

St Nicholas CE VA Primary School Newsletter

March 2017

Vision Statement

At St Nicholas, we nurture everyone to 'be the best we can be 'in a caring and inclusive Christian Environment

DATES

17th March: Parent Consultations for parents of children on the SEN register

24th March: Parent Consultations for Year 4, 5 and 6 Parents. Please see separate letter.

Red Nose Day Friday 24th March - please come to school wearing as much red as possible.

Saturday 25th March - Odyssey (Artsreach) in school.

PTFA - Vintage Tea Party
3.00 - 5.00 pm in school

Sunday 26th March
Mothering Sunday Service at 10:30 in school

Thursday 30th March - Parent Forum 6-7pm. All welcome.

5th April - Ash Play 2pm / 6pm

Friday 7th April: End of Term Service 1:30 pm. All welcome- children can go home straight from church after the service (2:15 pm). Please complete the attached slip and return it to school no later than March 24th.

DATE CHANGE: School Summer Fete is now on **Saturday July 15th 2017**

Dear Parents,

Annual Parent Questionnaire March 2017

We were delighted with the results of our 2017 Annual Parent Questionnaire. We constantly strive to improve and your feedback is invaluable in helping us to drive the school forward.

Although, we officially ask for your feedback once a year, we welcome hearing from you all year round. If you have a concern or would like to know how your child is doing, please make an appointment to see your child's class teacher or myself at any point throughout the year.

If you would like to see the percentages of parents those who Strongly Agree or Agree with the statements below, please visit the 'Key Information' page on our website: www.childokeford.dorset.sch.uk.

Thank you for your comments, suggestions and continued support. Together we really can make a difference.

54 Returns – Thank you!	Strongly Agree/Agree	Disagree/Strongly disagree	Don't Know
1. My child is happy in this school	100		
2. My child feels safe at this school	100		
3. My child makes good progress at this school	100		
4. My child is well looked after at this school	100		
5. My child is taught well at this school	100		
6. My child receives appropriate homework for their age	91	2	7
7. This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	100		
8. This school deals effectively with bullying	72	2	26
9. This school is well led and managed	100		
10. This school responds well to any concerns I raise	89	4	7
11. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	98	2	
12. I would recommend this school to another parent	98	2	

Attendance

We have recently reviewed our Attendance Policy in line with county and government guidelines and will upload this to our website before the end of the Spring term.

At St Nicholas, Primary School, we judge attendance using the following criteria:

Outstanding: 98 - 100% **Good:** 97- 95 % **Requires Improvement:** below 95%

We routinely monitor attendance and lateness and notify parents if their child's attendance falls below the minimum expectation of 95%, or they are persistently late. As stated in the February Newsletter, we are keen to offer any support we can, to ensure any issues that may be affecting your child's attendance rate or punctuality, are dealt with effectively. Therefore, if you receive a letter highlighting our concern, please make an appointment to see me or alternatively, we can offer a telephone consultation, if this is more convenient.

We will publish our Whole School Attendance percentage each month, against the National Standard. Our aim is to be 'Outstanding' and this month we fall into the category of good: 96.6%

Please help us to reach our target by ensuring your children do not take holidays in term time and attend school regularly and on time.

Our school day commences at 8:45 and the register is taken at 8:55. Once again, thank you for your continued support

St George's Day Art Competition

As part of our St George's Day Celebrations, we are holding a Dragon Drawing Competition!

There are 3 categories

- Reception and Year 1
- Year 2,3 and 4
- Year 5 and 6

The children can use paint, pencil, pastels, collage or mixed media; the more creative the better!

Entries need to be in school by **Wednesday 26th April** and will be judged by our local artist Mary Tambini, on **Friday 28th April** (Celebration Assembly).

CHURCH NEWS

12th March - Messy church at St Nicholas. 10.30am - 12 noon. This month's theme is Lent. Please bring a plate of snack food to share.

26th March 10.30am **Mothering Sunday**. All the churches in the benefice are shutting and we are taking church into the three village schools, so the service in Child Okeford will be in the school hall. There will be posies for the children to give to Mums and carers and everyone is welcome.

14th April Good Friday. There will be a children's service for Good Friday at the Shillingstone Church Centre at 10.30am. All Welcome.

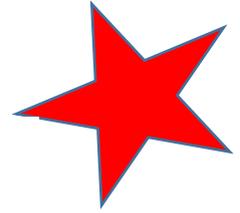
Young Explorers. KS1 pupils are really enjoying our new Christian Club called 'Young Explorers', lead Mrs Hamilton and Rev Lydia. This term they have been looking at well-loved stories from the old Testament using story bags and songs. They meet on Friday lunchtimes at 12.30pm. Please let us know if your child is interested in joining.

HALL OF FAME

Class Cups



Congratulations to...



Our Class Cup Winners:

Ethan, Logan, Ollie, Freddie B, Annalise, Izzy LS, Macey, Bella, Sophia, Poppy, Scarlet, Keira, Archie, Arlo, Jasmine, Eleanor, Brody, Esme, Jack, Sam, Eva, Anna, Harry H & Izzy MF.

We have had an exciting start to our sporting year with a variety of tournaments and matches:

- The netball team has had a fantastic victory in the Sturminster Newton Area annual tournament, beating 5 schools in the pyramid and securing a place in the North Dorset finals.
- Following a successful inter-house cross country event, (which saw Hod House crowned as victors), an amazing, record-breaking, 56 runners volunteered to take part in the Sturminster Newton Area Cross Country competition at Shillingstone School. These runners made staff and parents extremely proud through their determination, fitness, team spirit and resilience against the cold weather. The teams performed well in all age groups securing a host of second and third place honours. However, special congratulations must go to the year 5 winning team: Archie D, Harry F, Amy F and Natty Q.
- The year 5/6 football team continued their successful cup run to qualify for the quarter finals of the Davison Cup. This was an exciting match against tough opposition (Wyke School). Players performed to the best of their abilities and displayed some excellent team skills. Unfortunately, they lost this match but were crowned winners of the Sturminster Newton Area tournament, on Thursday 9th March. Well done!
- Up-coming fixtures include:
 - inter-house gymnastics, football, handball and key stage 1 winter sports day
 - Sturminster Newton Area year 3 and 4 football, year 5&6 football, year 5 handball
 - North Dorset Netball finals.

Thank you to one of our parents, Mrs Rudd, who has successfully bid for some money from the Gardening Trust, to help us to develop our grounds. We were awarded over £350 and we are extremely grateful for the time and effort Mrs Rudd gave to this venture.

If you are a gardening or outdoor enthusiast, we are holding our next 'Ground Hog Day', on Sunday 2nd April. A letter will follow next week with further details so please look out for this.

THE ARK CHILD OKEFORD'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

*The Ark Child Okeford is celebrating 50 years since its inception in 1967 with a Family Tea Party on the afternoon of **Saturday 8th July 2017 from 2.00pm – 5.00pm.***

*Back in the days of flower power, a few local mums started Child Okeford Playgroup, one of the first playgroups in the area. Over the years, the group has grown and expanded, from the playgroup in the village hall; then Child Okeford Pre-school, which moved into a room in St. Nicholas Primary School in 1994; and finally becoming The Ark Child Okeford, a full day nursery, including Before, After-school and Holiday Clubs, accommodated in a purpose-built extension to the school, ten years ago. Throughout all this time, the group has remained a voluntary, non-profit-making venture governed by the parents. The current staff and committee would love as many former parents, children, committee members and staff to join them and current parents and children in their celebration this summer. **Please contact The Ark on 01258 861007 or thearkchildokeford@hotmail.co.uk if you would like to attend and/or have any old photographs or other memorabilia from years gone by.***

And finally.... the children continue to work really hard and are making pleasing progress. Last week they produced some lovely art work around The Lord's Prayer and some fabulous writing linked to the 20th anniversary of World Book Day. We will be displaying this in the library so please come and have a read! Recent visitors to the school, have commented on our ethos and the quality of the learning. They really do make us very proud!

Current Parent Representatives:

Mrs Carpenter -marioncarpenter@btinternet.com (Willows);

Mrs Andrew - rachel@juddstransport.com (Ash);

Mrs Tonks -samtonks@hotmail.co.uk(Acers);

Mrs Sharples -hellenno58@aol.com (Acers);

Mrs Belbahi -mehdi.belbahi@btinternet.com (Oaks)

Mrs Rigler –hannahrigler@hsbc.com or hannah.rigler@homecall.co.uk (Oaks)

On a day -to -day basis the school is run by the Head teacher and staff. They are held to account by the Governing Body. If you wish to contact the governors concerning a school related issue or are interested in being a governor, please contact our clerk Robert Wellen: robertwellen@btinternet.com Chair of Governors: Rev Lydia Cook Vice Chair of Governors: Oliver Davis