



St Nicholas Church School

School Newsletter

1st December 2023 Term 2 Newsletter 3

Dear Parents and Carers,

St Nic's Christmas celebrations kicked off in style this week with another fun filled Winter Fayre. It is always lovely to see so many families joining in the festivities and spending time together. The snow machine proved a particular hit with the children and they are trying to convince us to set it up again before the end of term! Watch this space! A huge thankyou to the brilliant PTFA and volunteers who set up and ran the Fayre—we are eternally grateful for your hard work. If anyone would like to get involved and help at these events, please do get in touch with the PTFA as they are always on the look out for new volunteers.



It was pleasing to have so many parents attend the Christmas decoration making event yesterday and we hope you enjoyed having the opportunity to work alongside your child. The decorations will look fantastic on our tree in the hall and will be sent home with the children before the end of term. Speaking of trees, we were quite amazed that we actually won the online competition to win a real tree and decorations for the school, so thank you to those who took part! Mr Miller is busy putting it up as we speak.

With the cost of living crisis still impacting so many people, it was decided with the PTFA that we wanted all children across the school to have the chance to see Father Christmas and receive a gift as part of the Christmas celebrations. So this year, all children will get this opportunity, at no cost to parents. This has been made possible by two very generous donations from **Howden Insurance** and **Clifford's Garage** and we know parents will join us in thanking them for both their generosity and Christmas spirit that will put a smile on the face of all the children.

Although the learning never stops at school, we have a jam packed Christmas calendar coming up over the next couple of weeks. We hope you will be able to join us for some of these special events.

Christmas at St Nicholas

Mon 4th Dec	Elfridges	Children can buy gifts in school for family members (see attached poster for details)
Tue 5th Dec	Rev. Ian Assembly at St Nics	Children only
Wed 6th Dec	Christingle Service 9:10 am	All welcome
Wed 6th Dec	Father Christmas coming to school!	All children to receive a gift!
Thur 7th Dec	KS1 Performance am 10:00am	All welcome (ticketed event)
Thur 7th Dec	Christmas Wreath Making 5:30pm	For parents (ticketed event—see attached poster for details)
Fri 8th Dec	KS1 Performance 10:00am	All welcome (ticketed event)
Mon 11th Dec	KS2 Performance pm 1:30pm	All welcome (ticketed event)
Tue 12th Dec	KS2 Performance pm 9:30am	All welcome (ticketed event)
Wed 13th Dec	Christmas Dinner (Reception, Yr1, Yr 2, Yr 3, Wellow)	Children only (Christmas jumpers and/or accessories allowed)
Thur 14th Dec	Christmas Dinner (Yr 4, Yr5, Yr6 , Midford)	Children only (Christmas jumpers and/or accessories allowed)
Thur 14th Dec	Carol Service 2:30pm	All welcome
Friday 15th Dec	Spirit of St Nicholas Assembly 9:10am	All welcome
Friday 15th Dec	School finish (12:40 Yr R—Yr 6) (1:00 Midford + Wellow)	(Christmas jumpers and/or accessories allowed)

Feedback Friday

Thank you for your feedback this week. Lots of positive views about the Winter Fayre which we will pass on to the PTFA. There were also lots of positive messages about school so thank you for those. Our questions this week were around reading and how parents find this at home. We didn't have too many responses with this but some people said they were doing their best to read every night. This wasn't always easy with busy family life. One person said they sometimes use older siblings to read with younger siblings, and we think this is a fantastic idea, as it benefits both children. Someone has asked if it's possible to also have a story book sent home if their child's reading book is fact book. This is certainly something we would be happy to do and will be a lot easier once the re-stock of the library has taken place. We'd love for children to be immersed in as many books as possible! Please do continue to try and read with your child every day as the benefits are huge. The Book Trust highlight four main benefits to reading with children which include:

- Overcoming disadvantage caused by inequalities
- Be healthier and happier children with better mental health and self esteem
- Do better at school at school and make more progress across the curriculum
- Develop creativity and empathy

There was one other really good point made today about the number of parent events we put on being unmanageable for parents to get to. We would really like to explore this a bit more and will make this our question for next week. Thank you.

I loved doing RE yesterday!

Are we doing Christmas jumper day this year?

"Yes. You can wear them for Christmas Lunch."

I read daily but I don't always write it in my reading record.

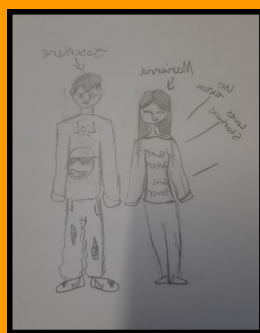
Run for Reading

The money is still coming in from our "Run for Reading" event and the office are busy counting it all up. Please could all sponsorship money be handed in by Monday at the latest so we can reveal our final total next week and look at how much we have raised for books for the library. Thank you.



Our Values

Y6 produced some amazing pictures this week in RE and as a class we discussed the birth of Jesus and its significance. We talked about the important job that Mary had been chosen to do and times we have felt important. Lots of the children said they had felt excited to be chosen for parts in the play or to be part of the Pupil Leadership Team. We also discussed why we think we may have been chosen for these special roles - using our values and being reliable were some of them. The activity was to draw what Mary and Joseph may look like now, what jobs they may have and any hobbies. Super RE Y6. Well done.



House Points

Ludlow	203
Foxcote	162
Tyning	173
Huish	202

FATHER CHRISTMAS
Is coming to St. Nicks!

This year, all children will have the opportunity to see Father Christmas in school if they would like to. All children will receive a present whether they visit him or not. This has been made possible by two very generous donations. One is from Howden Insurance (<https://www.howdeninsurance.co.uk>) and the other is from Clifford's Garage (<https://www.facebook.com/CliffordsRecovery>).

We would like to thank both companies for their kindness, for giving every single child the same chance and a treat at Christmas ❤️

— Father Christmas will be visiting school on
Wednesday 6th December.

HOWDEN

We know insurance, and we get to know you

Howden is the new name for A-Plan. We do insurance differently.

We're not about cookie-cutter, off-the-shelf, insurance. We do people-first insurance, understanding the specifics of your insurance needs, and match them with the insurer that's best placed to provide that cover, at the right price. Personal, tailored, great value cover.

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- Exhausts ● Cambelts ● Brakes
- Clutches ● Batteries ● Tyres
- Air Conditioning, Diagnostics.
- MoTi arranged ● Courtesy cars available
- Pick up and drop off service arranged
- 24 hour nationwide recovery.

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- ☎ 01768 521674 - Jason
- ☎ 01768 604734 - John
- ☎ 01836 777887 - Dave

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

Attendance

Cam	84.6%
Somer	94.8%
Dart	90.8%
Avon	95.9%
Mells	92.1%
Yeo	95.3%
Hartlake	91.3%
Midford	87.5%
Wellow	90%
Overall attendance is	92.5%.

In Term 1 we had very positive attendance at St Nics and we are pleased that around 50 pupils have managed to maintain 100% attendance so far. However, this term attendance has been particularly poor. Winter will always bring the usual rounds of bugs and colds but please only keep children off school if they are too unwell to attend. Sickness bugs still require 48 hrs off, and this can't be helped.

Poor attendance at school has serious implications for children and young people. Lower attendance is correlated with lower attainment outcomes for pupils at the end of Key Stage 2. National Data from the 2022-2023 academic year for the end of Key Stage 2 shows that 71% of pupils who had 99% attendance or above achieved expected standard in reading, writing and maths, compared to only 50% of pupils with 90% attendance. This drops to only 42% of children achieving the expected standards with 85% attendance, and the pattern continues; as attendance drops, so does attainment. With this in mind, please speak to us if you are having any difficulties with your child attending school and we will be happy to look at what we can do to offer support.

KS1 Celebration Assembly

	Star	Maths Magician	Reading/Oracy	Wizard Writer
Cam	Ava H	Miracle O	Leo D	Zak M
Somer	Zoe MG	Rushew O	Pixie-Rose H	Gracie W
Dart	Wynter-Rose M	Enzo J	Daisy P	Rocco M

Diary Dates

Monday 4th December

PTFA Elfridges

Wednesday 6th December

PTFA Father Christmas

Thursday 7th December

10.00am— KS1 Performance

5.30pm—PTFA Wreath Making

Friday 8th December

10.00am—KS1 Performance

Monday 11th December

1.30pm—KS2 Performance

Tuesday 12th December

9.30am—KS2 Performance

Wednesday 13th December

KS1, Wellow & Y3 Christmas Lunch

Thursday 14th December

Yrs 4-6 & Midford Christmas Lunch

Carol Service

Friday 15th December

Spirit Of St Nicholas Assembly

End of Term 2

Wednesday 3rd January

Term 3

Time To Talk

Cam	What is the name of the long sleep that some animals have during Winter time?
Somer	How many new words can you make from the letters in Christmas?
Dart	What facts do you know about orangutans?
Avon	Why were the pyramids created in Ancient Egypt?
Mells	What was your favourite fact from our trip to the Roman Baths?
Yeo	Explain to your grown-up the difference between a proper and an improper fraction.
Hartlake	What steps did you follow in our science experiment this week and what did you find out?





PLEASE JOIN US
FOR AN EVENING OF

Wreath Making

DEC | 07 | 6 PM
ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH SCHOOL
ARRIVE FROM 5.30 PM

TICKETS £15

TO INCLUDE ALL MATERIALS, A HOT
DRINK AND A MINCE PIE



FRIENDS OF ST. NIC'S PTFA
PRESENTS

ELFRIDGES!

HOW IT WORKS

Children can buy 1 or 2 presents for adults

Each present is £2.50, which must be paid for in advance on ParentPay

Our elves go in to school on 4th December to help the children choose and wrap their presents

The children write out the label, and then take the presents home ready for their adults on Christmas Day!

ORDER DEADLINE 1ST DECEMBER!



2023-2024 SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

Including INSET DAYS

TERM 1	
Start:	Tuesday 5th September
Finish:	Friday 20th October
TERM 2	
Start:	Monday 30th October
Finish:	Friday 15th December
TERM 3	
Start:	Wednesday 3rd January
Finish:	Friday 9th February
TERM 4	
Start:	Monday 19th February
Finish:	Thursday 28th March
TERM 5	
Start:	Monday 15th April
Finish:	Friday 24th May
TERM 6	
Start:	Monday 3rd June
Finish:	Tuesday 23rd July
INSET DAYS	
Friday 1st September 2023	
Monday 4th September 2023	
Tuesday 2nd January 2024	
Monday 29th January 2024	
Friday 12th July 2024	

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From climate change to military conflicts around the globe, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

1 FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS

There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before swamping your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they've seen.



2 RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.



3 KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what's happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.



4 EMPHASISE HOPE

Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.



5 MONITOR REACTIONS

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.



6 CONSIDER YOUR OWN EMOTIONS

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process: adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.



7 SET LIMITS

Managing screen-time and content can be difficult even in normal circumstances, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example). It's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try to limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screen-time limits.



8 TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once: instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.



9 ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.



10 FIND A BALANCE

There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.



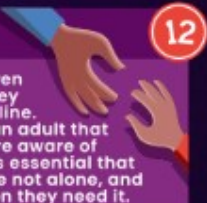
11 BUILD RESILIENCE

News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.



12 IDENTIFY HELP

It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.



Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and companies to fight bullying around the world. FaceUp helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they not only want but need.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

**Saturday 4th November -
Monday 1st January**

ICE

VOLT



Ice Skating. Santa's Grotto. Alpine Bar

Book -

www.icevolt.co.uk

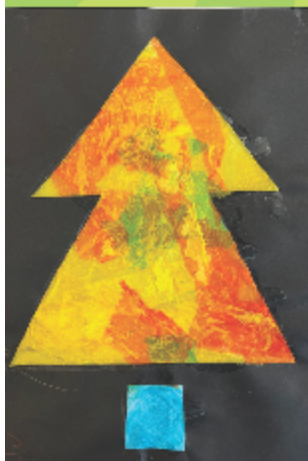
Planet Volt, Charlton Lane, Midsomer Norton BA3 4BD

Christmas Art Trail



**Make a piece of Art for the
Christmas Art Trail in shop windows**

Deadline Friday 24th November
Trail 29 November to 19 December



Christmas window

Create an outline using
black sugar paper or card.
Stick coloured tissue
paper in the spaces.
Hand completed work
to Unit 14, South Road, MSN



Free workshop Saturday 18 November 10-1 Unit 14
contact manager@midsomernortoncommunitytrust.co.uk
01761 419133 07903951168





Festive Fun Holiday Clubs

Let's Play, Move, Create, Discover & Nourish

St Paul's Junior School



Shepton Mallet

Mon 18th - Thurs 21st Dec
9-3pm or extend to 4pm



St Johns Primary School



Midsomer Norton

Weds 20th - Thurs 21st Dec
9-3pm or extend to 4pm



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1-1 face to face support for 5-10 year olds and a combination of face to face & virtual support for 11-17 year olds*

Receive a **FREE 3-MONTH leisure centre pass** upon completion for the child and nominated adult**

Topics covered:

- Healthy food and drink swaps
- Physical activity/active play
 - Impact of screen time
 - Food choices

To book a place or find out more contact the
Community Wellbeing Hub:

t: 0300 247 0050

e: BATHNES.thehub@hcrqcaregroup.com