

St Nicholas CE VA Primary School Newsletter

November 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.

Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had an enjoyable half term break. The next few weeks look to be very busy and below are a few reminders of some key dates and events.

Thursday 5th November: Parent Forum - 5pm - 6pm - all welcome. At the start of this term, we revisited our Vision and Ethos Statement (www.childokeford.dorset.sch.uk) with the staff, children and governors and asked them to reflect on what they felt were our key strengths and the areas of development. At this meeting I would like to ask the same of the parents. If you are unable to attend please email the parent representatives with any comments. Their contact details are always at the bottom of our newsletters.

Monday 9th November - Safeguarding update for volunteers in school. If you are interested in helping in school and would like to find out about what this involves, please come along to this meeting. We would really welcome your support, especially with helping the children with times tables and spellings.

Wednesday 11th November - PTFA meeting. PLEASE COME ALONG IF YOU CAN. We desperately need new members if we are going to keep this valuable and vital group alive. Why not come along with a friend or two and hear for yourself what is involved? As the saying goes - many hands make light work! Hope to see you there!

Sunday 6th December 2015 - This year 'The Rotary Club of Sturminster Newton' are once again organising their 'SANTA STRIDE 2015'.

We are looking for families to join us for this exciting event. Attached to this letter is a leaflet outlining the details. Although the Rotary Club are raising money for the **Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance**, 50% of all the money we raise will go towards funding our playground project.

If you are interested in getting into the spirit of Christmas and enjoying some good old fashioned exercise, please contact the school office no later than **Monday 16th November** so we can register our school group online. Thank you.

Friday 13th November - Willows Cake Sale

FRIDAY 13th NOVEMBER - CHILDREN IN NEED - RAMBLE EVENT

We are planning to take the whole school for a walk to raise funds for Children in Need. Please send the children in old clothes and with suitable footwear (Wellies or Walking Boots). Please ensure they have some indoor shoes to change into! We will be leaving school at 9.00 am and would welcome parents joining us. Please let your class teacher know if you can help support this event. Any donations would be gratefully received. There will be buckets out on the playground at the start of school. We look forward to as many of you joining us as possible! Many thanks.

16th November - Anti-bullying Week

17th November - Safer Schools Team are running workshops for Y3-6. At 3:15 pm there is a **workshop for parents. I strongly recommend you attend this if you can!** Please let the office know if you plan to attend.

20th November - Musical Café from 2:15 pm

27th November - Chestnuts Cake Sale

4th December - Parent Consultations for parents who have children on the SEND register - details to follow

6th December - SANTA STRIDE! - PTFA Event

8th December - Reception Nativity - 2pm and 6pm

9th December - Parent Consultations - details to follow

10th December - Willows Nativity 2pm and 6pm

14th December - KS2 Carol Concert - **NEW DATE!**

15th December Chestnuts play - 2pm and 6pm

This term's Value is 'THANKFULNESS' so it seems apt to include an extract from a letter I received from the Blandford Food Bank.

Dear Mrs Maley,

Please pass on our very grateful thanks to all the children, parents and staff who so very kindly donated food items to the food bank from your recent harvest festival. These gifts will go to provide emergency food for those less fortunate families who find themselves in crisis. Since the beginning of this year we have been able to help 660 local adults and children through a crisis.

Without the generous gifts that we receive regularly of food and money we would not have been able to help the many families that have already sought help from us since the opening of the food bank. Many thanks for your continued support.

Gail Del-Pinto - Blandford Foodbank Manager

Thank you to all those who were able to attend our harvest festival celebrations and for your generous donations. It was a really memorable event and a lovely note to end the half term on.

A big **THANKYOU** to Robert Reynolds, one of our grandparents, who kindly removed all the old playground equipment for us in half term. Thank you also to his grandson, Santi who worked alongside him all day!

Thank you for sparing the time to help us, we really do appreciate it!

So what has been happening in school?

Sport

The first of our inter-house tournaments took place on Tuesday 20th October. Key stage 2 pupils met in the hall for an opening ceremony with national anthems, flag waving and a "Haka off". Each house represented one of the remaining world cup Teams: Hambledon became Australia, Okeford was South Africa, Stour was New Zealand and Hod represented Argentina.

Teams were split in half with one half playing TAG Rugby and the other playing Dodgeball. Matches were played in excellent spirit with this term`s PE value of "Team Work" at the heart of proceedings. All pupils are to be commended for their fantastic enthusiasm, determination and skill.

Final results were as follows:

TAG Rugby.

1st. South Africa (Okeford) 2nd. Argentina (Hod) 3rd . New Zealand (Stour) 4th. Australia (Hambledon)

Dodgeball.

1st. Argentina (Hod) 2nd. South Africa (Okeford) 3rd . New Zealand (Stour) 4th. Australia (Hambledon)

Music

Our KS2 choir visited Millbrook House the Monday before half term and were warmly welcomed by the staff and residents. They are very keen for this group to return on a regular basis.

We are also hoping to take a group of 6-8 children to visit on a monthly basis to play games with the residents. We are forever trying to strengthen links with our community and encourage the children to offer their time and skills to help and support others.

Best Wishes

Tracy Maley (Headteacher)

***** LOCAL FOOD LINKS – URGENT NOTIFICATION *****

Local Food Links have just notified us that they have a broken fan on their oven at the Shillingstone Hub. This will put their oven out of action for the next two days and means there **WILL NOT** be any cooked meals on Thursday, 5th November or Friday, 6 November. In place they will be sending everyone who has ordered a hot meal a generous packed lunch and will also supply additional fruit and cakes and biscuits that will be cooked at another location.

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 Andrew - 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: James Smith Vice Chair of Governors : Carol Wee