

St Nicholas School Weekly Newsletter

Learning Together

Friday 15th
December 2023



Dear Parents,

We have come to the end of our last full week of the autumn term. It has been a very busy week this week with lots of exciting things happening in school. Please remember that we finish for the Autumn term on **Thursday 21st December at 1:30.**

Important Dates for rest if this term

Monday 18th December: A special visitor from the North Pole
Wednesday 20th December: Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
Thursday 21st December: Last day of term. Break up at 1:30
Monday 8th January: Children return to school

Christmas Shows: It was lovely seeing many of you at our Christmas Shows this week. All of the children performed brilliantly and it was lovely seeing them sing and dance on stage. I am incredibly proud of all of our children. I want to say a huge thank you and well done to all of the staff for rehearsing endlessly with the children, our year 5 and 6 choir and to Gaynor Pilbeam and Trish Bates for their fantastic producing of another successful Christmas Show.

Christmas Jumper Day: On Wednesday 20th December, we will be our Christmas Dinner Day. On this day, we ask that all staff and children wear their Christmas Jumpers. Please do not go out to specifically buy a Christmas Jumper if your child does not have one. Staff will stick something Christmassy onto their clothes. All children make Christmas hats to wear as well as design their own placemat for their Christmas Dinner.

Last Day of Term: The last day of term is Thursday 21st December. We will finish on this day at 1:30 so your child will arrive home earlier than normal. Children return on Monday 8th January 2024

School Photos: If you ordered a school photo, these will be in your child's book bag today.

Parent Policies: Before half term, Parent Policies, the Parent Code of Conduct and the Home/School Agreement were sent home via Weduc. Please follow the link so that you can sign the form on Weduc. There are a few parents who have not yet signed so will be sending out reminders leading up to the end of term.

Nut Free School: As a reminder, we are a **NUT FREE SCHOOL**. No nut products must be brought into school in lunch boxes or as snacks. This includes peanut flavoured crisps, yogurts or chocolate. We have children and staff with nut allergies in school. If staff members see nut products in lunch boxes, we will be removing them to ensure the safety of others.

Colder Weather: Now that the colder weather has arrived, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. We will always try to take the children outside during the day for some fresh air as this is essential for their sensory regulation during the day.

Important Dates

Monday 8th January: Children return to school
Monday 15th January: Jumpstart Johnny in to do some activities with all children
Monday 15th January: SaLT coffee Morning – Intensive Interaction
Friday 19th January: Mufti Day – wear something purple. More info to follow in January
Monday 22nd January: Road Safety Week
Friday 2nd February: Maths Number Day
Monday 5th February: Whole School Well-being week
5th February: SaLT Coffee Morning – Communication Boards
Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February: Half Term
Monday 19th February: INSET (school closed to pupils)
Tuesday 20th February: Children return to school
Monday 4th March: Book Week
Friday 8th March: World Book Day – mufti
Monday 11th March: Science Week
18th March: SaLT coffee Morning – Behavioural and sensory feeding
Wednesday 20th March: Parents Evening – Whole school
Thursday 28th March: Last Day of Term – finish at 1:30
Monday 1st April – Friday 12th April: Easter Holiday
Monday 15th April: Children return for summer term

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Behaviour Support Service: The Behaviour Support Service have contacted the school to see if any of our families would be interested in accessing their services to support with behaviour such as challenging behaviour related to ASD, sleep and eating. Please click on the link or scan the QR code and complete the questionnaire if you are interested in receiving support.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=sITDN7CF9Ueylge0jXdO4zgwF5xv4M9CsjJxLv1dWNUMzRZSU1YV1pXNEHTIpUMjFUWjNDWEE2Vi4u>

Thank you to those parents who showed interest in this service. I know many of our parents filled in the form to show their interest.

Following a meeting with our behaviour team this week, we have also been sent a QR code to their social media page for parents who wish to find out further information. They have also sent us details of free online workshops for OT and sensory needs. Please see the end of the newsletter for the flyer and QR code.

If you are now interested in a referral to be made for this service, please contact Elizabeth Gunner and Gillian Thatcher (our behaviour leads) who will make referral this for you. By accessing this service you may also be referred to other therapy services.

We are also hoping to invite the Tulip Behaviour Support Service in to do a coffee morning for parents.



@TULIPNEURODISABILITYTEAM

School Transport and Parking outside of school: The school has seen an increase in school transport bus cancellations recently due to 'severe staff sickness'. This is having a huge impact on the school and on our families. Myself and the head-teachers from the other Croydon Special Schools are compiling data to put in a letter to Croydon Transport and the LA as we do not believe that this is acceptable service for our pupils and their families. If your child's bus is cancelled and you opt to bring them into school, please can you look out for any messages/updates that we send out via Weduc as we may need to alter collection times at the end of the day (as we needed to today). Please can you also be mindful of where you park outside the school gates. If too many cars park on both sides of the road or on the bend into Aveling Close, it narrows the road and makes it very difficult for traffic to move freely up and down the road. I also just want to say thank you to all of the parents who collect at the end of the day. Your prompt departure has meant that we are getting less complaints from neighbours and also that our end of day routine is safe for all of our pupils.

Year 6 Savvy Theatre: This term, some of our year 6 children have been working with Savvy Theatre company at Fairfield halls. They have helped make some lanterns for their performance of Pinocchio and have also performed some drama workshops. Some of the children have been invited to perform in Pinocchio at the Fairfield on Sunday December 17th. I am very excited to also see them perform on stage at the Fairfield Theatre.

Crystal Palace FC Christmas Party: On Monday night, some of the children from our Football Club had the opportunity to go to the Crystal Palace Supporters Children's Charity Christmas Party. They were lucky enough to meet the CPFC manager Roy Hodgson, charity patron Bill Nighy, Crystal Palace players David Ozoh and Remi Matthews, Santa Clause and the Palace eagles Pete and Alice. It looks like they all had the best time!



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HAF: There are still places available for the Christmas Holidays in the Holidays Activities and Food Scheme. Croydon Council is working in partnership with over 40 local organisations to provide **FREE** holiday activities and food for children who are in receipt of benefits-related Free School Meals. **Parents/carers will be issued with 4 FREE credits to use this Christmas. This means you can book up to 4 spaces for your child(ren).** Every child/family in receipt of benefits-related Free School Meals will have the chance to book onto programmes running this Christmas. You will have received an email or text message from Holiday Activities (hello@holidayactivities.com) stating 'You have been issued a voucher'. The email will contain details of how to register/sign-in to the booking platform and claim your child(ren)'s voucher. Once you have claimed your voucher you will be able to link your Holiday Activities Voucher to your Holiday Activities Account, which will show the available credits you have to use. If you are unable to locate this email please do look in your junk mail. If you have more than one child, you will have received multiple vouchers via email/text. Please ensure you access the individual link for each of your children for their credits to show in your Holiday Activities Account. When you first log in, Holiday Activities will ask for you to share your location. By doing so, clubs will be displayed based on those closest to you. If you have any trouble with accessing the platform, please email support@holidayactivities.com. Spaces on the HAF programme are limited with over 50% already gone and pre-booking is essential. All bookings must be confirmed using the Holiday Activities online platform. Please look out for your email or text message from [HolidayActivities.com \(hello@holidayactivities.com\)](mailto:hello@holidayactivities.com) which contains your voucher code, and book now to ensure that your child does not miss out.

Croydon Panathlon Winners: On Monday, some of our Year 5 and 6 children were invited to take part in a competitive sports event with other Croydon Schools. Panathlon is a range of sporting programmes – which include multi-skills, swimming, football, 10-pin bowling and boccia – which give participants the opportunity to represent their school in sporting competition that they are so often otherwise denied. There were a range of activities that the children needed to compete in to gain points for their team. Some of these activities were throwing balls into hoops/nets and bean bags onto a target board. St Nicholas School were the winners of this event and will now represent Croydon in the London Panathlon finals in 2024.

We also had some children attend the 10 pin bowling event on Wednesday. The children competed extremely well and came 4th in this event. Again they were competing against other Croydon Schools. Well done to Donna Cardew, Seville Clark-Davis, Tameka Booth, Rhiann Tatham and Melodie Blake for taking the children and cheering them on.





I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Many Thanks
Katie Goodwin
Head Teacher



Occupational Therapy

Free Online Workshops for Parents,
Carers and Education Staff



Building Independence in Everyday Activities

- For children who struggle with age-appropriate skills.
- Aims to help you understand why your child is having difficulties.
- Provides knowledge & strategies to support your child to develop their skills.
- Focuses on: improving posture, arm/hand strength, attention, handwriting, typing, scissor skills, using cutlery, washing, dressing, toileting, toothbrushing, improving balance, ball skills & riding a bike.

Sensory Processing and How It Impacts on Everyday Activities

- For children with sensory processing difficulties affecting their ability to learn & develop age-appropriate skills.
- Explains the difference between tantrums & meltdowns, the 8 sensory systems & what sensory processing differences look like.
- Advice on: how to calm your child, how to modify the environment & useful resources.
- Includes a module on creating a supportive school environment.
- Focuses on: meltdowns, 'on the go' children, noise sensitivity, mouthing of non-food items, selective eating, toileting, dressing, hair/nail cutting & sleep.

Please note:

- These online workshops are broken down into bite-sized modules.
- Find the relevant modules for your child, access them at your own convenience & watch them as many times as you want.
- You will find practical advice & tips you can start using straight away.



To access the workshops, use the QR code or follow the link below:

[www.croydonhealthservices.nhs.uk/
childrens-occupational-therapy](http://www.croydonhealthservices.nhs.uk/childrens-occupational-therapy)

