

St Nicholas CE VA Primary School Newsletter

January 2018

Vision Statement

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



DATES

19th January Year 5
DT project at SNHS

21st January
Education Sunday
Service 10am
Okeford Fitzpaine
Church - Everyone is
Welcome

2nd February Cyber
Safety Workshops
KS2; Parent
Workshop 3:15

2nd February Year 6
- DT project at
SNHS

Half Term: Monday
12th February - Friday
16th February
Term Starts: Monday
19th February

Please remember to
visit our website:
www.childokeford.dorset.sch.uk
for further
updates.

ATTENDANCE

Please help us to
reach our end of year
target of **97.1%**.
**We are currently at
96.8% Well done
everyone!**

Welcome back and best wishes for 2018.

2017 proved to be a very positive one for St Nicholas CE VA Primary School. In the recently published performance tables we are ranked the 8th best school in Dorset based on our overall performance and progress scores. (There are 179 Primary Schools in Dorset)

We approach 2018 with confidence, energy and a determination to continue to improve. We look forward to working in close partnership with parents, because we know that children enjoy better outcomes (academic and personal) when there is unity of purpose and values between home and school.

Particular areas where we can work together for the good of our children include ensuring that:

- * they attend school regularly and are punctual so they don't miss out on early morning tasks and that all important socialising at the beginning of the day.

- * they receive regular support with homework and do not become slaves to their phones and electronic devices!

- * **Reading to and with your child regularly**, whatever their age. We work hard to cultivate a love of reading at St Nicholas and are proud to report that the vast majority of our children (including our boys) read for pleasure! Developing a love a literature is one of the greatest gifts we can give a child. Stories help to boost language, develop abstract thoughts, feed imaginations and build relationships. By limiting their exposure to stories, we limit their potential and thus opportunities. Please help us to keep their thirst for books alive by reading to and with your child regularly. Thank you

- * we actively and collectively encourage them to adopt healthy lifestyles (eating and sleeping well and getting plenty of regular exercise)

- *we continue to encourage them to aim high and to aspire '**to be the very best that they can be**' (understanding that real success only comes through hard work and commitment)

Undoubtedly, there will be times when we make mistakes but we will endeavour to learn from these, and in doing so strengthen our school.

Our value this half term is: **COMPASSION**. The children will be exploring this value, through stories and discussion to deepened their understanding of its importance.

Spring Term Topics

The teachers have uploaded 'topic webs' onto their class pages so you can get a flavour of your child's learning this term. Please take a moment to log on to your child's class page: www.childokeford.dorset.sch.uk

You can also find information on how we plan deliver and evaluate our curriculum as well as information on specific subject areas. Our Calculation Policy is also available on the website (Policies) should you need some guidance on the methods we now teach the children.

After School Clubs - Commencing today Monday 8th January 2018

As you know, we expect the highest standards of behaviour at St Nicholas, at all times. In line with our behaviour policy, parents will be notified if their child is not meeting these standards during school hours or whilst attending after school activities.

Children will not be allowed to attend extra-curricular activities if their behaviour does not meet the expected standard and they continue to disrupt the teaching, following an initial warning. We would welcome you reminding them of these expectations. Thank you for your continued support.

Education Sunday - 21 January 2018

Okeford Fitzpaine Church - 10.00 am

Please come to our Education Sunday service where all three schools from the benefice (Okeford, St Nicholas and Shillingstone Primary) come together to give thanks for their work and to ask a blessing on their futures. It would be great to see as many villagers at Church as possible to show support for our village school.



Keeping Safe On-Line - As you know, keeping children safe is our top priority at St Nicholas. Ensuring our children are safe on social media sites is particularly challenging and we regularly deliver discrete lessons on e-safety to help children understand the dangers. During these sessions, we encourage children to share any concerns they may have with a trusted adult. I am heartened to report that our children are now beginning to do this, in a very responsible, sensitive way that allows us to reinforce the safety guidelines and alert parents. When the children demonstrate this kind of understanding and regard for their own and others safety, we know we have succeeded in creating a safe culture in our school, where everyone understands their responsibilities! Well done children!

Please, help us to keep our safeguarding procedures and processes robust by regularly checking what apps and games your child is playing, who they are talking to and what information they are sharing. **Do you know the answers to these questions?**

We regularly post the latest newsletters and advice from the, 'Dorset Safer Schools Team', on our website: www.childokeford.dorset.sch.uk, to assist parents on e-safety and other issues so please take a look.

Alternatively, log on to www.dorset.police.uk/.../safe-schools-communities-team, where you will find lots useful information.

On **February 2nd 2018** we are offering a **workshop for parents at 3:15 pm**. This is a relatively short session (30 minutes) but will provide tips and guidance on how to ensure your children are using the internet and their mobile devices responsibly. This is open to all our parents. I am happy to entertain and supervise babies, toddlers and young children so you can attend. Please come along if you can – together we can make a difference!

Health & Safety

Drop off and pick up

The Ark and School continue to monitor the parking and would like to thank you for your continued support in helping to keep our community safe.

We ask that you park outside the school gates and walk the children in. If you do drive please keep your speed down to 5mph and be mindful of pedestrians. Please keep toddlers under close supervision. Many thanks.

News from the PTFA (Parent, Teachers and Friends Association)

Firstly, the PTFA would like to wish you all a very happy new year and say a huge THANK YOU for the tremendous support we received last term. We will shortly be sending out our next newsletter with further information about past and future fund-raising events so please look out for this in book bags!

In the meantime, we would like to invite all parents to the Royal Oak in Okeford Fitzpaine on, **Tuesday 30th January at 7pm**. This is an informal meeting where you will be able to find out more about the exciting things we have planned for the spring term and beyond. It is also an opportunity to get to know other parents and share ideas and expertise. Please come along if you can. We are a friendly and inclusive group and would love to meet you.

Tanya Mason - Flynn (Chair)

And finally... this is such an exciting term. We start in the depths of winter and, before we know it, it will be Easter and spring will be with us. As we begin to write the next chapter in the life of our school, the staff and governors remain committed to ensuring our curriculum it is relevant and engaging and meeting the needs of all our children.

We are blessed to have such a wonderful school and supportive community. I feel immensely proud to be a part of it. I look forward to working with you for the benefit of all our children and community in 2018.

Best Wishes

Tracy Maley

Current Parent Representatives:

Mrs Carpenter -marioncarpenter@btinternet.com (Willows);

Mrs Andrew - rachel@juddstransport.com (Ash);

Mrs Tonks -samtonks@hotmail.co.uk(Acers);

Mrs Sharples -helenno58@aol.com (Acers);

Mrs Belbahi -mehdi.belbahi@btinternet.com (Oaks)

Mrs Rigler –hannahrigler@hsbc.com or hannah.rigler@homecall.co.uk (Oaks)

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: Rev Lydia Cook Vice Chair of Governors: Oliver Davis