



St Nicholas VC Church of England Primary School
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 Somerset County Council
 Headteacher: Mrs Alison Shearer B.Ed (Hons) MA NPQH



Newsletter: 13th October 2017

Whole school half termly focus:

I am learning to support my friends and understand their needs during work and play

Whole school Christian Value for this half term:

Friendship - kind hands, listening ears and looking eyes. I am learning to be a good friend.

Dear Parents/Guardians

It has been a really super term and I cannot believe half term is almost upon us. We have been working very hard to ensure we continue to drive improvements across the school at all levels. I will be sending out a parent questionnaire next half term to get your opinions and thoughts on how we can develop further. This questionnaire will also request some information from you - eg what is the best day/time for parents attending Maths/Phonics Update Workshops?

Thank you to the families who attended our open day. Whilst numbers were low, the comments on our feedback forms from those who attended are extremely useful. I will be reporting these to both our staff and Governing Board. We can then action specific points - eg more class visits to our school library each week.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Reminder - 'Once a week, take a peek'

Please do check your child's hair - weekly checks, and treatment if necessary, do make it easier for others. We dislike having to repeat our message to some families; if everyone takes responsibility for this, it will really help to abolish the nits and head lice. As always, parents in Dragonfly Class need to be especially vigilant and proactive. *Please also spend time reading our letter on threadworms.* This is another very common school issue with younger pupils. (See detailed letter on this to all Dragonflies.) Again, treatment is a must to prevent more cases.

Autumn Term B Charity.

We have now completed all our Christmas planning for the children -see dates below. Our second charity focus for the end of the year is the 'Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child.' (Many know this as the 'Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.) We would love for each family in our school to take part in this and prepare a filled shoe box for a needy child. **Please see the attached flier sent out today.** There are lots of details about what to put inside your box, which age group you can choose, how to wrap your box and also a £5 shipping cost/box. If anyone has any questions, please do come and see me. **We will accept your shoe boxes each day for 11 days from Monday 30th October to Monday 13th November.** Mrs Billington and I will be collecting all the boxes and bringing them to a main collection point - Sherborne Sports Centre on Tuesday 14th November at 2pm. Some pupils and parents will be invited to join us for this special 'handing over' afternoon.



Kinds hands

Thank you to Isabelle, Caitlin and Megan in Hedgehog Class for being super helpers at play times. Our younger children are really learning lots from your encouragement, patience and smiles. Well done to Alfie and Harriet again! **Very well done to our new role models in Year 6 - Christopher, Freya P and Grace; your photos are in our role model frames. Super attitude!**

Wonderful Workers 🧠

Congratulations to Kacey and Lauren in Year 4 for composing such super reports in English. Well done to Ruby B and Ruby M-W in Year 5 for really accurate work in Maths - I was very pleased with your arithmetic. Keep at it! Well done to our Reception Children for knowing so much about 2D shapes - some even knew the 6-sided hexagon and its properties.



Diary Dates:

Monday 16th October - Signing up sheets for Parents' Evening will be on each classroom door from 3:05pm. Please do come and sign up to the date and time that suits you best. Teachers will accommodate siblings in other classes/working parents.

Monday 16th October to Monday 13th November - Bring your shoe boxes to the school office please.

Tuesday 17th October - special 'Farewell' Collective Worship Assembly for Rev and Mrs Hallett. Children, all staff and governors will gather for a 10:10 start in the school hall.
(Treats and drinks afterwards + longer playtime break for the children.)

Wednesday 18th October - Governing Board Meeting: 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Thursday 19th and Friday 20th - school closed for Inset Day: staff training (focus for 19th is on pupil target setting, pupil book monitoring and teaching/learning expectations for each year group.)

Monday 23rd - Friday 27th inc. - school closed for half term break.

Monday 30th October - Autumn Term B; some staff out on TLC training for Growth Mindset. (JB, AG, NK and K E-S out)
*Mrs Shearer opening Science week with whole school assembly on 'How can we prove air exists?'

Monday 30th - Friday 3rd November - Whole school Science Week on 'The Air Around Us.' More details on this from Mrs Bendell our Science Leader.
(MORE DATES BELOW)



Dojo Winners of the fortnight

Well done to: Ella F, Izzy, Izabella, Amelia, Evie-Rae, Jaydon R, Thomas B, Morgan, Jessica L, Ella R, Owen, Ellie, Ruby H, Tilly, Dominique, Kacey, Ben M, Katie C and Caitlin W-M.

Friendship Role Models of the fortnight

Well done to: Austin, Chloe C, Tilly, Ruby B, Chloe B, Ben H and Christopher.



Well done to our pupils who were awarded their local library reading challenge certificates and medals for 2017.

Congratulations to our 2 Dragonflies, Izabella and Ronnie; our 2 Butterflies - Jessica and Lucy; 1 Ladybird - Chloe L

Being a keen reader at St Nicholas is a top priority and every staff member's passion is to see each child develop in to a confident, independent reader who loves getting immersed in a good book.

If any parent wishes to use our school library, please do come and speak with me and visits can be easily booked in. We have a wonderfully rich range of titles and topics.

Parents' Celebration Assemblies:

(2:45 in our school hall - see our full year planner on our website - tab on left hand side 'Parent/Pupil Assemblies')

*We will text if there is a time change.

Friday 10th Nov - Dragonfly Class

Friday 17th Nov - Butterfly Class

Friday 24th Nov - Hedgehog Class

Friday 1st Dec - Ladybird Class

Congratulations to Mrs Welshman and Miss Steninger - both of whom are graduating from university this term. We will be celebrating with the staff and children next month.

A happy, safe half-term break to all.
Mrs Alison Shearer



More Diary Dates:

Friday 3rd November at 2pm - PTFA meeting in Butterfly Classroom (not in hall due to whole school 'National Big First Aid Lesson Live Presentation.')

Friday 3rd November - Parent questionnaires sent out.

Monday 6th November at 2:45pm to 3:15pm - Mrs McGinty leading Year R and Year 1 phonics information session for Dragonfly Parents. (school hall)

Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th November 3:30pm - 6:30pm - Teacher/Parent Conferences in each classroom on 'How well is your child learning and socialising? Plus, the sharing of your child's targets for next half term. *Signing up sheets - see above*

Thursday 9th November - from 9am - school photos: whole school + individual pupils/siblings + all staff (timetable coming soon to staff from Mrs Billington)

Friday 10th November - World Science Day - each class will plan a special focus to celebrate the wonders of Science.

Friday 10th November - 10:50 - whole school special assembly on Armistice Day. Whole school silence at 11:00am.

Monday 13th to Friday 17th November - all week is our *Governors' Monitoring Week*. Focus = (1) pupil behaviour and attitude to learning and playing (2) the planning, preparation and use of practical resources in daily class lessons to support learning at all ability levels (3) classroom and lobby environments.

Monday 13th - 17th November - is also Anti-Bullying Week: our assemblies will have this theme running all week. Class teachers will also be focusing their PSHE and Circle Time Sessions around this.

Tuesday 14th November - Christmas Shoe Box Drop Off - Sherborne Sports Centre at 2pm (Mrs Shearer & Mrs Billington + some pupils and parents)

Wednesday 15th November - 9:00 to 3:00pm Athletics Competition at KA - more details from Miss Steninger.

Friday 17th November - Children in Need Spotaacular Day. We are inviting the children and staff to wear one spotty item with their school uniform on this day. (Spotty hat, hair bow, socks, leggings, skirt, shorts, shoes etc) Children are invited to donate £1 for Children in Need on this date.

Monday 20th to the morning of Friday 24th November - Book Fair in our school hall all week. Parents and children can come and browse/purchase each morning from 8:35am to 9:00am + 3:05pm - 3:30pm Monday to Thursday. (Club/choir/Tea Bird leaders will arrange for their after school activities to be in a chosen classroom this week.) *Travelling Book Fair has lots of superb books for you and your children to enjoy.

Wednesday 22nd November - Governing Board Meeting: 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Friday 24th November - FILM AFTERNOON - Year R to Year 2 pupils. School hall - 3:30pm start to 5:00pm.

Friday 1st December - FILM AFTERNOON - Year 3 to 6 pupils. School hall - 3:30pm start to 5:00pm. (More details from our PTFA)



Christmas dates for your diary:

Tuesday 5th December at 11am:
Christmas Story Candlelight Treat -
Dragonflies and Butterflies in the
church.(Staff and pupils)

Friday 8th December - morning session
Nativity rehearsal (non-dress) for
Dragonflies and Butterflies. (More info
from Mrs McGinty & Mrs Bendell)

Tuesday 12th December - Start of
Hanukkah. Awareness to whole school in
Collective Worship at 10:10am.

Wednesday 13th December - Whole
school trip to Octagon Theatre -
'Cinderella' (More details from Mrs
Billington)

Thursday 14th December - Whole school
pupil and staff Christmas meal. (Staff are
invited to sit with the children to enjoy
the festive food.)

Friday 15th December - Christmas
Jumper Day for fun - children are invited
to wear a Christmas jumper to school with
their school uniform. They can bring £1 for
'Save the Children' Appeal.



**Friday 15th December - Christmas Nativity
in the VILLAGE HALL:**

- (1) Dress rehearsal to all classes and staff
at 2:00pm
- (2) Performance for parents/friends at
6:00pm (note - pupil drop off at 5:30pm
in the village hall. Doors open at
5:45pm.)

*Ticket information will be sent out later next
term. Tea/coffee and other fundraising items
are being organised for the performance
evening.

Monday 18th December - Year 3 to Year 6
Carol Service Practice. We have booked the
church from 1:30 - 2:45pm.

Wednesday 20th December - Whole School
Class Christmas Party Day - more details
coming later next term. (Non-school uniform
day.)

Wednesday 20th December - Year 3 to Year 6
(Key Stage 2) Carol Service of 9 lessons and
Carols - village church at 6:00pm. All families
and friends of all our year groups are invited
to this.

Thursday 21st December - PTFA Disco

- ❖ Reception, Year 1 and 2 pupils in the
school hall from 5:00pm - 6:00pm
- ❖ Year 3 to Year 6 pupils in the school hall
from 6:15pm - 7:15pm

(More details from the PTFA nearer the time.)

**Friday 22nd December - Friday 5th January
inc.** School closed for the Christmas holidays

Monday 8th January - school re-opens for
Spring Term A 2018.