 0HA)
Sunday 11th October at 10:00 am

# FOREST CHURCH!



At Forest Church, we:

- Meet with God in creation
- Explore our spirituality
- Enjoy fellowship together

St Mary's & St Leonard's Wallingford
open to all, open to all!

Forest church takes place in an informal, outdoor setting – this is not a structured church service. Come dressed for the weather, and we look forward to welcoming you!

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Matthew Barber
Listening. Serving. Taking Action.

## Christmas Card Competition

Thames Valley Police are inviting primary-aged children to take part in their **Christmas Card competition**. Officers and staff work hard all year round to keep our communities safe, and this competition is a chance for children to think about the ways the police help people, especially at times of need.

There is no set theme, so children can be as creative as they wish. The winning design will be professionally printed and used as the Police & Crime Commissioner's Christmas card, with runners-up featured on the reverse.

**If your child would like to take part at home, you can download an entry form from matthewbarber.co.uk/christmascard.** Entries need to be returned by **Friday 27 November.**

This is a fun activity in the run-up to Christmas and a lovely way for children to feel connected to their wider community.

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# FAMILY SHOWS AUTUMN 2026

The North Wall Arts Centre

M6 Theatre presents

## ALL THE SMALL THINGS

**Saturday 24 October 11am and 2pm**

Deep in the woods, in the middle of nowhere, lives the Story Collector. Drawers, cabinets and cupboards brim with baddies and goodies, hopes and wishes, once upon a times and far, far aways. A magical place of possibilities. On the turn of the snow globe, the enchantment begins…

M6 Theatre's trademark beautiful design and heartwarming storytelling combine with singing, puppetry, and physical comedy in this brand-new spin on fairytales.

AGES 4+





Sonrisa Arts presents

## DANCE IN THE DARK

**Wednesday 28 October 1pm & 3pm**

Come in your favourite PJs for a slumber party in a giant sleepover den and a playful night-time adventure. As darkness descends, giggle as we get ready for bed, explore spooky shadows, listen to night-time sounds, and feel the wind and rain on our faces.

Discover the magic of the dark, whirl and twirl, catch a shooting star and learn to be brave at bedtime.

Co-created with children, this beautiful new show is a dreamy multi-sensory feast that gently introduces little ones to the magic and wonder of theatre.

AGES 3-8

## STAY AND PLAY!

Families are invited to join us for relaxed and inclusive arts and crafts, activities and play between children's shows. These are free drop-in workshops, open to all.

Details of timings for each Stay and Play session are available on the website.

