

St Nicholas CE VA Primary School Newsletter

September 2015 Issue 1

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 the start of another year at St Nicholas. It was great to see so many smiling faces as I greeted you this morning. There was a definite spring in your step and lots of enthusiastic waving! The children looked relatively happy too and by 9:30 the familiar hum had returned and it was like we'd never been away!

I'd like to say a particular welcome to all our new children and their families. We are delighted you have joined our school community and look forward to working in partnership with you.

THIS WEEK!

Our welcome back service is at **9am on Friday 4th September**. If your child is in YEARS 1-6, please drop them off at the Church. Reception should be dropped off at school as normal. Rev Peter Smith will be leading this short service and everyone is welcome.

Reminders

Celebration Assembly is at 2:40 on a Friday afternoon.

The first celebration Assembly will be on **Friday 11th September**. The children and staff really value your attendance at these assemblies so we very much hope to see a packed house every week. Thank you.

Uniform

Please ensure all uniform and packed lunch boxes are clearly named. Hair should be tied back and no jewellery except stud earrings please. Thank you for your cooperation.

Free Infant School Meals

All children in KS1 are entitled to a free school meal from September. You will need to order online .If you need log in details please contact the school office.

Term time holidays – in line with government guidelines and recent legislation we cannot authorise holidays in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.



A HUGE thank you from all the staff and myself for the lovely gifts, cards and messages we received at the end of term. They certainly helped us to wind down and relax! Many thanks.

Communication

- **Newsletters** are published on our website and emailed to parents every fortnight, usually on a Monday. Please ensure the office has your latest email address.
- **Dates for the year** will be uploaded to the website shortly.
- Staff will post their Curriculum overviews and Homework Schedules and expectations on their class pages.
- **Website** –news from across the school is posted on our website: www.childokeford.dorset.sch.uk
- **Texting** – we have a texting service so please make sure the office has your latest mobile number – thank you.
- **Parent Forum** –. If you are interested in representing the parents in your child’s class please let the office know .Many thanks.
- **Changes to the morning routine.** We are no longer doing Whole School Wake& Shake first thing in the morning. Therefore all children need to be in school promptly at 8:45 for Early Morning Work. This a short session (15-20 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, but particularly the latecomer. Thank you.

School Improvements

Over the Summer we have made some internal improvements. The KS1 toilets have been upgraded, the roof repaired and the main path leading to the school has been resurfaced. We very much hope work will start on the playground this term. We have applied for a grant and are still awaiting news!

Medical – Due to some of our children having allergies we are asking parents not to send in cakes for birthdays.

Please let school know if your child has any medical needs. If your child uses an inhaler, please ensure they have one in school at all times and it is clearly named. Thank you.

After School Clubs

After School Clubs will start the week commencing the 14th September. Further details to follow.

Safety

Please help us to keep everyone safe by:

Parking outside the school and walking the children in, to help ease the congestion.

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.

Internet Safety

I have arranged for the ‘Dorset Safer Schools Team’ to come into school on **Friday 17th November**. They will be delivering workshops to **Y3-6** around Anti-bullying, including cyber bullying and the dangers of obsessive gaming! I have also requested a **parent workshop at 3:15** and will send out details nearer the time. In the meantime, **please save the date** and keep checking your child’s security settings and history. Thank you.

Music

Firstly, I'd like to welcome Kate Spiller, who is joining our team of peripatetic teachers. She will be teaching violin on a Monday and is happy to teach children right across the primary age range (4 – 11 years). If you are interested in your child learning the violin, please contact the school office and we will pass your details on to Kate.

Music lessons commence the week beginning the 7th September.

And finally... our value this half term is: responsibility. This is embedded into our school and class charters and is a value we aim to foster on a daily basis. As well as exploring the idea of being responsible for oneself, we will also be exploring the idea of 'collective responsibility' and how individual actions and attitudes can impact on our community as a whole.

The staff and governors remain fully committed to improving the quality of learning we offer at St Nicholas and further strengthening our partnership with parents and our community. We very much look forward to working closely with you to ensure the school continues to thrive. Thank you for your continued support -together we can make a real difference!

Best wishes,

Tracy Maley
Headteacher

Parent Forum Contacts

Mrs Carpenter - marioncarpenter@btinternet.com

Mrs Tonks - samtonks@hotmail.co.uk Acers / Willows

Mrs Sharples - helenno58@aol.com Willows

Mrs Belbahi - mehdi.belbahi@btinternet.com Oaks / Ash

Mrs Rigler – hannahrigler@hsbc.com or hannah.rigler@homecall.co.uk Ash

Mrs Andrews - Rachel@andrewrachel.wanadoo.co.uk or 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

Chair of Governors: Liz Sims Vice – chair – Richard Brace Parent Governor – Lisa Cowley