

St Nicholas CE VA Primary School Newsletter

January 2016 Issue 2

Vision Statement

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

UNCRC Article 29: All children have the right to learning that allows you to become the best that you can be.'



Dates

Date CHANGE - Summer Fete - NOW Saturday 9th July

REMINDER - Musical Café - Friday 29th January - 2:30 This time our older children will be performing and we will text parents to let them know who these children are - there will be **NO CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY this Friday.**

NEW DATE - 10th February 'ASH WEDNESDAY - 2:30 Service in School, led by Reverend Lydia and Ash Class - ALL WELCOME

New Parent Forum Date - Thursday 11th February - 6-7pm

12th February - Ash Cake Sale

Advance WARNING!

March 3rd is World Book Day - this year we would like all the children to come dressed as a character from 'Alice in Wonderland'. During the day we will be having a Mad Hatter's Tea party and the following day (**Friday 4th March**) M&M theatre will be performing 'Alice and Wonderland' to the whole school.



As many of you will know Alice in Wonderland celebrated its 150th Anniversary last year so to mark this momentous event we are also inviting families to design and make a new hat for the Mad Hatter! Entries must in by **Monday 22nd February 2016** so there is plenty of time to get creative!



We have asked the cast of **Alice and Wonderland** to judge the entries on **Friday 4th March**. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. We look forward to exhibiting your creations.

Post Box



To help minimise congestion in the office at the start of the day, we are asking parents to post returned slips and payments into the post box outside

my office. Please ensure envelopes are sealed and clearly labelled. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Safety

As you know the children's safety is our top priority and the responsibility of ALL the community. Please help us to keep the children and indeed all members of our school safe by:

- Parking and driving responsibly within the school grounds and in front of the school.
- Not parking in the disabled bays between 8:30 -9:15 and 3:00 - 3:45.
- Using the footpath rather than cutting across the car park. We are the children's role models and witnessing adults running between cars only increases the chances of a child thinking that is safe practice!



Children should be accompanied and supervised by parents until 8:45. Recently, we've had children arriving at school alone at 8:25.

Thank you.

OUTSIDE LIGHTING



We put in an application to the Local Authority for outside lighting on the grounds of Health and Safety and I am pleased to report that funds have been released and work has begun today!

E-safety

I have uploaded the latest e-safety newsletter on our school website. This comes from the, Dorset Safer Schools and Communities Team. You can access this through the Web Safety page on the right or under Newsletters, found through the Parent Page at the top. These are useful documents that contain valuable information on how to keep your child safe online. Please take the time to have a read.

Behaviour

At St Nicholas we expect the highest standards of behaviour and promote positive learning attitudes. We work hard to develop the children's ability to relate to others on a range of levels, display resilience, take risks, be resourceful, reflect and take increasing responsibility for their own learning and behaviour. This expectation is shared and understood by us all and I am pleased to report that the standard of behaviour is high in our school. However, last week the behaviour of some children in after school clubs was not acceptable and I had to remind them of our high expectations. Today I have made it clear to all the children that they will not be allowed to attend clubs if they cannot behave appropriately. I would be grateful if you could reinforce this message at home please.



Community

Millbrook House

One of our Curriculum drivers is 'community' and we are always looking for ways of strengthening relationships and giving children opportunities outside of school. As many of you will be aware before Christmas, eight members of our Year 6 visited Millbrook House to play games with the residents. This proved extremely successful and we have now set up a programme for the year. On Friday the children made their second visit and were greeted with warmth and enthusiasm! We are so very proud of the way they have conducted themselves and it is both humbling and heart-warming to witness the two generations bring love and laughter to each other's lives.

Festival in the Field



This project is inspired by the 'BBC Ten Pieces'. It aims to open up the world of classical music to children and inspire them to develop their own creative responses to ten pieces of music through composition, dance or digital art. We have eleven children who will be playing in the orchestra, alongside children from several other Dorset schools. They will also have the opportunity to work with professional musicians from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and members of the Dorset Youth Orchestra. In addition to this we will be inviting members of our dance club to create an interpretive response to Beethoven's Fifth. All the children involved will be showcasing their work at the, 'Festival in the Field' event at Clayesmore, on **June 20th 2016**. If you would like more information on this project, please visit the website: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01vs08w

Education Sunday



In the last newsletter I asked if anyone would like to represent the school at this event, which took place yesterday at Okeford Fitzpaine. The theme of the service was to celebrate and recognise the importance of church schools and the role their community's play, in helping ensure our children receive the very best education. Nati and Isabella M-F , Jack and their families , represented St Nicholas and I would like to thank them for supporting this service and being such fantastic ambassadors.

Our relationship with the church is very important to us and is going from strength to strength, since the arrival of Reverend Lydia. Since taking up her new post, she has been a regular visitor to our school , helping to lead whole school singing , participating in Year 6 debates around controversial ideas and world events, supporting maths in Ash and leading our 'Welcome Back Services ' at the start of term. Reverend Lydia is also a member of our Ethos Group and will be invaluable in helping us to maintain and strengthen our distinctiveness as a church school and our outstanding ethos. I would like to take this opportunity

to thank her for embracing us wholeheartedly and her tremendous support to date.

Pantomime

Another of our community projects is getting the children involved in the Arts and Sammy Upton, from COMPACT has been instrumental in helping us to do just that! Several of the children took part in the 'Open Air Nativity' at Goldhill Farm in December and Sammy has now got them fired up about pantomime! They are already busy rehearsing for their performances on the 19th and 20th February - details to follow.

Hall of Fame

Congratulations to all our Class Cup winners and Maths Masters.

Class Cup

Acorns	Hadley, Harry, Sam
Chestnuts	Esther, Isabelle, Sebastian
Willows	William, Amalee, Finlay
Ash	Albie, Keira, Noah
Acers	Faith, Maisy, Jessica
Oaks	Thomas, Ben, Jacob

Maths Masters

Acorns	Willow, Rosie, Jacob
Chestnuts	Harry, Josie, Joseph
Willows	Byron, Poppy, Nathan
Ash	Georgina, Amelia, Albie, Keria, Brody
Acers	Jess, Isabela, Harley, Harry F
Oaks	Henry, Maddy, Annabel

And finally...you have probably heard on the news that the government plan to bring an online times tables test for year 6 in 2017 so keep practising!

On a literacy note , we will be encouraging the children to enter the BBC Radio 2 '**500 Words Competition**' championed by Chris Evans. Last year, Millie, currently in Year 5, got into the last 50 with her story, '**A Gift from Great Aunt Lucy**'. You can listen to this and the other finalists by visiting the website:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1> .The website also gives you tips on how to get inspired! You have until 7pm on Thursday 25th February to submit your entry. Why not give it a go?

If there are any adults out there who wish to enter, we thought we'd create our very own category just for you! Why not see if you can write a 500 word story that will entertain and inspire Primary School Children? You can pick your audience from one of these three categories (4 – 6 years 7- 9 years 10 – 12 years) or write something that would appeal to children across the Primary age range. Closing date: **Friday 26th February 2016**. Entries will be judged by a panel made up of our children. We hope to invite the winning author to read their story during Celebration Assembly on **March 11th**. I look forward to receiving your entries!

Best Wishes

Tracy Maley – Headteacher