



St Nicholas Church School

School Newsletter

4th October 2024

Term 1

Newsletter 3

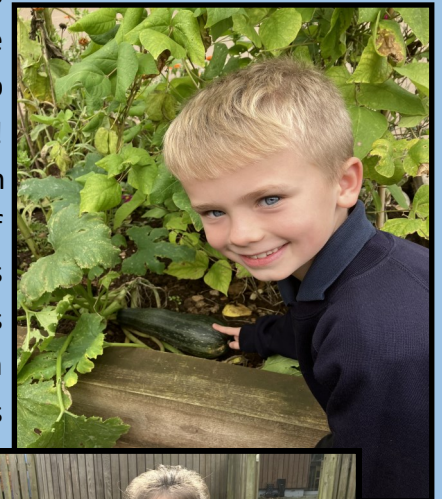
Dear Parents & Carers,

Yesterday, we had the pleasure of welcoming two Assistant Directors of Education from the Trust who came and visited us at school. As always, we were keen to show off all of the hard work that goes into everyday school life. They had so many positive things to say about the lessons and learning, but the very best feedback is always hearing how polite, well spoken and friendly our pupils are —something that fills us with pride!

Safety has been a key topic in school this week and we were pleased to invite Nicki, the school crossing patrol lady, into assembly to talk to the children about safety on the roads outside of school. She talked about the importance of using the crossing sensibly and the risks of not waiting for her to stop the traffic. The children got to ask her questions about her role and were keen to find out more about the importance of her job. It has been raised to us numerous times that some very small children are walking significantly further ahead of their parents on the road outside of school and have been known to step into the road. We would urge parents to keep their children away from the edge of the pavement until they reach the crossing point.

It was the turn of Years 1, 2 and 3 to visit the Bath Literature Festival this week. KS1 attended a very amusing draw-a-long session with Duncan Beedie—author of the book 'Heavy Metal Badger', which is not only a fun story but is also packed full of references to famous heavy metal bands (Mr Low very much approves!). Year 3 attended the Magic and Dragons event hosted by previous Children's Laureate and award winning author Cressida Cowell. We are very lucky to have such fantastic events on our doorstep with some of the very best children's writers in the country. Thank you to Mrs Smyth for securing us the tickets!

As we start to notice a real change in the weather (please bring those coats to school!) Miss Parrott and Mr Miller have been sorting the last of the summer fruit and vegetables from the planters. We've had a bumper crop this year—especially the apples, which have grown in their hundreds! We've also had plenty of beans, courgettes and even a little pumpkin just in time for Harvest. On the subject of growing things, we heard that some of the children in Midford class have designed a very unique experiment this week where they are testing to see if plants respond to emotions. There is currently a planted seed in a pot with headphones attached, listening to a range of songs! You inspire us with your curiosity for learning Midford class and we can't wait to find out the results.



Have a great weekend!
Mr Low & Mrs Simmons



Chess Club

It's always a pleasure to welcome back our chess coach Ferdo into school and Year 4 are being treated to weekly chess lessons to improve their strategic thinking skills. Ferdo is also running his popular Chess Club on a Wednesday lunchtime for KS2 pupils, so if you are a bit of a chess whiz kid or a complete beginner, there's something for everyone!



Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club is now an established part of the school day for many children and they are seeing the benefit of settling into their mornings with a good breakfast inside them and lots of fun social time with their friends. Mrs Lamb and Miss Bennet are always finding creative activities for the children to do and the stock order of toys and games has arrived to keep everyone busy! Please speak to the school office if you would like to sign up your child to the club.



Year 6 Heatree Residential 2024

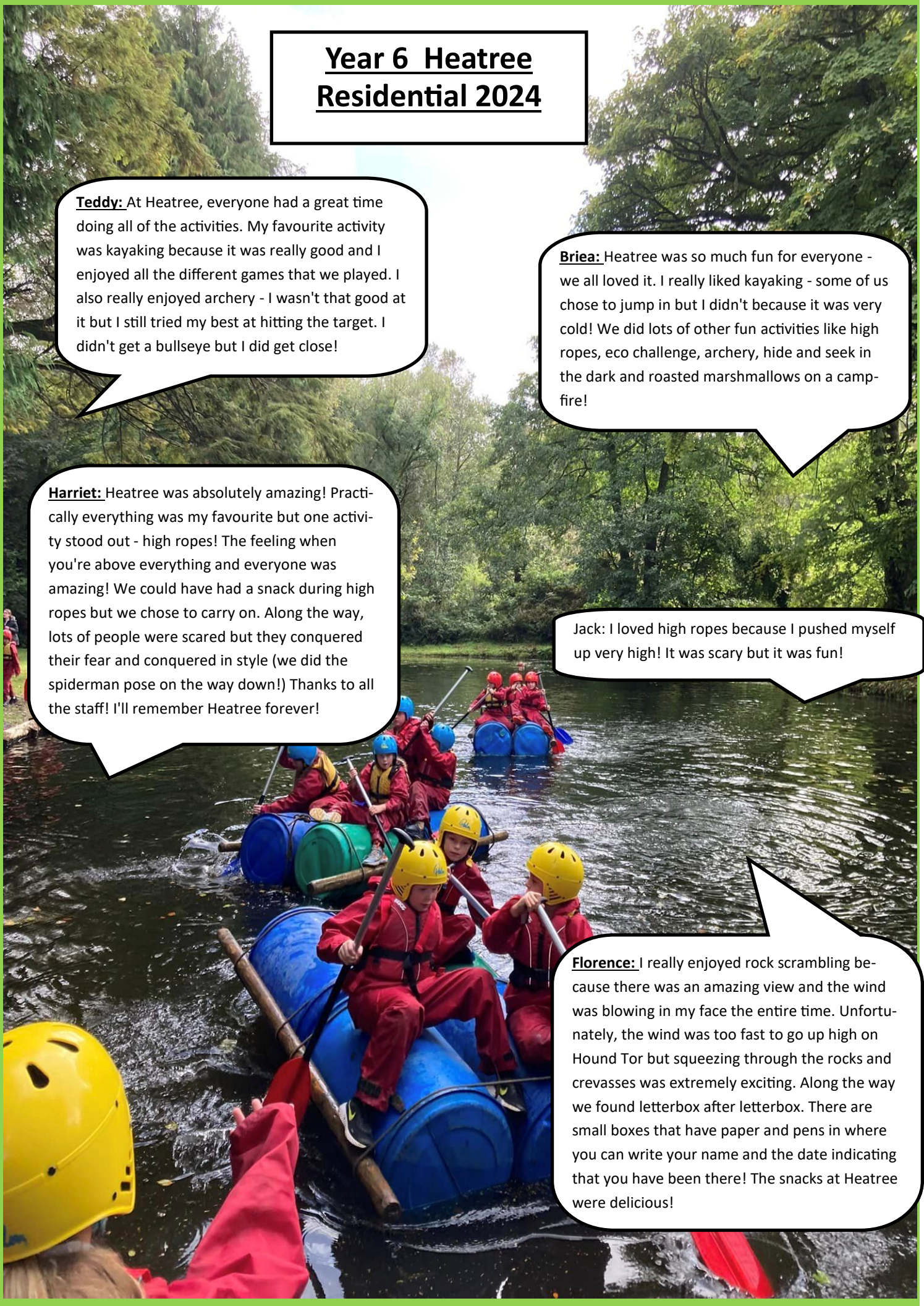
Teddy: At Heatree, everyone had a great time doing all of the activities. My favourite activity was kayaking because it was really good and I enjoyed all the different games that we played. I also really enjoyed archery - I wasn't that good at it but I still tried my best at hitting the target. I didn't get a bullseye but I did get close!

Briec: Heatree was so much fun for everyone - we all loved it. I really liked kayaking - some of us chose to jump in but I didn't because it was very cold! We did lots of other fun activities like high ropes, eco challenge, archery, hide and seek in the dark and roasted marshmallows on a campfire!

Harriet: Heatree was absolutely amazing! Practically everything was my favourite but one activity stood out - high ropes! The feeling when you're above everything and everyone was amazing! We could have had a snack during high ropes but we chose to carry on. Along the way, lots of people were scared but they conquered their fear and conquered in style (we did the spiderman pose on the way down!) Thanks to all the staff! I'll remember Heatree forever!

Jack: I loved high ropes because I pushed myself up very high! It was scary but it was fun!

Florence: I really enjoyed rock scrambling because there was an amazing view and the wind was blowing in my face the entire time. Unfortunately, the wind was too fast to go up high on Hound Tor but squeezing through the rocks and crevasses was extremely exciting. Along the way we found letterbox after letterbox. There are small boxes that have paper and pens in where you can write your name and the date indicating that you have been there! The snacks at Heatree were delicious!



Attendance

Term Time Holidays

Whilst taking holidays in term time can be cheaper for families, it can have a huge impact on children's progress in school. They can miss key units of study in maths and English, and these are often not repeated during the year. If you are planning to take your child out of school during term time, you will need to complete a holiday request form from the office and return it at least two weeks before your holiday. We are unable to authorise any holidays taken in term time and this may result in a penalty notice being issued by the local authority.

New changes for 2024—Please be aware

“From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be **£80 if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 if paid within 28 days**. This rate is in line with inflation and is the first increase since 2012.

In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160. Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.



Please note this is a significant change from previous years!



If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.”

More information can be found here:

[Fines for parents for taking children out of school: What you need to know – The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2023/08/01/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/)

Playleaders

To support those children who find it hard to join in games at playtimes, we've recruited a dedicated band of helpful Playleaders who are always on hand to encourage participation and resolve any difficulties the children may have. Over the last few weeks the team have been working on the KS1 playground and supporting our new reception starters. A big thank you to the team for volunteering your time and being great role models for our younger children!



Our KS2 Award Winners

	Star	Maths Magician	Reading/Oracy	Wizard Writer
Avon	Autumn P	Alex P	Thea T	George L
Mells	Sophia K	Poppy B	William P	Lucas C
Yeo	Liyomi W	Lauren H	Molly J	Romen S
Midford	Lexi DW	Jaycub K	Rodney S	Matthew S

Diary Dates

Monday 7th October
Zoolab Visit

Friday 11th October
KS1 Praise Assembly

Tuesday 15th October
PTFA School Disco

Thursday 17th October
Harvest Assembly KS1 & KS2

Tuesday 22nd October
Individual Photos
Parents Evening 1

Thursday 24th October
Parents Evening 2

End of Term 1

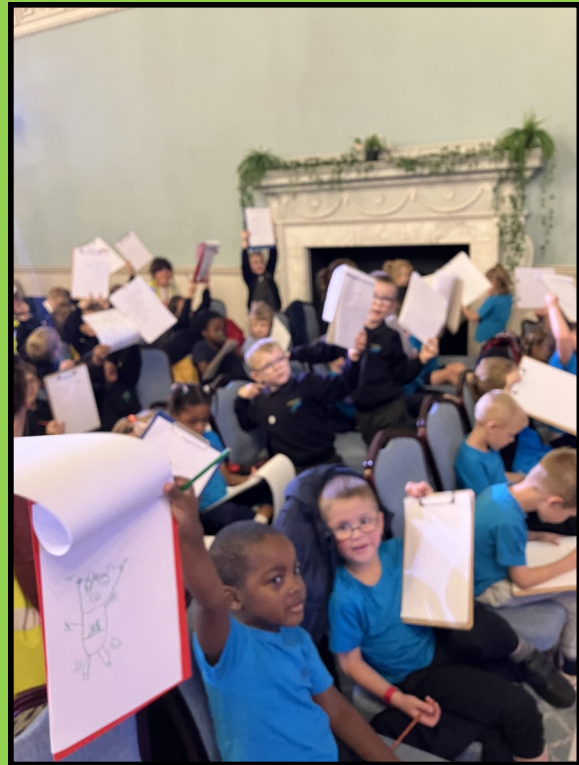
Friday 25th October
INSET DAY

Monday 4th November
Term 2

Monday 25th November
Flu Immunisations

Thursday 28th November
Y2 Trip To Cardiff Castle

Bath Literature Festival Years 1 & 2



Attendance

Cam	93.6%
Somer	97.1%
Dart	96.8%
Avon	99.6%
Mells	97.3%
Yeo	97.3%
Hartlake	94.1%
Midford	90%
Wellow	98%

Overall attendance is: 96.4%

Time to Talk

Cam	Make a collection of objects beginning with a "s" and an "a" sound.
Somer	Read Heavy Metal Badger with a grown up. Talk about your favourite part of the story.
Dart	Can you name a habitat and describe it to your parents?
Avon	What makes a healthy diet?
Mells	What rule do we use when rounding?
Yeo	Explain the difference between filtering and sieving a mixture
Hartlake	Persuade your family to visit St Bernards.
Wellow	
Midford	What are the four layers of the rainforest called? What would you find in each layer?

Reminders!

- Please make sure all school uniform is labelled. We have an ever growing shelf of lost items that no one has claimed.
- The weather has now cooled and children must have a coat in school each day.
- All children need a drink bottle in school each day, which should be taken home and washed every evening.

Thanks for your continued support!

Outside of School Achievements

Congratulations to Nora G who attended her first swim meet with her swimming club!

Well done to Evie N who competed in a swimming competition and was awarded a silver and bronze medal.

Congratulations to Ada who completed Doodle English & Maths Summer Challenge & took part in Marvellous Makers during the Summer Reading Challenge.

Eschools & ParentPay

Please contact the School Office if you are having problems logging in to either Eschools or ParentPay.

2024-2025 SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

Including INSET DAYS

TERM 1	
Start:	Monday 2nd September
Finish:	Friday 25th October
TERM 2	
Start:	Monday 4th November
Finish:	Friday 20th December
TERM 3	
Start:	Monday 6th January
Finish:	Friday 14th February
TERM 4	
Start:	Monday 24th February
Finish:	Friday 4th April
TERM 5	
Start:	Tuesday 22nd April
Finish:	Friday 23rd May
TERM 6	
Start:	Monday 2nd June
Finish:	Tuesday 22nd July
INSET DAYS	
Monday 2nd September 2024	
Tuesday 3rd September 2024	
Friday 25th October 2024	
Monday 6th January 2025	
Wednesday 18th June 2025	

IMPORTANT - FLU VACCINATION

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child's flu vaccination is now due. This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and can cause serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu. Please complete the consent form (yes or no) using the following link:

www.bswschoolagedimms.co.uk/Forms/Flu

Please use the school code: WT148516

Please ensure you complete your child's consent no later than 48 working hours before your school session to ensure your child receives their vaccination.

We are visiting your child's school St Nicholas Church School Radstock on 25-Nov-24

Most children are offered a nasal spray vaccine which is a quick, simple and painless spray up the nose.

The nasal spray vaccine is the preferred vaccine.

A leaflet explaining the vaccination programme for primary aged children can be accessed at:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66730c5864e554df3bd0db99/>

[UKHSA 12922 Protecting your child against flu leaflet 03 WEB.pdf](#)

A leaflet explaining the vaccination programme for secondary aged young people can be accessed at:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64a2e2e245b6a2000c3d47de/>

[UKHSA-12388-protect-yourself-against-flu information-for-those-in-secondary-school.pdf](#)

This includes details about the small number of children for whom the nasal vaccine is not appropriate. The nasal spray vaccine contains a very small amount of gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine) as an essential ingredient to keep it stable and able to work. For those who may not accept medicines or vaccines that contain porcine gelatine, a flu vaccine injection is available. Consent can be provided using the link above. The Immunisation Team will send you a link to book your child into one of our Community Clinics you will then be directed to book a clinic appointment to have the injectable flu vaccine.

Even if your child had the vaccine last year, the type of flu can vary each winter, so it is recommended to have it again this year or they won't be protected.

Since the programme was introduced, most children offered the vaccine in schools have had the immunisation.

If you have any queries, please contact the School Aged Immunisation Team on 0300 247 0082 or email us using vcl.immunisations@nhs.net

Yours sincerely,

Roanna Ellis

Professional Lead for School Aged Immunisation, B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire, and School Nursing B&NES

LIBRARY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

w/c 7 October

Bath Central Library

Storytime

Tuesday 10.30 - 11.00am 8 October

Board Game Saturdays

Saturday 12.30 - 4.00pm 12 October

Art in the Library: Usha Pearce, Montse Asensio, Kiran Pearce

Mon - Sat During opening hours 6 September - 3 Oct

Sensory Space, for families with children and young adults with sensory needs

Mon - Sat, Book a Session via Eventbrite

Lego Lab, Family Fun Drop In

Mon - Sat During opening hours

Baby Bounce and Rhyme

Wednesday 10.30 - 11.00am 9 October



Gymnastics workshops

October half term



Monday 28th October: Handstands + Cartwheels (Ages 6+)

2:00 - 3:30pm

£11.50

Wednesday 30th October: Somersaults workshop (Ages 4-6)

2:00 - 3:00pm

£7.50

Wednesday 30th October: Somersaults workshop (Ages 7+)

3:15 - 4:15pm

£7.50



Dragonfly Leisure

Dragonfly Leisure Writhlington
Knobsbury Lane
Radstock
Bath
BA3 3NQ



All workshops are ran by our highly qualified Gymnastics coaches

Please book via our website

www.dragonflyleisure.co.uk/activities/holiday-activities



ECOWEEK+ at WELLS CATHEDRAL

11 TO 20 OCTOBER 2024



EARTH EXPLORER TRAIL THROUGHOUT ECOWEEK+

Re-use a free Earth Explorer Trail from our 2022 Gaia Exhibition explorer trails and discover some of the Cathedral's special places with your family. Find the matching fact boards with tips on how to be a Steward of the Earth. Can you collect letters from each board to make a word and earn a sticker?



THE MOSSY CARPET 12 OCTOBER

Did you know that mosses are climate superheroes? Join us on a mossy adventure when we'll learn about this tiny but hugely important plant. Watch a short film, look at mosses under the lens and get creative with wool to help us make a mossy carpet! Suitable for all ages and abilities.



ENVIRONMENTAL STORYTIME 15 AND 18 OCTOBER

Join us at Wells Cathedral in Wells Environment Week to hear fun, engaging stories about the importance of nature and caring for the environment around us. Storytime will take place in the Lady Chapel, where we can enjoy the bright, colourful stained-glass windows.



PRAYERS FOR THE PLANET THROUGHOUT ECOWEEK+

Come and tie your hopes and wishes to our prayer tree in the Cathedral Undercroft with sustainable seed paper. At the end of the project, the prayers will then be planted by volunteers. Open to all ages.



60 STEPS TOWARDS BEING GREEN THROUGHOUT ECOWEEK+

Visit the Cathedral's Environment and Sustainability page to download our 60 steps Towards Being Green leaflet – a straightforward guide listing simple changes you can make to your day-to-day life which will protect our planet.



Find out more at wellscathedral.org.uk/ecoweeek



27th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to give notice of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Friends of St. Nic's PTFA, to be held on 21st October 2024. The meeting will start at 4pm, with drinks and snacks available before.

The PTFA plays a vital part in the school community and all parents, as members of the PTFA, are invited to support the AGM. This is your chance to hear and see how the funds you have helped to raise have been used for the benefit of the children/students at our school.

The AGM is also an opportunity for you to elect the PTFA Committee, who represent the association throughout the forthcoming year. Nominations should be sent in advance of the AGM for anyone wishing to stand as an Officer or Ordinary Committee Member, for the first time. Existing committee members wishing to stand for re-election do not have to be nominated again but should inform the PTFA of their intention to stay in their role.

If you would like any further information about being a Committee Member, please email us on stnicradstock.ptfa@gmail.com, or contact us via our Facebook page. As our PTFA is a registered charity, all committee members automatically become Trustees of the Charity. Before submitting your nomination form, please read the Charity Commission publication '*The Essential Trustee – What you need to know (CC3)*'. A copy of the booklet can be found on the Charity Commission website.

Kind regards

Amy Pritchard

Chair