



Together with Christ, we love, live and learn.

St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School
Jockey Road, Sutton Coldfield B73 5US
E: enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk
T: 0121 355 2649
W: www.stnicholassutton.org.uk
Executive Principal: Mr N Porter
Head of School: Mrs C. Noble-Barton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday 31st January 2025



Pilgrims of Hope: A Jubilee Year of Song and Joy

As we dive into the Jubilee Year 2025, *Pilgrims of Hope*, we're making the most of our fortnightly *Songs of Praise* sessions to learn some beautiful songs and hymns written especially for this special year.

One of our favourites is *Song of Hope* by One Life Music. It's full of hope and positivity. Follow the link below to give it a listen. Why not learn it together as a family and bring the Jubilee spirit into your home?

[Song of Hope - Lyric Video](#)



Wednesday Word

Please follow the link below to enjoy this week's Gospel as a family:

[Click HERE for the Wednesday Word](#)

St Nicholas Young Voices Choir at Resorts World!

Young Voices is an annual series of concerts held in the UK. These concerts gather thousands of schoolchildren and young people from across different regions to perform as part of a large choir. The event is designed to give children a chance to sing with professional musicians, participate in large-scale performances, and build confidence in their musical abilities.

Friday evening was a fantastic night as the St Nicholas YV Choir headed to Resorts World for their concert. It was an incredible evening full of fun, laughter, and unforgettable moments. Well done to our pupils who conducted themselves brilliantly.

A huge thank you to all the parents who bought tickets and came along to support our group - your presence really made a difference. We'd also like to extend our thanks to Mrs Shephard and Mrs Vale for attending and helping out. A special mention to Miss Smith, who not only attended but also organised the entire event. It's no small feat, and we're so grateful for all her hard work. What a brilliant event - well done all!



Safeguarding: How Safe is WhatsApp for Children - NSPCC

WhatsApp is one of the most popular instant messaging apps, used by over 2 billion people in 180 countries. It allows you to send and receive messages, as well as make voice and video calls. You can connect with people individually or join group chats where lots of people can contribute. All you need to set up a WhatsApp account is a phone number. However, children and young people can easily subvert the restrictions placed on its access. **Although rated at 16+, all that is required is a phone number.** All it takes is one child in a class to be on whatsapp, and all the others will wish to join. This can lead to increased vulnerabilities for child users. The NSPCC has released its own analysis about the dangers of the app. If interested, please follow the link below:

[NSPCC - Is Whatsapp safe for my child?](#)

Smartphone Free Parent Pact Update: We're 1st in the West Midlands!

We've got some exciting news to share about the Parent Pact. St Nicholas is currently ranked 1st in the West Midlands for the number of parents committing to delay smartphone use until Year 9. This is a fantastic achievement and shows the strong support from our school community.

Just a quick reminder: St Nicholas School does not encourage the use of smartphones. Our policy states that pupils in Year 6, who are walking to or from school, can bring a phone if parents feel it's necessary (and they must hand it in for the day). There's no specific requirement for the type or make of the phone—it could easily be an old-fashioned model that just sends and receives texts or calls.

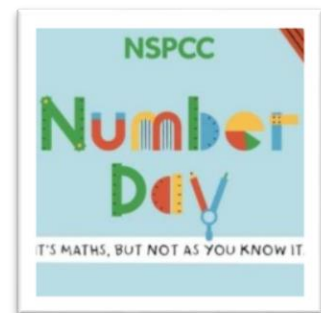
Our support for those parents who wish to go smartphone-free is rooted in the evidence about the vulnerabilities children can face online. This is a personal parenting choice, and it's up to each family to decide what works best for them without judgement but only with support.

We'd love to encourage even more parents to sign up for the Parent Pact and keep building momentum. If you haven't already, it's a great way to join us in supporting our children's well-being.

You can check out the full rankings here: [Smartphone Free Childhood Parent Pact](#).

NSPCC Number Day - Friday 7th February

As part of our celebrations for Children's Mental Health Week, we are excited to take part in the NSPCC Number Day on Friday 7th February 2025. This event is not only a fun and creative way to engage with numbers, but it also supports a very important cause. On this day, pupils are invited to wear a number of their choice—whether it's a favourite number, a sporting number, or a creatively designed outfit featuring numbers! The more imaginative, the better! We also ask for a minimum £1 donation to NSPCC as part of this initiative. Additionally, we are aiming to fill a large 'Number 25' in the hall with coins, as we celebrate 25 years of NSPCC Number Day. We are kindly asking pupils to bring in as many coins or loose change as possible to help us reach our goal. We are excited to support this event and look forward to seeing all the creative outfits and contributions from the children. Thank you for your ongoing support of this fantastic cause.



National Children's Mental Health Week (3rd to 7th February)

This week, from 3rd to 7th February, we are recognising **National Children's Mental Health Week**. The theme this year is 'Know yourself, grow yourself', focusing on the importance of self-awareness and personal growth. It's a great opportunity for us all to reflect on how we can support children in understanding their emotions, building resilience, and growing in confidence.

We'll be taking part in activities throughout the week to help promote positive mental health and well-being. All classes will be completing SODA activities and PSHE lessons around this theme. Year 3 will also be having a Mental Health Week workshop from Cherished Charity, while Year 4 will have 4 x weekly sessions after half-term focused on assertiveness and regulating emotions. Let's encourage our children to embrace the theme and continue to support one another in their journey of self-discovery.

Upcoming PFA Meeting - 6th March

Please find attached a flyer from our PFA Chair, Matteo Belardi, advertising the next PFA meeting on 6th March. We warmly invite you to come along if you can. Your contribution, whether big or small, is greatly valued and appreciated—feel free to get involved at a level that suits you and your availability.

We hope to see you there!

PFA Updates: Upcoming Meetings

We've got two important PFA meetings coming up, and we'd love for you to get involved:

1. Father's Day Event Planning: We're planning an exciting Father's Day event on Friday, 13th June, and we'd love for you to be part of it. Dads and male carers are invited to join the *Cap'n Nick Crew* for a planning meeting on **Friday, 28th February at 7:30 PM** at the **Bishop Vesey Pub** (upper floor). It's a great opportunity to share ideas, contribute to the event's success, and have some fun.

2. PFA General Meeting: Our next *PFA General Meeting* will be on **Thursday, 6th March at 6:00 PM** in the school hall. We'll be discussing future events, fundraising initiatives, and key PFA matters. Everyone is welcome to join us—your ideas and input are always appreciated.

EYFS & KS2 Outdoor Area Improvements

You may have noticed some exciting changes in our outdoor environments this week. A huge thank you to Mr Malcolm Kilbride, one of our parents, and Forkers Ltd, who generously donated their time and resources to install new planters in the EYFS area and new benches on our KS2 playground, along with other improvements. They have kindly not charged St Nicholas for any of this work, which we are incredibly grateful for.

A big thank you as well to Mr Kilbride and his colleagues, Matteo Belardi from our PFA, and Miss Smith, who coordinated the project. The improvements are already making a difference and we are so excited to see our pupils enjoying the refreshed spaces.

World Book Day - Thursday 6th March

As part of our celebrations, we are inviting all children to take part in our 'Book in a box' competition. It's really simple to take part! All you need is a cereal or shoe box to get started and the aim is to design the inside of your box in the most creative way possible to display your favourite book! Your entries need to be submitted by Thursday 6th March. The Reading Ambassadors will decide on a winner and two runners up! These lucky children will receive a reading related prize. We can't wait to see all of your amazing ideas!

Please note that pupils are not being asked to dress up this year but can choose to enter this competition instead.

After school maths club - Spaghetti Maths

Pupils in Y2 and Y3 are invited to attend an after school mathematics club beginning on Monday 24th February. The sessions are led by [Spaghetti Maths](#) and will take place every Monday for 6 weeks. The cost of the club is £6 per session. **There are only a few spaces left if you would like your child to attend - see ParentMail for more details.**

Attendance

Let's see which class had the highest attendance this week...

Year group	Attendance for w/c 27th January
EYFS	97.97%
Year 1	94.33%
Year 2	99.67% WINNERS!
Year 3	93.55%

Year 4	90.65%
Year 5	96.67%
Year 6	94.31%
Well done to this week's winners...Year 2. You can negotiate your reward with Mrs Rehman.	

Dates for the diary

Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th February	Year 3 Parent Consultations with Mrs Minchin via Zoom
Monday 3rd to Friday 7th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Friday 7th February	NSPCC Number Day - Dress up in a number related outfit
W/c 10th February	RSHE Week across the school
Tuesday 11th February	Safer Internet Day
Friday 14th February	'Gifts from God' assembly - 2.45pm
Friday 14th February	Last day of Spring 1 - break up for half term
Half Term School closed w/c 17th February 2025 All pupils back in school on Monday 24th February	
Monday 24th February	First day of Spring 2
Thursday 27th February	Year 6 Saints Project Exhibition - school hall at 2.45pm
Friday 28th February	EYFS 'Stay and Pray' - 9am
Saturday 1st March	Swimming gala at Wyndley Leisure Centre - details TBC
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day Final day to submit entries for the 'Book in a box' competition
Thursday 6th March	PFA Meeting 6pm in school
Friday 7th March	Year 5 'Stay and Pray' - 9am
W/c 10th March & W/c 17th March	Year 3 swimming at Wyndley Leisure Centre
Friday 14th March	Year 2 'Stay and Pray' - 9am
Friday 21st March	Year 6 'Stay and Pray' - 9am

Tuesday 25th March	Y3 & 4 Pyjama Stories - 5pm
Thursday 27th March	PFA Mothers' Day Tea - 3.30pm to 5pm
Friday 28th March	Year 4 'Stay and Pray' - 9am
Monday 31st March	2pm - KS2 Passion Play performance to parents
Tuesday 1st April	9.15am - KS2 Passion Play performance to parents
Wednesday 2nd April to Friday 4th April	Year 5 residential to Alton Castle
Friday 4th April	Year 1 'Stay and Pray' - 9am
Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th April	Parents' Evenings (Y3 book look)
Thursday 10th April	Year 2 trip to Twycross Zoo
Friday 11th April	Year 3 'Stay and Pray' - 9am
Friday 11th April	Last day of Spring Term. School breaks up for Easter.
Easter Holidays School closed weeks commencing 14th April and 21st April 2025 All pupils back in school on Monday 28th April	
Monday 5th May	'May Day' bank holiday - school closed
Thursday 8th May	Y1 trip to Botanical Gardens
Monday 12th May to Thursday 15th May inclusive	Key Stage 2 SATs tests administered
Friday 16th May	Year 3 trip to Blists Hill Victorian Town
Friday 16th May	Official photographers to take Y6 leavers' photos
Friday 16th May	Sacrament of Confirmation for Y6 confirmandi celebrated by Bishop David Evans - 7pm
Friday 23rd May	Last day of Summer 1 - break up for half term
May half term School closed during week commencing 26th May 2025	
Monday 2nd June	INSET Day - school closed to pupils

Tuesday 3rd June to Friday 13th June	Multiplication Tables Check administered to Y4 pupils
W/c Monday 9th June	Phonics Screening Check administered to Year 1
W/c Monday 9th June	Year 6 swimming week at Wyndley each afternoon
Sunday 22nd June Time TBC	All Year 3 pupils who have received their Holy Communion are invited to attend the 'Going Forth' Mass at 11am wearing their FHC clothes - official p/graphers in school beforehand.
Wednesday 2nd July	Transition Day - Year 6 to their new secondary schools
Monday 7th July	Sports' Day at Braemar Fields (a reserve date of 14/7 has been booked in case of inclement weather on 7th)
Saturday 12th July	Y6 Leavers' Mass in church at 6pm
Wednesday 16th July	9.10am - Year 6 Leavers' Assembly
Friday 18th July	9.15am - Whole School end of year Mass in church
Friday 18th July	End of academic year 2024-25 for pupils

Mr Porter

Executive Principal

Mrs Noble-Barton

Head of School

Miss Smith

Assistant Head

St. John Paul II Multi Academy Registered Office: c/o Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Earlsbury Gardens, Birmingham, B20 3AE
E: enquiry@sjp2.net | T: 0121 354 6270 | W: johnpaulii.co.uk
CEO: Miss T. Cotter
Company House RegisteredNo. 08706247