



Together with Christ we love,
live & learn.

St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School

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Executive Principal: Mr N Porter

Dear Parents & Carers,

Friday 8th November 2024

Year of Prayer

Pope Francis has declared that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year for the Catholic Church. Jubilee years are very special and will unite the church around the theme of 'Hope'. In order to prepare for this Jubilee, Pope Francis has declared 2024 a Year of Prayer. Pope Francis has asked Catholics to get 'back to basics' during this year by focusing on The Lord's Prayer.

Throughout this year various prayer activities based around The Lord's Prayer will be taking place in school. **Why not make The Lord's Prayer part of your home prayer life?**

We continue to look at the Lord's prayer in different languages... this week in Makaton (a communication system that uses signs, symbols, and speech to help people with language difficulties express themselves):

[Link to Makaton Lord's Prayer](#)



Wednesday Word

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

[Click HERE for the Wednesday Word](#)

Harvest Collection - thank you

Attached to this email is a certificate of thanks from Bethany Foodbank. The donations you sent have made an incredible impact on the work of this amazing charity. Thank you.

Remembrance Board

November is a special time in the Catholic Church to remember and honour loved ones who have died. Every year in November we create a meaningful Remembrance Board, we invite pupils and families to bring in photos, memorial cards, or orders of service of those you'd like us to remember. **Just pop them in an envelope and drop them off at the school office.** This display will be a place for us all to pause, reflect, and keep their memory close. Thank you for helping us make this month especially meaningful.

CAFOD Live Simply Table Top Sale - a message from Juan & Aoife (Y6)

Do you have any unwanted toys/books at home? St Nicholas' Mini vinnies are holding a 'Table-top Sale' on Monday 18th November, where pupils have the chance to buy used toys in an effort to live more sustainably. **Please donate any used (but good quality) toys from Monday the 11th of November and pupils can purchase them on Monday 18th of November.** All money raised will go to CAFOD which helps the poor and vulnerable people around the world to get food, shelter and water. St Nicholas' Table-top Sale is a great way to clean out your toys and help many others through the work of CAFOD "One person's trash is another person's treasure!" Thank you for being stewards of creation (by looking after our environment). Thank you for helping the poor and doing what is best for the Common Good!

By Juan and Aoife

Odd socks day to celebrate Kindness - Thursday 14th November

Next week is Anti-Bullying Week, but at St. Nicholas, we like to call it *Kindness Week!* While kindness is something we can and should practise every week, we'll be focusing on its impact through special activities. We'll explore how kindness makes a difference and what we can do when situations don't feel right.

To celebrate our uniqueness, we're having a Silly Sock Day on Thursday, 14th November! Wear your silliest socks to show that we're all wonderfully different—no charge, just lots of fun and kindness. Let's make it a week to remember!

Gifts from God Assemblies Autumn 2

Please see below the dates of our 'Gifts of God' assemblies which take place on alternate Fridays at 2.45pm. Please note that the last two assemblies of the term are on consecutive weeks.

A polite reminder to only attend Gifts from God assembly if your child is receiving an award, space is at a premium in the school hall!

Friday 22nd November

Friday 6th December

Friday 13th December (Final Gifts from God Assembly of the Autumn Term)

Do you know a family with a child who starts school (Reception class) in September 2025?

If so, please encourage them to attend one of our Prospective Parents Sessions. During these sessions, parents will have a short presentation on the admissions process followed by a tour of the school. Sessions are as follows:

Monday 11th November 2024 at 9.15am

Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 1.45pm

Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 11am

Thursday 14th November 2024 at 2.30pm

Stay and Pray - 9am ****Dates for your diary****

Over the course of the Autumn Term, each class will hold a 'Stay and Pray' session. During these sessions, parents, carers & grandparents are encouraged to drop their children at school and then make their way into the classroom for a short prayer session with their child/grandchild.

Each session will start at 9am and run for approximately 20 minutes. This is a wonderful opportunity to join in prayer with your child and their class. Everyone is invited, regardless of faith. Dates are below:

Friday 15/11: Year 4

Friday 22/11: EYFS

Friday 29/11: Year 1

Friday 6/12: Year 6

Friday 13/12: Year 5

Curriculum Workshops

So far this term we have hosted several successful Parent & Child Workshops. These events are wonderful opportunities for parents & carers to experience the curriculum and work with their child. Below are the dates of the remaining workshops, all are a 9am start and last for around 90 minutes:

Tuesday 19th November - Year 2

Tuesday 26th November - Year 3

Centrestage Recital - Thursday 14th November at 4pm

Our Centrestage Recital is happening this Thursday, 14th November, at 4:00 pm in the school hall. Please note that pupils participating in the recital will not be dismissed at the usual 3:30 pm time. Instead, they'll stay at school for final rehearsals.

We ask that you send a small snack with your child to keep their energy up. We're looking forward to a wonderful performance—thank you for your support!

This week's attendance

Let's see which class/es had the best attendance this week:

Class	Attendance for w/c 4th November 2024
EYFS	97.03%
Year 1	96.55%
Year 2	99.17%

Year 3	95.83%	
Year 4	93.95%	BELOW 95%
Year 5	99.17%	
Year 6	100%	WINNERS!
Well done to this week's winners...Year 6! You can negotiate a small reward with Miss Gamlen - well done.		

[PFA News](#)

[PFA Lottery ****NEW****](#)

Do you fancy winning a pot of cash whilst contributing to St Nicholas PFA and just in time for Christmas....

Then have a go on the new St Nicholas lottery!

A 50/50 prize fund capped at

1st - £500

2nd - £250

3rd - £100

Tickets are £5 each

Draw will take place on 13/12/24 during the last school assembly.

(The prize fund is dependant on sales so we really need your help and support with this340 tickets need to be sold to reach this target)

Please follow the link for online purchases or catch Rosemarie O'Connor (reception/year 1) or Maria Kilbride (year 4/6) on the school run/at assemblies for a cash purchase.

<https://tinyurl.com/stnickslotto>

Best of luck and remember - you need to be in it to win it!

[Do you shop at Asda either in store or online? PLEASE SIGN UP](#)

We're pleased to announce that St Nicholas School PFA has joined the ASDA Cash programme, so families can now earn money for the school while doing their shopping - <https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools>

[Advent Fayre: Sat 30th Nov, 12pm-3pm - message from the organising committee](#)

The St Nicholas Advent Fayre is just around the corner! This is our official school event and we can't wait to welcome you all for a day filled with festive fun and activities, including craft stalls and creative activities for the whole family, festive games, raffles, and prizes to be won!

[St Nicholas School PFA - link for tickets to Advent Fair 30/11/24](#)

[Save the Dates!](#)

Non-Uniform Day in exchange for a chocolate donation: Friday 22nd November

Let's get ready to make some merry memories together! See you all there!

[Christmas After School Disco: Tues 17th Dec, 3:30-5pm \(children only\)](#)

Free parenting courses

Being a parent has never been easy. There are no manuals for it, and previous generations may not be able to provide the insight you're looking for. The family unit is more dispersed than ever, with some families existing hundreds of miles from what may be called a 'core unit'. The rapid pace of societal change in the UK rapidly outstrips the knowledge of the immediate past. The result is that many parents may find themselves lost in a maelstrom of contradictory advice. For adults, time has never been more compacted. Family Lives has produced a series of online parenting courses, to make this challenge a little easier. If interested please follow the link below:

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses>

Family Lives offers a confidential and free* helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on **0808 800 2222** for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice.

(* Free from landlines and most mobiles)

Pudding & Pie Cooking Club

Nikki and her team have places available for this excellent lunchtime club. The booking link is below.

<https://activities.bookpebble.co.uk/activity/pudding-pie-stnicholas-cooking-club-sutton-coldfield-048bb93e-c917-4154-880e-85850a6d80e8>

Football club - Monday after school - Years 3 to 5

Below is the link from Microsports for booking your child onto the after school club:

<https://www.microsportsltd.co.uk/sutton-coldfield-schools-Fv2Jd/p/st-nicholas-after-school-football-monday-autumn2>

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 12th November 2024	Year 5 - Alton Castle information meeting via Zoom
Thursday 14th November	Silly Sock Day for Kindness Week
Thursday 14th November	Centrestage Recital at 4pm
Friday 15th November	Year 4 Stay and Pray at 9am - ALL INVITED
Friday 15th November	Official Class Photographs
Monday 18th November	Year 6 - Blackwell information meeting via Zoom
Tuesday 19th November	9am-10.30am Year 2 parent & child curriculum workshop in the school hall
Wednesday 20th-Friday 22nd November	Year 5 Bikeability
Friday 22nd November	Non-uniform day in return for chocolate donations for the PFA Advent Fair
Friday 22nd November	EYFS Stay and Pray at 9am - ALL INVITED
Friday 22nd November	Gifts from God assembly - 2.45pm
Tuesday 26th November	9am-10.30am Year 3 parent & child curriculum workshop in the school hall

Friday 29th November	Year 1 Stay and Pray at 9am - ALL INVITED
Saturday 30th November	12pm-3pm PFA Advent Fair
Friday 6th December	Year 6 Stay and Pray at 9am - ALL INVITED
Friday 6th December	Whole School Mass for Feast of St Nicholas - 9.15am in church
Friday 6th December	Gifts from God assembly - 2.45pm
Wednesday 11th December	EYFS & KS1 trip to Midlands Art Centre to see Little Angel Theatre: Finding Santa
Thursday 12th December	KS2 trip to Lichfield Garrick to see Jack and the Beanstalk
Friday 13th December	Year 5 Stay and Pray at 9am - ALL INVITED
Friday 13th December	Gifts from God assembly - 2.45pm
Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th December	9.15am - EYFS & KS1 Nativity Play performance - tickets only
Tuesday 17th December	Christmas Jumper Day PFA Christmas Disco 3.30pm to 5pm
Friday 20th December	Last day of the Autumn Term - pupils break up for Christmas
Christmas Holidays	
Monday 6th January	First day of the Spring Term - all pupils back in school at 8.50am
Friday 31st January 2025	Young Voices concert at Resorts World, Birmingham

Mr Porter

Mrs Noble-Barton

Miss Smith

Executive Principal

Head of School

Assistant Head



St. John Paul II Multi Academy

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