

St Nicholas School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 10th
February 2023

Learning Together



Dear Parents,

We have come to the end of another term here at St Nicholas and this week has probably been the busiest we have had. I think both staff and children are all ready for the half term holiday

OFSTED: As you are aware, St Nicholas School had a Section 8 OFSTED inspection on Wednesday and Thursday this week. The school community found it a very positive but exhausting experience. I am so proud of my staff who worked together as a team and supported each other. Some had discussions with the Inspectors about their subjects areas, some had their lessons observed and some were part of a staff discussion about the school. I am so proud of their positivity and professionalism on both days and I want to extend a huge thank you to them. I am equally proud of the children who behaved impeccably – both during lessons and when moving around the school. They loved meeting the ‘special visitors’ and talking to them about their learning. Thank you also to the parent group who met with the inspector and to those who completed the questionnaire. Your opinions are highly valued and support school development. The official report will be available in about 28 days time and I will keep you informed of the outcome.

Illness: We continue to have a lot of illness in school. Please do not send in your child if they have a respiratory infection, fever or stomach upsets including vomiting. New guidance was published at the beginning of January: Professor Susan Hopkins (Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency – UKHSA) has said *‘It is important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school until they feel better and the fever has resolved.’* In school, we have been continue to help the children learn about the importance of good hand hygiene and remembering to wash their hands with soap and warm water. We have also been reminding the children to catch coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them. We have also had some chicken pox cases in some of our Reception + Year 1 classes. Chicken Pox is infectious from 2 days before the spots appear and until they have crusted over. Other symptoms include a high temperature, aches and pain, generally feeling unwell and a loss of appetite. Children may not return to school until the spots have completely dried up.

Reporting Absence: Please remember that you can either report your child’s absence via Weduc or you can leave a message on the telephone system. Please leave a specific reason for the absence so that we can mark it on the registers. We urge that rather than saying your child is ‘unwell’, you let us know the illness they have e.g. vomiting/diarrhoea/headache/cold etc so that we can add this to our absence records.

GDPR form on Weduc: Please can you complete the GDPR form on Weduc. This is where you give permission for your child’s photo to be used in school, on our school website and on social media. Please can you complete this as soon as possible. We are hoping to start making some training videos of strategies and resources we use in school and knowing which children we can use as part of these videos will be useful.

Deputy Head Interviews: Earlier this week, we held Deputy Head Interviews for 3 candidates. It was a full day of tasks and interviews and we put them through a rigorous process. We have appointed a very worthy candidate who comes with a wealth of SEN experience.

World Book Day: The week beginning February 27th March, we will be celebrating World Book Day in School. The genre of book we have chosen to celebrate is Fairy Tales. Vanessa Bryan and the Literacy Team are busy planning some activities and workshops for the children and more information will follow shortly. On Friday March 3rd, we will have a dress up day. The theme will be Fairy tale characters or your favourite book character.



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Important Dates for the Spring Term:

Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February – Half Term Holiday

Monday 20th February – INSET (no children in school)

Tuesday 21st February – Children return to school

Friday 24th February – Parent Coffee Morning SaLT led by Beth Gentry Hobson

Monday 27th March – Friday 3rd March – Book Week

Thursday 2nd March: Possible Teachers Strike Day

Friday 3rd March – Mufti Day for Book Week (Fairy Tale Theme)

Thursday 9th March – Parent Coffee Morning – Chill and Chat

Monday 13th March – Friday 17th March – Science Week

Tuesday 14th March – Parent Coffee Morning – How we teach Literacy/Reading

Wednesday 15th March: Possible Teachers Strike Day

Thursday 16th March: Possible Teachers Strike Day

Wednesday 22nd March – Parent Evening

Thursday 23rd March – Parent Coffee Morning OT and NAS

Monday 27th-Wednesday 29th March – Squelch Theatre for Key Stage 1 POSTPONED UNTIL JULY

Friday 31st March – Last Day of Spring Term (break up at 1:30)

Monday 3rd April – Friday 14th April – Easter Holidays

Monday 17th April – Children return for summer term

Monday 1st May and Monday 8th May – Bank Holiday (school closed)

Have a lovely half term holiday with your families. Please remember that Monday 20th February is an INSET Day so children do not return until Tuesday 21st. I hope we all return refreshed and energised for the rest of the Spring Term.

Many Thanks
Katie Goodwin
Head Teacher



ST NICHOLAS SCHOOL

Term Dates: 2023-2024

Autumn Term 2023

Training day: Monday 4th September
Training Day; Tuesday 5th September

Open to pupils: Wednesday 6th September
Last day for pupils: Friday 20th October

Half term: Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October

Open to pupils: Monday 30th October
Training day: Friday 24th November
Last day for pupils: Thursday 21st December

Spring Term 2024

Open to pupils: Monday 8th January
Last day for pupils: Friday 9th February

Half term: Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February

Training day: Monday 19th February

Open to pupils: Tuesday 20th February
Last day for pupils: Thursday 28th March

Summer Term 2024

Open to pupils: Monday 15th April
Bank holiday: Monday 6th May
Last day for pupils: Friday 24th May

Half term: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May

Open to pupils: Monday 3rd June
Training day: Monday 24th June
Last day for pupils: Wednesday 24th July