

# St Nicholas CE VA Primary School Newsletter

## September 2018

### Vision Statement

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

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school after the summer break and I hope that everybody has had a restful holiday and is excited to be back at school. I would like to thank the whole school community for making me feel so welcome and I look forward to supporting the school over the next year. The Autumn Term is always very busy and this year will be no exception. We have a number of events coming up and I will add these to the school website.

If you have any problems, concerns, or can offer help to the school, please do come and see me – my door is always open.

Steve Cottrell – Acting Head Teacher

### Message from Mrs Maley

Dear Parents and Children

I am writing to thank you all for my wonderful send off, lovely gifts and heartfelt messages.

I was deeply touched and humbled by your generosity and the love and support you afforded me, whilst I captained the good ship St Nicholas.

The school and its community will always hold a special place in my heart and I shall feast on my many wonderful memories for many years to come.

Good luck for the new term.

Best wishes,  
Mrs Maley

### Cycle Helmets

We have taken delivery of some new scooters at school and are desperate for some cycle helmets. If you happen to have an old cycle helmet that you could donate, please drop it in to the office.

**Autumn Term Dates 2018 - Half term:** Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October

**13<sup>th</sup> September** - Full Governor's Meeting

**17<sup>th</sup> September** – Reception in Full time

**19<sup>th</sup> September** – Yom Kippur

**26<sup>th</sup> September** – European Day of Languages

**11<sup>th</sup> October** – School Open Day (10.15am – 11.30am)

**12<sup>th</sup> October** – School Photos (Individuals/Siblings)

**19<sup>th</sup> October** - Harvest Festival

### Arts Week

The school will be having an Arts Week in the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> October.

This year's theme is recycling and reuse. If you have any old coloured plastic bottles, or bottle tops please wash them and give them to your child's class teacher.

Thanks

### Health & Safety

Keeping children safe is our top priority at St Nicholas. Please help us to keep everyone safe by:

- Parking outside the school and walking the children in, to help ease the congestion. Please do not cut across the car park but use the path provided.
- PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE DISABLED BAYS BETWEEN 8:30 – 9:15 and 2:45 – 3:30 unless you are entitled to.
- Morning drop off–Please drop the children off in the playground to avoid congestion in the building. This also helps staff to monitor those entering the school and helps us to keep the children safe.
- **Medical:** PLEASE LET SCHOOL KNOW IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANY MEDICAL NEEDS. If they use an inhaler, please ensure it is clearly labelled and in school at all times. Please contact the office and Mrs Hanson will provide you with the necessary forms that you will need to complete. Thank you.

### Celebration Assemblies

Every Friday morning at **9am**.

We hope as many parents, grandparents and friends of the school can join us for these. Parents of those children receiving 'Class Cups' or sporting certificates will be notified by text.

For those new to our school, we encourage children to share with us any awards or achievements they have accomplished out of school. We also celebrate birthdays during this assembly.

### Uniform

Please ensure all uniform and packed- lunch boxes are clearly named.

Hair should be tied back and no nail varnish, make -up or jewellery, except stud earrings please.

Thank you for your cooperation.

### Communication

**Newsletters** are published on our website and emailed to parents monthly, usually on a Monday. Please ensure the office has your latest email address.

**Curriculum overviews** and homework schedules and expectations can be found on your child's class page: [www.childokeford.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.childokeford.dorset.sch.uk)

**Texting** – we have a texting service so please make sure the office has your latest mobile number – thank you.

**Morning routine.** All children need to be in **school promptly at 8:45** for 'Early Morning Work.' This is a short session of approximately 10-15 minutes involving a short, age-appropriate task, designed to get the children thinking! Although this is only a brief session, it could make a real difference to your child's day! Teachers will use it in a variety of ways: to reinforce key skills, revisit misconceptions from previous learning, introduce an idea, problem solving and discussion. We would appreciate children arriving **promptly**. It is very unsettling for everyone, if children arrive late, particularly for the latecomer. If your child arrives after 8:55, please use the front entrance and sign in at the office. Thank you.

### VOLUNTEERS

If you can spare some time to support in school, we would love to hear from you. Having extra adults to hear readers, test times tables, spellings, or help with displays is invaluable.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the office: [office@childokeford.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@childokeford.dorset.sch.uk) or complete and return the slip below.

#### Volunteering in School

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent / grandparent of: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ September 2018

## St Nicholas

It's easy to assume the stereotypical image of a PTFA applies to all PTFA's. I can honestly say ours isn't. I was elected chair (much to my complete surprise....I had only intended to go to a meeting as a "recky") in 2016. A small committee then, predominately all new members. Since then, some absolute stars have joined our group.

So, what do we actually do..... obviously raising money for the school is top on the agenda. Working closely with the school, we help to provide resources where the school budget just doesn't stretch to. From literacy and maths schemes, to outside play equipment, and ipads, all these help make the school a bright, diverse and happy environment for the children's learning.

Some of our events help to bring the community closer together, and offer enjoyment for those connected to the school, these include the Christmas party for the children, helping the Blackmore Vale Lions Christmas float, refreshments at plays, Mother's Day afternoon tea to name a few.

With 4 children of my own, I totally understand the pressures of parent life, and balancing any volunteering alongside every other demand life puts upon us. As a team, we all *get it*. That's why, we volunteer because we *enjoy it*. Anyone is welcome to join the committee, our meetings are at a local pub, generally every 4 weeks depending on what is on the plan. Whilst we are surprisingly productive, we do enjoy the cheesy chips, maybe a little g&t and the social time we get together.

For years I felt unable to commit to a regular evening meeting, and if you are in the same position now, that is absolutely fine. If you would still like to help, then we would love to hear from you, as are always looking for extra hands at the events we hold. Still want to help but can't give the extra time.... then support our events, make cakes, spread the word to other parents/friends/relatives, whatever you can do we appreciate!

Tanya Mason-Flynn

PTFA Chair

### Inset Training Days

#### For the academic year 2018/2019

4<sup>th</sup> September 2018

5<sup>th</sup> September 2018

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019

### Lunchtime Supervisor

The school is currently seeking to appoint a new lunchtime supervisor. Duties will include setting up and serving hot school meals, supervising and ensuring the safety of our pupils both inside the lunch hall and outside on the playground, supporting and encouraging positive play and behaviour and performing minor first aid when required. If you would like more information visit <https://jobs.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/>

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](mailto:robertwellen@btinternet.com) Chair of Governors: Rev Lydia Cook Vice and Carol Wee.