

# St Nicholas CE VA Primary School Newsletter

November 2015 Issue 2

## Vision statement

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

## SPORTING NEWS

### Lost in the Dark!

Our final orienteering festival took place at Sturminster Newton High School on Tuesday 17th November. The school team put up a fine performance in gale force winds and darkening skies. The organisers were very impressed with the progress the competitors had made over the 4 events and hope that families will come along to club events, in order to have fun and further develop map reading skills. Well done to all participants. Please see our PE notice board for details of club events and results of the last meeting.

### Upside Down and Inside Out!

 Our second annual inter-house gymnastics competition took place last week with key stage 2 children performing a well-rehearsed sequence in front of their classmates. All pupils made fantastic progress and produced controlled and well balanced work. Scores were very extremely close with final results as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> place. Okeford 54.5

2<sup>nd</sup> Place. Hod 51.7

3<sup>rd</sup> Place. Hambledon 51.5

4<sup>th</sup> Place. Hambledon 50.08

Congratulations to all gymnasts!

 Our School team also competed in a county competition this weekend. Well done to Millie, Elsbeth, Kristiina, Isabella and Sophia for representing our school. Many thanks to Mrs Salisbury who has given up numerous break times to supervise them practising and for accompanying them to the event.

### Making a Splash!



Nine Year 6 pupils represented the school in a swimming gala at St Mary's School in Shaftesbury on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November. This was the first time the school had entered a team in this event and we were very proud of their achievements: The swimmers performed superbly, gaining 8 firsts (including all 4 relays), 3 seconds, and 1 third, 3 fourths and a fifth place. Despite having such a small team and not having any Year 5 entries, St Nicholas managed to secure 4th place overall (out of 8). This was a truly fantastic achievement! Congratulations to all team members and thanks to families for supporting their children in the development of their swimming.



## School Development Priorities

I sent out a summary of our key priorities at the beginning of the term and we have been working hard on these areas of development. A copy of this summary can be found on our website in the Parents - Newsletters section.



I have carried out many maths learning walks this term as well as formal lesson observations and real progress is being made! The children are displaying an increasing ability to articulate their thinking, identify patterns and make connections between concepts. In many cases the children are thirsty for challenge and eager to be tested on their times tables and related division facts. There is indeed a real buzz about maths throughout the school.

As you know we are working hard to develop their fluency in the basic skills and are grateful for all your efforts in helping us to achieve this. Please keep practising those all-important tables and number bonds, it is making a real difference! 'Time' is another tricky concept for many children so any support you can offer would be welcomed too. The parent leaflet, posted on your child's class page at the beginning of the year, is a good reference point, if you wish to support your child further in achieving the end of expectations.

At parent consultations in December staff will outline your child's next steps in Reading, Writing and Maths, suggesting further ways you can help at home - together we can make a significant difference!

## Behaviour and Staying Safe.

As you know, we expect the highest standards of behaviour at St Nicholas and are committed to ensuring all the children feel happy and safe. Incidents of bullying or indeed any acts of unkindness are treated seriously and dealt with directly, as stated in our Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies. We aim to be proactive rather than reactive. Through our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and Citizenship Curriculum, we aim to develop positive relationships, respect and tolerance for others, emotional intelligence and resilience, in order to help children recognise and manage their own and others emotions. We are relentless in our efforts to minimise unkind acts and bullying on a daily basis and to developing the necessary skills, knowledge and aptitudes the children need to deal with such behaviour, including knowing when and how to seek appropriate support. The children are always the first item on all our staff meeting agendas and we endeavour to be vigilant at all times but it is impossible to be 'all seeing and all-knowing'. Therefore please help us to maintain the highest standards of behaviour and prevent bullying by: reinforcing what is and isn't acceptable behaviour, discussing the difference between isolated acts of unkindness and bullying and encouraging your child to talk to someone if they feel hurt or upset. Many thanks.

## E-Safety

Keeping our children safe on the internet is also something that should concern us all. In school, we talk to the children on a regular basis about 'Cyber bullying' and how to keep themselves safe on the internet, using age appropriate material. Our Safer Schools Team ran workshops last week for our KS2 pupils and a few parents attended an information session after school. We have posted guidance from this session on our website, for those who were unable to attend. You will find this information on the Home Page under Web Safety. As one parent aptly pointed out, 'it is something we should attend annually because our children continue to age, the technology changes and sadly the potential

threats to our children's safety seem to increase.' Please take the time to read this guidance and regularly check your child's settings and activity.

### **Parking**



Some of you may have noticed the presence of community police officers at pick up and drop off times. Unfortunately, there are still people who continue to park on the yellow zig zag lines in front of the school and in the designated disabled spaces outside the school office. Could I once again ask everyone to be considerate when parking and driving near school, in order to minimise the risks to our children and keep everyone safe. Many thanks.

### **Music**



We held our first Musical Café of the year on Friday. For several of the children this was their first experience of performing in front of an audience and they did themselves proud! There was wonderful singing from our Junior and Senior Choirs too! Many thanks to all our peripatetic teachers and Mrs Horner and Mr Blake for their boundless energy and encouragement.

The senior choir will be visiting Millbrook House again on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December** to entertain the residents and help to get them in the Christmas spirit.

### **Christmas is coming!**



Santa has been in touch and invited the children to write to him! Please post your letters in our Post Box (outside my office) from **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015**. Santa will post all replies to school!

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** can be posted in our Post Box from **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015**. Please ensure the envelopes include the **child's name and class**. If you know there is more than one child with the same christian name, please include the initial of their surname, or if necessary their whole surname. This will save time, avoid disappointment and keep stress levels down too! (hopefully)

Thank you to all those families who are taking part in the 'Sturminster Rotary Santa Stride' event. Mrs Hanson has registered you all, so no turning back now!

### **Date Reminders**

**27<sup>th</sup> November** - KS2 Glow Disco - Mr Friese-Greene and Mrs Ferguson will be on hand to get the party started.

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December** - Senior Choir - singing at Millbrook House from 3:15 - 4:15. We would be grateful if parents could collect the children from Millbrook House at 4:15. Many thanks.

**17th December** - Christmas Party for the children — please don't order hot school meals on this day.

**18<sup>th</sup> December** - End of term service at 9am in Church. School closes at 1:30.

Please keep checking the Events section on the website for all other dates. We endeavour to update this regularly.

## Hall of Fame

Congratulations to all our Class Cup winners and Maths Masters.

### Class Cup

Bella	Abi
Apple	Sophie
Lauren	Freddie D
Emily C	Tristan B
Isabella P	Mackenzie
Reuben F	Kit

### Maths Masters

Toby	Percy
Lydia	Maisie
Santi	Julia
Archie T	Harry H
Ewan	Adam
Ben H	Freddie P
Lily H	Harry D FF



### Congratulations

To Harriet and her family on the birth of Phoebe and to Alfie and his family on the birth of Gus.

**And finally...**over the past three weeks we have had several visitors to our school, including prospective parents, the headteacher of Sturminster High (Mr Jason Davies), the newly appointed Reverend Lydia Cook and our School Improvement Partner, Mr Matt Barge - Headteacher of Milton on Stour. It has been a pleasure showing them around our school and giving them a brief insight into life at St Nicholas. Their feedback was extremely positive and all were struck by the warmth and welcome they received. They also commented on the strong sense of cohesion and shared purpose they felt, after visiting classrooms and talking to staff and children.

We are indeed very proud of our ethos and the strong relationship we enjoy with parents, friends and our community. Never has it been more important, in the wake of recent world events, that we continue to build a strong sense of community and help bridge the cultural and religious divides that threaten our children's futures. Thank you for your continued support and commitment in helping us to provide the very best education and strive, '*...to be the best we can be.*'

#### Parent Forum Contacts

Mrs Carpenter - [marioncarpenter@btinternet.com](mailto:marioncarpenter@btinternet.com)  
Mrs Tonks - [samtonks@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:samtonks@hotmail.co.uk) Acers / Willows  
Mrs Sharples - [helenn58@aol.com](mailto:helenn58@aol.com) Willows  
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Mrs Andrew - [Rachel@andrewrachel.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:Rachel@andrewrachel.wanadoo.co.uk) or [rachel@juddstransport.com](mailto:rachel@juddstransport.com) Acers / Chestnuts

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: James Smith Vice Chair of Governors : Carol Wee