

St Nicholas School Weekly Newsletter

Learning Together

March 8th
February 2024



Dear Parents,

We have had a lovely week here at St Nicholas this week. Lots of fun activities have taken place – which the children have loved.

World Book Week: This week we celebrated World Book Week in school. Each class chose their favourite book and completed some activities based on the book. Every class has also made a display of their work. We also had Savvy Theatre in to work with the children and they all took part in a lovely workshop based on story telling. Today it was lovely seeing the staff and children come to school dressed as their favourite character.

Friends of St Nicks: If you are interested in being part of the new committee please follow this link Forming the Friends of St Nicks Committee (office.com) to show your interest. You are also able to suggest ideas for future events. If you have any questions regarding the Friends please contact friendsofstnicks2024@outlook.com for any further information.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSiK WdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAWpPTQ5UMk5KN0t QODJRWEY3NzVEMTBDRkNNMIEzSi4u>

Important Dates

Monday 4th March: Book Week
Wednesday 6th March + Thursday 7th March: Mother's Day Gift Shop open
Friday 8th March: World Book Day – mufti favourite book character
Monday 11th March: Science Week
Friday 15th March: Comic Relief – mufti dress as something silly.
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

Mother's Day Wrap: This week, we had our first 'Friends of St Nicks' event in school. Following all of your gift donations last week, some of the parents spent most of Monday in school wrapping all of the gifts. On Wednesday and Thursday this week, they set up a shop in school and invited all of the children to come and choose a gift to take home. The children were brilliantly behaved and spent a lot of time choosing the perfect gift. Thank you to all of your donations for this. In total, this event has raised £470 for the children of St Nicholas. There is a personal message from the 'Friends of St Nicks' team at the end of the newsletter.

Comic Relief: We will be celebrating Comic Relief in school this year on **Friday 15th March**. The theme for this is 'Do something funny for the money'. On this day, we are asking the children to dress up as silly as they can – they can wear a silly hat, or a silly wig, nose + glasses, or in a silly outfit. Alternatively, they can dress head to toe in the colour red. We also want the children to do something silly for their class – this could be telling a funny joke or doing a funny dance routine. We will set up a link on Weduc for people to make donations and we will send this to Comic Relief.

Communication between school and parents: The school is continuing to work on improving its communication with parents and I wanted to make you aware of some of the work that is going on. We have a trial group of parents on Evidence for Learning. This is where teachers can share work that your child has done during the week and you can also share things they have done at home. We are also going to be introducing Behaviour Watch which will inform parents of any behaviour incidents or administering of First Aid during the day. We also have the LPPA group working on engagement with parents. Finally I am in the process of writing a Parent Questionnaire which will hopefully be out before Easter.

Parent Policies: Last 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. These are all policies that are recommended by the LA and be the DfE so it is important that they are signed. There are a few parents who have not yet signed (we are waiting for 60 responses) so will be sending out reminders leading up to the end of term.

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CSMA Concert: On Wednesday evening, members of our school choir performed at the Croydon Schools Music Concert at Fairfield Halls. They did the school proud and sang brilliantly, knowing all of the actions to the songs. The theme of the night was 'Power in Me' and Disney – 100 years of Wonder'. During the night it was clear that singing was being used to inspire, uplift, refresh and heal the soul and I definitely felt that watching the children perform. Thank you to Gaynor Pilbeam, Trish Bates, Becky Omar, Vanessa Bryan and Angela Crook who all supported on the night.



LPPA: We had a very successful visit from our advisor yesterday working on an action plan and meeting members of the working party. We look forward to sharing more news regarding the next steps with you soon.

Science Fortnight: We have extended Science week into science fortnight as there are so many fun activities planned. The theme for the week is Time. Over the next weeks children will be doing a range of experiments and investigations. These include growing and planting different seeds; melting ice; timing actions; looking at the seasons; and their own growth over the years. The children will also do other fun experiments such as mentos in cola and volcano explosions. Some classes also have caterpillars in their classrooms and will be observing the life cycle of a caterpillar.

Marathon Fundraising: One of our year 5 teachers, Catherine Holloway, will be running the London Marathon next month. She will be running for the National Autistic Society and has set up a Thanksgiving Page. If you would be able to donate some money to this wonderful charity, please scan the QR link that will take you to Catherine's Just Giving Page.



friends of St Nicks

Friends Of St Nicks

bliss

caffe

Flipout Croydon

Old Lodge Lane Baptist Church

Sophie Jane Paul Beauty Therapist

Mothers Day Wrap

We had a very successful first "Friends Of St Nicks" event with our Mother's Day Wrap. So far we have raised over **£470!** All of the children really enjoyed the experience. We want to say a **MASSIVE** Thank You to all in the community who donated. We want to say a special thank you to the companies who donated:

Bliss Caffe,
Flipout Croydon,
Godstone Farm,
Melting Makes Scents,
Old Lodge Lane Baptist

Sophie Jane Paul - Beauty Therapist

Godstone Farm

Discover • Explore • Play

We appreciate your support!



Sensory Processing Programme

This programme will explore the 8 sensory systems and how the environment can impact on Autistic individuals.

The aim of this course is to increase knowledge and understanding about how people with sensory challenges may experience the world around, how to meet an individual's sensory needs and how important stimming can be for regulation.

We will be discussing practical strategies and reasonable adjustments that will have a positive impact and facilitate learning.

Our Sensory programme will be held on Zoom on the following dates:

Wednesday 13th March 2024 2-5pm

Wednesday 20th March 2024 2-5pm

Wednesday 27th March 2024 2-5pm

The cost of this 3-hour programme is £50

To book your place on the webinar please either scan the QR code below or go to: www.theautismtrainingnetwork.com/training

"For every person who understands Autism better, another Autistic person will be happier."
Libby Scott, Autistic Author (at age 11)



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Sensory Processing Accredited Course: The Autism Training Network will be running a course for parents and professionals on Sensory Processing. The course aims to increase knowledge and understanding about how people with sensory challenges may experience the world around, how to meet individual's sensory needs and how important stimming can be for regulation. Practical strategies and reasonable adjustments will be discussed. If you are interested in this course, please see the poster at the end of this newsletter.

Term Dates 2024-2025: The term dates for the 2024-2025 academic year are attached to the end of this newsletter. They will also go on the website and sent via Weduc.

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.

Absence Reporting Procedure: To report an absence please do so through the absence report section on Weduc or message the class teacher. Please follow the link for a step-by-step guide to report absence via Weduc. <https://weduchelp.zendesk.com/hc/en-gb/articles/14181580731921-How-do-I-report-an-absence-for-my-child->

Have a lovely weekend.

Katie Goodwin
Head Teacher



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ST NICHOLAS SCHOOL

Term Dates: 2024-2025

Autumn Term 2024

Training day: Monday 2nd September

Training Day; Tuesday 3rd September

Open to pupils: Wednesday 4th September

Last day for pupils: Friday 18th October

Half term: Monday 21st October – Friday 25th October

Open to pupils: Monday 28th October

Training day: Friday 29th November

Last day for pupils: Friday 20th December

Spring Term 2025

Open to pupils: Monday 8th January

Last day for pupils: Friday 14th February

Half term: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February

Open to pupils: Monday 24th February

Last day for pupils: Friday 4th April

Summer Term 2025

Open to pupils: Monday 22nd April

Bank holiday: Monday 5th May

Last day for pupils: Friday 23rd May

Half term: Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

Training day: Monday 2nd June

Open to pupils: Tuesday 3rd June

Training day: Monday 30th June

Last day for pupils: Tuesday 22nd July