



# St Nicholas' News

Newsletter from St Nicholas' Primary School

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Autumn Term: Issue 2

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018

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Dear Parents/Carers,

What a wonderfully, creative school St. Nicks' is. Last week summed us up perfectly: whilst Year 2 were burning buildings for the 'Great Fire of Marston' in the Key Stage 1 playground, the Navy were here rebuilding a pirate ship in the CIRB playground. Year 2 were then visited by the firefighters and the whole school enjoyed a really interesting talk in assembly by our very own Julia Drown, who used to be an MP, telling us all about the Houses of Parliament and democracy.

All this on the end of a very busy November where we have been thinking very deeply about the value of Freedom and especially Armistice. I was humbled and filled with pride at the way all the children at our school laid wreaths next to our Freedom Tree, donated to us by FOSNs. This will be planted at the front of our school alongside some new signage which will make the front of our school be more reflective of the colourful, welcoming school we are.

We have kicked started December with an afternoon of Arts and Crafts and it was wonderful to see so many of you here. Thank you too to all of you who came to Book at Bedtime. You and your views of our school are very important to us and we know it isn't always easy to get into school so we are very grateful. Hopefully we will see lots of you this Friday at the FOSNs Christmas Bazaar. We are so grateful to FOSNs for all the money raised for the school and are presently thinking of projects the money they have raised will fund - details to follow.

There will be another newsletter out before the holidays but in the meantime I would like to take the opportunity to wish all our Jewish families a very happy Hanukkah

Julie Holland

Acting Headteacher

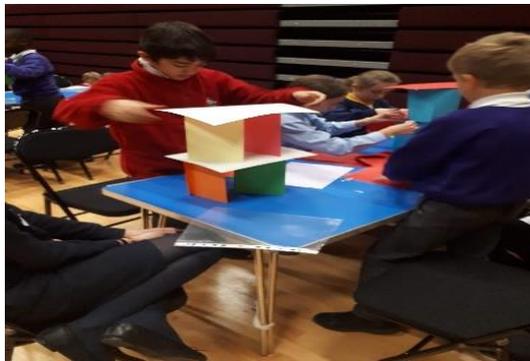
**LIVE, LOVE, LEARN and BE HAPPY**

### Freedom Week 12th -16th November

Our second Values week of the year explored and celebrated the value of Freedom. We started the week with an assembly about the significance of the centenary of Armistice Day and how we had many people to thank for the freedom we have today. During the week all classes had the opportunity to visit the War Memorial in Marston village and see the poppy display. Each class then made their own freedom wreath and, on Friday morning we gathered as a school to lay our wreaths under our new Freedom Tree, a beautiful weeping cherry tree donated by FOSNS which will be planted at the entrance to the school. The class wreaths are now on display in the hall. All classes explored the value of Freedom in their P4C sessions that week and some of the questions they generated are now displayed in the hall. Our next values week will be based on Independence and will be from the 21st - 25th January and we will be looking at historical figures such as Martin Luther King. If you would like to be involved in any of our activities then please email me at [aisling.hill@stnicholasprimaryschool.org.uk](mailto:aisling.hill@stnicholasprimaryschool.org.uk)

### Year 5 Science

Children from year 5 walked up to Oxford High School on Wednesday 31st October for a science event. The topic was engineering and they were set a task to see which group could build the highest tower out of coloured paper without talking to each other!! (except for 5 minutes planning time at the start). They really got stuck in and enjoyed every moment.



### Parking

Thank you so much to those of you who have been to talk to us about your concerns about parking. With such a busy school, this will always be a challenge but we really must be respectful of our friends and neighbours. To that end can we respectfully ask that you never block driveways on Raymond Road or Arlington Drive, even for a few minutes. This causes real distress to our neighbours who live there. Please note too that no-one should be parking at Meadowbrook without special permission.

### Don't forget our Coffee mornings

We would love to see you at our wonderful coffee mornings here at St Nick's. They take place straight after drop off time on Wednesday and Friday mornings in Daisy Class and all of our families are most welcome so please do pop along.

We run lovely stay and play sessions for the under-fives with singing and story time. If you do not have an under five please come along for a coffee, cake and chat with other parents and carers at the school. Adult cooking is the first Friday each month and the children cook on the last Friday of each month.

We also have a clothes swap that is available each week with nearly new uniform!

We look forward to seeing you very soon.

**There is a donations box in coffee morning for items of food for a Christmas hamper for the homeless shelter - please donate if you can.**

Steph Best

### Morning Arrival

A gentle reminder about the importance of children not being late, school starts at 8:45. We lock the side gate at 8:55 so if you arrive any time after that children will need to come to the main entrance.

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## **CIRB NEWS**

We were very lucky last week to have members of Oxfordshire University Royal Navy Unit in to help transform part of the CIRB garden and the sensory garden. 11 members of the team came and worked tirelessly during the pouring rain to help transform the old wooden pirate ship into a sandpit, widened the pathway to make it safe and usable in the winter and also tidied up the sensory garden and added some planters. During the spring term, the CIRB children will plant some bulbs and some lovely herbs for the whole school to enjoy.

The children loved talking to the Navy members throughout the day and even ate their lunch with them. Some children across the school also had the exciting opportunity to practise some marching and salutes in the afternoon with the OURNU. We are so grateful for the work that they did and can't wait for them to come back again next year.

## **Football News**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> November the boys played an Open 7-a-side football match against St. Michaels'. After the half time break we got going with the second half. It was a close fought half with our team coming out on top and scoring two more goals to no answer from the visitors. Overall it was a tough game and a hard fought match. St. Michaels' played extremely well and were tough to unlock and beat.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November was also an important day for the Girls Football team, as we had our first Open 7-a-side match of the new season playing against St. Michael's. It was a high tempo match, which took us a little while to get into our stride. Once we did, we did our best to claw back the couple of goals we'd let slip in. After the half time break we got started in a more organised fashion and played a lot better. However, despite this it was in vain as more goals slipped into our net. It was a tough first game and a hard fought match. We held our heads high and played with passion and displayed all of our school values even though we lost heavily.

## **Packed Lunches/Healthy Snacks**

A polite reminder to cut grapes and cherry tomatoes lengthways, and no peanut butter sandwiches or anything containing nuts in packed lunches please. Please make sure that your child has a healthy snack at break time - a piece of fruit is ideal.

## **The Great Fire of Marston**

The drama of it all!! All eyes were fixed on the row of houses as the fire began to spread.



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**Please be aware that sometimes dates need to be changed for a whole host of reasons often beyond our control, so do please check newsletters regularly for any amendments.**

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Start of the last week of School Clubs
7 <sup>th</sup> December	Non-uniform Day in return for a donation of a raffle or tombola prize
7 <sup>th</sup> December	FOSNS Christmas Bazaar - 3:15pm to 4.45pm
12 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Christmas Nativity - 9:30am
13 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas Play - 2:00pm
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day - £1.00 donation if you wear a Christmas jumper
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas parties in the afternoon
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 & 6 carols and poems around the Christmas tree - 2:00pm
20 <sup>th</sup> December	CIRB Christmas Play - 2:00pm
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch
21 <sup>st</sup> December	End of term 1:30pm finish

7 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>INSET DAY</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Start of Spring Term</b>
21 <sup>st</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Values Week - Independence
25 <sup>th</sup> January	Yew Class Sharing Assembly
28 <sup>th</sup> January	Stay & Learn - Maths
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Ash Class Sharing Assembly
15 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>3:15pm finish</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	<b>HALF TERM</b>

26 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 2 Earth Trust Trip
27 <sup>th</sup> February	EYFS & Year 6 Vista Photos
4 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Lime Class Yenworthy Residential Trip
11 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Cherry Class Yenworthy Residential Trip
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Stay & Learn - P4C
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Honesty Week
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception and Year 6 Childhood Measuring Programme
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 3 Play 2:00pm
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Yenworthy Assembly
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Beech Class Sharing Assembly
5 <sup>th</sup> April	End of term 1:30pm finish

23 <sup>rd</sup> April	<b>Start of Summer Term</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Bank Holiday School Closed</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 4 Play - 2:00pm
24 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>3.15pm finish</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>HALF TERM</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	<b>INSET DAY</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> July	End of term 1:30pm finish

### **OTHER IMPORTANT DATES**

Key Stage 2 SATs week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> May  
Key Stage 1 SATs week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> May  
Year 1 Phonic Screening week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> June

These are important statutory assessments and holidays **MUST NOT** be booked during those weeks.

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