

# St Nicholas School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 17<sup>th</sup>  
March 2023

*Learning Together*



Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a good week? I just want to thank you all for your understanding while we have closed for Strike Action over the past few months.

**Ofsted Report:** Our Ofsted report has been released and it will be sent via Weduc to all parents. It will also be available on the school website next week. The report states that we remain as Good but will need a further graded inspection in 18-24 months time. As a school, we are proud of what has been written about the school and the children who attend. They certainly do flourish here. The areas of development that have been highlighted in the report had already been highlighted by the school and are on the School Development Plan. We are looking forward to improving these over the coming year. Once again, I wish to thank all of the school community (Pupils, parents and staff) for all of the amazing things you do for this school.

**Deputy Head Teacher:** Earlier this week I met with our new Deputy Head Teacher, Sarah Holliday, who has informed me that she wishes to start working at the school from April. I am delighted that she will be here a term earlier. She will be visiting the school again on March 28<sup>th</sup> where she will spend some time meeting the staff and students. We will arrange a coffee morning in the Summer Term where she can also meet our parents.

**Odd Socks Day:** On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, we will celebrate Downs Syndrome Day by wearing odd socks in school. If you wish to take part, your child can wear odd socks or bright tights for the day with their school uniform.

**Holiday Activities and Food:** Thousands of Croydon children who are eligible for and claiming benefits-based free school meals (FSM) can now sign up for free activity clubs with healthy meals over the school holidays. Open to eligible children and young people aged 4-16 years. Please use the following link:

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/holiday-activities-and-food>

During the Easter holidays, children who receive benefit based Free School Meals can access free places at the Holiday Activity (HAF) clubs. For information about funded places at Easter and Summer holiday clubs, please contact: [hafprogramme@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:hafprogramme@croydon.gov.uk)

Another parent has also let Juliet Bellgambi know about another amazing place for children with SEN and their families. CASPA Bromley. Providing activities and opportunities for Autistic children and Adults in and around the Bromley Borough. Further information on the following link: <https://caspabromley.org.uk/>

**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. Further, it is important that we know the illness your child has as we do have some vulnerable children in school that need to know if they have been in contact with illnesses such as Chicken Pox and Scarlet Fever.

**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. We are only waiting for 50 more responses so if you are one of those 50, please make sure you complete the form. We will be closing this form on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Parent Evening:** We will be having our Spring Term Parents Evening on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Elm class and Grasshopper class will have their Parents Evening on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March. I am looking forward to seeing you all.



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**Science Week:** This week we have celebrated Science week in school – a week that we love and look forward to every year. This year the theme was Connections. There have been lots of experiments happening in classes and the children have loved seeing all of the scientific reactions and predicting what might happen. Some of the experiments include:

**Colour Mixing:** The children have experimented with mixing different colours to make a new colour

**Skittles Experiment:** A firm favourite is the skittles experiment where you have skittles on the edge of the plate and pour warm water onto the middle of the plate. Eventually the skittle slowly start to creep towards the middle of the plate, making an amazing rainbow effect.

**Volcanos:** Some of the older children have enjoyed making a volcano and mixing vinegar with bicarbonate of soda to see the reaction.

Other reactions have also included adding mentos into a bottle of coke and watch it fizz and explode over the bottle. Another class missed vinegar and baking soda into a bottle and attached a glove to it and watched as the gloves started to inflate.

**Caterpillars:** Most classes also have caterpillar in the classroom and are watching as they slowly turn into butterflies. At the moment, most of the butterflies are at the pupa stage. Once the caterpillars have reached the chrysalis stage and turn golden we can attach them to the nets. We will keep you updated with what happens next!

**Planting seeds:** Some classes have also been planting some seed and watching them grow. Some classes also grew cress

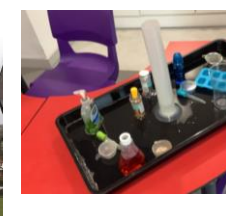
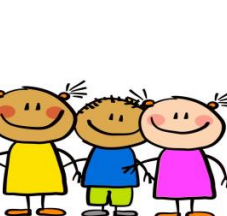
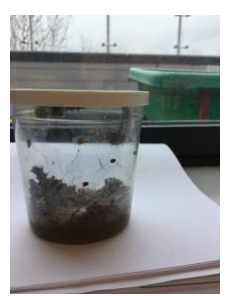
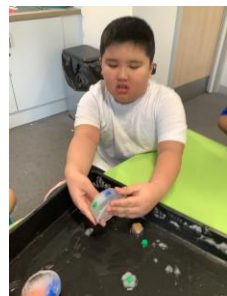
**Ice Melting:** Some classes have found that some of their small toys and been put in the freezer and are now stuck in ice cubes. They had to experiment with different ways of melting the ice to free all of the toys. Another class have also been exploring conservation through their water play.

We are going to continue with Science week next week, so I will let you know of any other experiments that have been done in class.

**Ice cream making:** One of our older classes decided to try and make ice cream in a bag. They found that whipping cream worked best for this!

**Float or sink:** Some children also looked to see if objects would float or sink in water. Children had to predict before they investigated.

**Slime:** Some of our year 6 children made slime out using food colouring, corn flour and water. Yuk!



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## Important Dates for the Spring Term:

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March: Odd socks day**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March: Parents Evening for Elm and Grasshopper**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Parent Evening**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Parent Coffee Morning OT and NAS**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup>-Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Squelch Theatre for Key Stage 1 POSTPONED UNTIL JULY**

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Last Day of Spring Term (break up at 1:30)**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Holidays**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Children return for summer term**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May and Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday (school closed)**

I am currently working on the Summer Term dates and these will be released shortly.

Have a lovely weekend.

Many Thanks  
Katie Goodwin  
Head Teacher

## ST NICHOLAS SCHOOL

### Term Dates: 2023-2024

#### Autumn Term 2023

**Training day: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Training Day; Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

Open to pupils: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September  
Last day for pupils: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October

**Half term: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

Open to pupils: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October  
**Training day: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November**  
Last day for pupils: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December

#### Spring Term 2024

Open to pupils: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January  
Last day for pupils: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

**Half term: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

**Training day: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

Open to pupils: Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February  
Last day for pupils: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

#### Summer Term 2024

Open to pupils: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April  
**Bank holiday: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May**  
Last day for pupils: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

**Half term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

Open to pupils: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
**Training day: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June**  
Last day for pupils: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July