

Friday 23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week seems to have been characterised by rain, which seems to have been falling, in particular, during break times, lunchtimes, drop offs and pickups. We seem to have had a lot of surface flooding at St Nic's, which I know makes things difficult for people getting in and out – thank you for bearing with us. Hopefully, next week will be a little drier.

Christingle Service

Please remember that this Sunday is the Christingle service at St John the Evangelist Church at 10am. Everyone is welcome to attend what is always a lovely family event. The St John's School choir will be singing at the service.

St John's children have been making Christingles which they will bring home today. If you are attending the service, please remember to take your child's Christingle with you.

Staff News

Mrs Young, one of our Year 4 teachers, will be leaving us at the end of the Spring term, as she is moving with her family to the USA. Mrs Young has been with St Nicolas School since 2018, where she started as a newly qualified teacher. I would like to thank her for her commitment to our school and our children and I know that there are many children over the years, who have really enjoyed being in her class. We wish her and her family well for the future. For parents of children in Year 4, we will let you know in due course the arrangements for teaching the class after the Easter break.

Mrs Harrison, who works in our after-school club will be retiring at the end of this half term. Mrs Harrison has undertaken several roles over the years at St Nic's including kitchen assistant, lunchtime controller and more recently working in our after-school club. I wish her lots of happiness in her retirement.

Parking at St Nicolas School

Once again, I am sadly writing to ask parents to please not use the double yellow lines outside of school for either parking or waiting. I am still regularly getting reports of parents stopping on the double yellow lines to pick up their children. This causes real problems with children and families needing to cross the road and not being able to do so safely. There is plenty of parking in roads a little further away from the school and this short walk would mean that our children would be safer. Please think of the good of all.

National Storytelling Week

National Storytelling Week is coming up on the 2nd of February. We'd love to welcome parents or grandparents into school to share a favourite story with a class. If you'd like to take part, please email Mrs Gibbons at lagibbons@stnics.w-berks.sch.uk.

Travelling Book Fair

We are really pleased to be having a visit from the Travelling Book Fair in both schools from 3rd to 10th February. The book fair is a great opportunity to promote a love of reading among our children with lots of titles aimed at stimulating the children's interest. The schools receive a considerable amount of funding from the takings from the book fairs, so please do come along and support the schools. Both schools will be running the book fairs after school from 3rd to 10th February. Please do come into the school with your child to buy some books!



Reception and Nursery Share and Celebrate

Parents are invited to join us at school for one of our Share and Celebrate Sessions for Reception and Nursery.

We will be running two sessions on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th February from 8:45am - 9:15am.

Please can we ask that you only attend one session as these are very popular and can be overwhelming for the children. We are happy for one parent to attend Thursday's session and the other Friday's however.

At the end of the session please could you say goodbye and leave us to deal with any tears, this may or may not happen but we find that once you have left and the school day starts the tears stop.

Looking forward to after half term there will also be Share and Celebrate Sessions on Wednesday 18th and Friday 20th March from 8:45am – 9:15am.

Wear Your SCARF Day

On Friday 13th February, we will be holding a Wear Your Scarf day in both schools, in line with SCARF our personal, social and health education curriculum. The purpose of this is to highlight mental health week, which is from 9th to 13th February 2026 and to represent the SCARF values of safety, caring, achievement, resilience and friendship. All children are encouraged to wear a scarf with their

school uniform on that date and during the day there will be an assembly in each school based on mental health week.

Eco Club

Thank you to everyone, who brought their chocolate tubs to school. Eco club successfully collected 98 tubs. These will be recycled to raise money for MacMillan cancer research. Thank you.



Art Week Go Fund Me Page

We would like to host a whole-school arts week in the summer term, designed to celebrate the creativity of our students as well as strengthening students' connections to the wider community. We hope to invite local artists to work alongside students, leading hands-on workshops that expose children to new techniques, creative processes, and real-world artistic careers. In addition, we plan to rent a local gallery space to professionally display the children's artwork, giving students the unique experience of exhibiting their work in a public setting. This not only builds confidence and pride in their achievements but also helps families and community members engage with and value the creative talents of our students.

We have links with a local charity who are willing to support us with running the art week but with school budgets being very tight, we need to raise some money to be able to fund this. An approximate budget for the project is below.

- Artists workshop = £600.00
- Materials for workshop = £200.00
- Local arts charity to arrange & organise arts week, provide artists, help with framing and exhibition =£420.00
- Exhibition hire of arts space £100 (one week)

If you would like to contribute to the project, the Go Fund Me page can be accessed through this link:

<https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/21232/st-john-and-st-nicolas-federation-of-schools/art-week-2026>

Attendance Aardvark Winners

Congratulations to Rose Class at St John's with 98.5% attendance and 6N at St Nic's with 99.0% attendance. Both classes have won our attendance aardvarks for this week (6N for the second week in a row!).

Attendance at each school last week was as follows:

- St John's: 95.3%
- St Nic's 95.9%

Across the two schools, there were 39 children late last week, which is a big improvement on the week before.

Active Competition Winners

Congratulations to Jessica, Mina and Vihaan, who won the active competition run by Mrs Carvill. The competition was designed to encourage children to be active over the Christmas break. Well done to these three!



Writer of the Week

Congratulations to Shinjan in Year 5, who is this week's writer of the week. A particular noteworthy mention also goes to Aadhya and Niva in Year 6 for their excellent poems. Next week's inspiration is below:



Write a recipe for a good friend.
Remember to include a list of ingredients and the method.

Year 2 Homework

Maths

This week we have been comparing amounts of money using the words greatest, least, less than, greater than and equal to. The children will apply their knowledge of addition and subtraction learning to calculate with money. They will find the total cost or find the difference in price of two or more items. The children will learn to make a pound using different coins. They will gain the understanding that £1 is equal to 100p and will use their knowledge of number bonds to 100 to support their learning. The children will learn to find change from an amount using subtraction, counting on or counting back to find the answer.

To help support your child with money play shop- getting them to buy two items from your house and find the total price and pay with coins. Your child could play one of these two games online:

- [Pay for It](#)
- [Money Box](#)

Spelling

In spelling this week we have been looking at Words ending in: -y (happy) and what happens when we change the ending eg happier, pitied, trickier, fairies, puppies, tastiest, married etc

Spelling common exception words- what, pretty, every, everybody

Contraction: what's

Phonics Books for this Week

Reception: https://parents.fft.org.uk/S12_Sock_Shopping
<https://vimeo.com/692003305/8c3f9557fe>

Year 1: https://parents.fft.org.uk/S47_I_am_a_Caver
<https://vimeo.com/731076334/23d9a49f24>

Year 2: https://parents.fft.org.uk/YR2_Anna-s_Homework

Drawing Club

Drawing Club is a way of igniting joy and a love of stories with the early years and follows Greg Bottrell's beliefs and passions. Your child will be using their imagination to create new characters, settings, and events for this story. They will be adding marks, codes, labels, and messages to their work and realising that they are writers! Each week we will choose a different story or an animation, this week our story is:



They will also be learning some exciting new vocabulary with actions. This week's vocabulary list is:

Airborne	Zooming
Boing	Contemplate
Boneshaker	Visualise
Lunar	Shining

See if they can teach you the actions!

Upcoming Dates

Sunday 25 th January:	St John's Church Christingle Service 10am
Monday 26 th January:	Jonathon Jungle Roadshow Year 1
Thursday 29 th January:	Celebration Worship 10.10am
Wednesday 4 th February:	Bag2School collection at St John's

Yours sincerely,
Keith Harvey
Executive Headteacher