23rd October 2026

ST NICHOLAS NEWSLETTER

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



As we finish the half term, we have been thinking about how **respect** shapes our school community.

Respect is one of our school **values** and one of the **three rights** we teach every child. Every child has the right to be respected, to feel safe and to learn.

Over the half term, children have explored what respect looks like in everyday moments, from kind words to thoughtful choices.

Children have also been talking about how respect extends to the world around us. Linked to our school vision and our commitment to sustainability, children have reflected on caring for God's creation and noticing the goodness in the world. Simple actions, such as looking after shared spaces and using resources responsibly, help them understand that respect is something we practise in many ways.

It has been lovely to see children grow in confidence as they recognise the impact of their choices. Respect remains a simple idea, yet it helps our whole community flourish.

As part of our **Hello Yellow** activities, children spent time thinking about the bright thoughts that help them feel calm, hopeful and supported. We've shared a selection below so you can enjoy some of the thoughtful and joyful messages from across the school.

My bright thought is a playground! - Anya

My bright thought is the cinema with lollies! - Cody

My bright thought is colouring in my bedroom! - Millie

My bright thought is peace and quiet! - Tom

My bright thought is being at school! - Amber

My bright thought is seeing a rainbow - Kali

My bright thought is Numbots! - Joey

The YoungMinds website offers a wealth of clear, practical resources for parents and carers. It has guidance from how to talk to children about their mental health to advice on looking after your own wellbeing. It's a supportive place to turn if you ever need it:
https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/

Harvest Festival

A huge well done to all the children for their wonderful participation in our Harvest Festival.

You sang, performed and represented our school brilliantly. Thank you also to all our families for your generous donations. Your kindness and support will help those in our local community who need it most.



Thank you to our wonderful school community for your generous support of YoungMinds. **Together we have raised £77.70** and we are so grateful for the kindness shown. Your contributions help the charity continue its vital work supporting children and young people's mental health.

Celebrating Diversity Through Our Curriculum

At St Nicholas, we want every child to feel seen, valued and confident in who they are. As part of our curriculum development, we have been thoughtful about how children encounter diversity in their everyday learning. Across subjects, pupils see inclusive images and representations that reflect a wide range of families, cultures and identities. This helps them recognise that people live, look and believe in different ways and that everyone deserves respect.

Children also explore stories, authors and significant figures from many backgrounds. These experiences widen their understanding of the world and encourage curiosity, empathy and a sense of belonging. By celebrating difference and highlighting shared human experiences, we aim to build a curriculum that helps children appreciate the richness of the world around them while feeling secure in their own place within it.

Celebrating diversity helps uphold our vision of 'becoming the best we can be' recognising that we are all unique and it supports our work to promote the fundamental British Values of mutual respect and tolerance.

If you'd like to explore our curriculum in more detail, our curriculum maps are available on our website HERE.



Introducing Our New School Council

We're delighted to welcome our newly elected school council members, voted by their peers to represent pupil voice across the school. They'll be working together to support school initiatives and help our whole school community in becoming the best it can be. We're excited to see the positive impact they'll make this year!

Year 3
Jessica and Zain

Year 2
Bonnie-May and Emilia

Year 1HC
Dominic and Millie

Year 1MCD
Alex and Luna

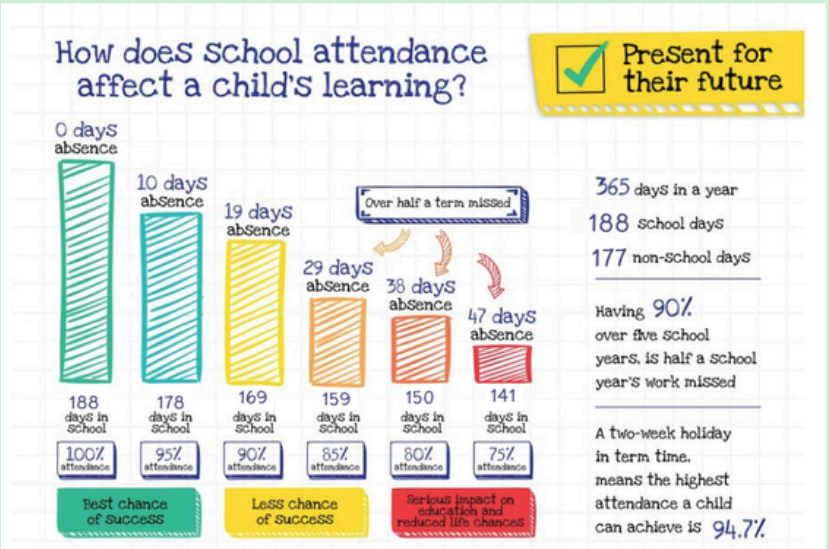
Reception
Anya and Theo

Attendance: Working Together

At St Nicholas we see attendance as something we do together. When children are in school every day, they feel part of our St Nicholas family, settle into strong routines and have the best chance to thrive. Every family's circumstances are different, so our approach is always rooted in support and understanding.

We continue to work closely with ODST using **The Five Foundations of Effective Attendance**, which help us build a positive culture and offer early help when it is needed. We used the 19 day escalated approach for most of last year and will keep following it this term. It allows us to spot patterns early, check in with you and make sure the right support is in place. You may hear from us more often but this is simply part of our commitment to working in partnership and making sure every child is seen and supported.

This is never about blame. It is about belonging, early help and giving every child the best chance to flourish. **If you ever want to talk about your child's attendance or need support, please get in touch. We are here for you and your child.**



FONS NOTICEBOARD

Next Committee Meeting: Our next committee meeting is on Wednesday 4th November at 19:30 at The Boathouse, Wallingford. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Fundraising: Don't forget you can support FONS via My Nametags. Need labels for school uniforms, coats, or PE kit bags? Order from My Nametags and 24% of the sale will go directly to FONS, just add our unique ID Code: 23554

Thank You to Our Bonfire Volunteers!

We are thrilled by the incredible response from everyone volunteering for this year's 1155 Bonfire Night. This spectacular event simply cannot happen without your dedication. Thank you for giving up your time to support FONS and the Wallingford community.

Have a fantastic half-term.

UPCOMING DATES FOR THE DIARY...

26.10.26 - 30.10.26	Half Term Holidays
02.11.26	Staff INSET Day - children return on Tuesday 3rd November 2026
06.11.26	Reception Reading Café - See letter dated 15th October.
19.11.26	Year 2 visit to Wallingford Library
26.11.26	Year 1 MCD Collective Worship



All children in EYFS and KS1 enjoy a free piece of fruit or veg each day through the government's School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. It's a lovely way to build healthy habits and keep everyone feeling their best for learning and we encourage all children to have a snack for playtime.

If you send in your own snack, it does need to be a fruit or vegetable option. Dried fruit is absolutely fine. Over the past year, our Trust has updated its safer-eating and allergy procedures in line with new statutory guidance (including Benedict's Law), so we're making sure our practice reflects this.

If your child has a medical need that requires a different diet, please just get in touch. We're very happy to discuss this and work with you to make sure your child is safe and supported.

Family First Magazine will no longer be handed out at school, as they have now moved to be online only. You can find an interactive online version here: https://e.issuu.com/embed.html?d=family_first_-_issue_4_2026&u=sevenstarmedia

ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

EARLY YEARS OPEN MORNING
SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2026

We warmly welcome parents/carers of children due to start **Reception in September 2027**, or those interested in a **Nursery** place this year.

VISITORS WELCOME
9:30AM - 11.00AM
Gatehouse Crescent OX10 0GF



Come and discover our Early Years! Explore our brand-new, purpose-built building and see our inspiring Early Years provision in action. As a legacy infant school, and with our Nursery led by a qualified teacher, we offer children the very best start to their school journey.

Personal tours with our Headteacher are also available. Please contact the school office to arrange a visit.

ODST
Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us or send an email.
01491 836408 office@st-nicholas.co.uk

ELITE CAMPS OCTOBER

ACTIVE. CREATIVE. CHILDCARE.



BOOK 5 DAYS **20% OFF!** THAT'S LIKE GETTING A DAY FREE!

30+ ACTIVITIES THIS OCTOBER
Sports, games, creative activities and new experiences

FANCY DRESS & HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES ON FRIDAY!

EVERY THING PARENTS NEED TO KNOW
- Ages 4-13
- Full days & extended days
- Childcare Vouchers accepted
- Tax-Free Childcare accepted
- Flexible booking by day or week
- Ofsted Registered

GREAT CAMPS, RIGHT ON YOUR DOORSTEP

WALLINGFORD
Wallingford School, OX10 8HH

+ more locations all over Oxfordshire & West Berkshire

PEACE OF MIND FOR PARENTS

- OFSTED REGISTERED — High standards you can trust
- EXPERIENCED STAFF — Trained, qualified & DBS checked
- PAYMENTS MADE SIMPLE — Childcare Vouchers & Tax-Free Childcare
- SAFE & SUPPORTIVE — A welcoming environment for every child

JOIN US THIS OCTOBER
SPACES FILL FAST!
BOOK NOW!
eliteyouthsports.co.uk
ELITE

ACTIVE COMMUNITIES
October half term activities
26 - 30 October



Xplorer



Fun Games



and more



For more information and to book, visit southandvale.gov.uk/holidayactivities or scan the QR code

/SouthandValeActiveCommunities

South Oxfordshire District Council
Vale of White Horse District Council
YOUMOVE

Scouts
1st Goring Heath
Woodcote Scarecrow Trail 2026
24th Oct – 1st Nov



All proceeds support 1st Goring Heath Scouts

Maps available for £2 from Nebula Hair & Beauty, The Red Lion, Woodcote Garden Centre or www.tinyurl.com/1GHWCCT

Kindly sponsored by
BOUCHIER FENCING LTD