

Friday 21st November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see so many parents in school for the share and celebrate sessions at St John's this week. I hope that your children enjoyed sharing their work with you. Our St Nic's sessions take place next week, with details below.

St John's Car Park

Can all parents please ensure that their children stay on the pavements when coming into the St John's site. This includes parents using breakfast and after school clubs. Cars and other vehicles are often moving around the site and it is essential that children are fully supervised when moving through the car park.

Parking on Link Road and Station Road

We have become increasingly aware of parents parking illegally and dangerously outside St Nicolas School. The double yellow lines on Link Road and Station Road are there to prevent people parking on the corner of what can be a busy road at pick up and drop off times. We often have children, who need to cross this road and it can be treacherous if cars are parked illegally. I will be contacting the police to ask them to patrol this area of road at the beginning and end of the day, as we really want to avoid any accidents. Please do not park on double yellow lines near the school.

Staff News

Many of you will know Mrs Taylor, at St John's, who has worked at the school for 35 years and is currently a Higher Level Teaching Assistant. Mrs Taylor has decided to retire at the end of this term, and we will be very sad to see her go, but wish her every success for the future. It is unusual for someone to give such a high level of commitment to one workplace, but this shows Mrs Taylor's feelings about St John's school and the children that we have there. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with her during my time at the school and I know that many staff, parents and particularly children will have too.

Friends of St John's and St Nic's Christmas Fair

Please remember to sign up to volunteer for the Christmas Fair. The more volunteers that we have, the more it means that people will have time to enjoy the fair itself, as they will only be covering a stall for a short period of time. We are really pleased with the number of donations that we have received this year and I am beginning to very much look forward to the event on Friday 5th December from 5-7pm.

St Nicolas Share and Celebrate

St Nicolas Share and Celebrate takes place next week from 9-9.30am as follows:

- Monday 24th November: Year 5
- Tuesday 25th November: Year 6
- Wednesday 26th November: Year 3
- Thursday 27th November: Year 4

There will also be an additional session on Tuesday 25th November at 6pm for any parent that wishes to see their child's work but is unable to come in at the other times.

Learning Behaviours St Nic's

We strongly believe that when children have the correct attitude to learning, they always excel. We regularly talk to the children about having the right attitude and we always try to praise effort and attitude in class, rather than results. We do a lot of work, both in class and in assembly, about having the right learning behaviour. We talk with the children about the different learning behaviours that we have and encourage them to have a growth mindset – never saying, 'I can't do this'... but always saying, 'I can't do this YET'.

Across the school, we introduced five different learning behaviours that we focus on so that we can become the best learners that we can be. This builds on from the learning powers that are introduced at St John's. Each of our learning behaviours is represented by an animal and uses a chosen colour. This helps us to remember them all. We have created a list of what each learning behaviour looks like and we regularly talk about this in class and in our assemblies. This success criteria can be seen on at the bottom of this update and it can be downloaded from our website for people to use at home. Our learning behaviours are promoted through posters which can be seen around the school and each learning behaviour has a story that accompanies it to support all our pupils to understand them. Please see our website for further details:

<https://www.stjohnandstnicolasschools.org.uk/st-nicolas-schools-learning-behaviours/>

St John Ambulance

We have arranged for two St John Ambulance trainers to deliver a free science/first aid workshop to the Year 6 children on the afternoon of Thursday 27th November. St John Ambulance is a charity which provides workplace training, first aid supplies and event and ambulance services, helping to save lives and keep communities safe.

If you would like to make a donation to this valuable charity, you can do so on the link below:

<https://www.sja.org.uk/donate>

Primary Maths Challenge

Last week, 20 children across years 5 and 6 took part in the Primary Maths Challenge. They challenged themselves by working through 25 mathematical problem solving questions of increasing difficulty. Some of the questions were very tricky and even made the adults think very hard!

The children who took part were: Benji S, Max S, Josh O, Deitrick M, Knox H, Thomas A, Aditi A, Sanvi T, Luke F, Leonie K, Nathan F, Matvii M, Beth S, Iliria A, Thomas C, Olivia G, Ciaran CB, Megan J, Ollie L, Frances M and Seren S.

The highest scorer was Beth S, in 5N, who scored 19 out of 25 and achieved a gold level certificate.

Benji S, Max S, Josh O, Ciaran CB, Deitrick M, Knox H, Thomas A, Sanvi T, Luke F, Leonie K, Nathan F, Matvii M, Thomas C, Ollie L and Frances M all received silver certificates and Iliria A, Megan J, Olivia G, Seren S and Aditi A received bronze.

They all did an amazing job and were keen to take on the challenge. The results have been submitted to the Primary Maths Challenge website and we may be contacted again to participate in bonus rounds. Fingers crossed!

Writer of the Week

Congratulations to Aarna in Year 4, who is this week's writer of the week. Next week's stimulus is below:



Bleary-eyed, I
went
downstairs for
breakfast. The
house was
empty, even the
furniture had
gone..

Year 2 Homework

Marvellous Maths

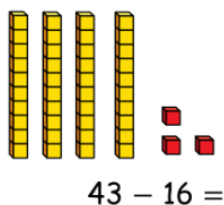
This week we have learnt to subtract across the tens: <https://vimeo.com/732386429>

$$43 - 16 =$$

How many ones do you need to subtract?(6)

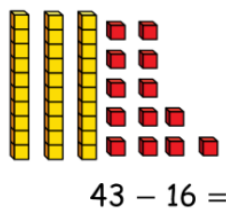
What do you do if there are not enough ones to subtract?(we only have 3)

Use base 10 to calculate $43 - 16$



What number
are you
subtracting
from?

Use base 10 to calculate $43 - 16$



What do you
do if there
are not
enough ones?

We exchange a ten for ten extra ones.

Now we can subtract 16 from 43 to find the answer.

Can you child work out the following answer by drawing their own tens and ones and exchanging.

$$73-25=$$

$$54-26=$$

$$42-17=$$

Spelling

In spellings this week we look at apostrophes for possession e.g. Sadie's pet snake, Heidi's pencil case (and review words with / ou / ow /)

Common exception word **hour**

Homophone **here** and **hear**

Phonics Books for This Week

Reception: [https://parents.fft.org.uk/S07 Jim and the Vet](https://parents.fft.org.uk/S07_Jim_and_the_Vet)
<https://vimeo.com/692001941/b6b0c54fa3>

Year 1: [https://parents.fft.org.uk/S42 A Garland for the Door](https://parents.fft.org.uk/S42_A_Garland_for_the_Door)
<https://vimeo.com/731076100/70feb6190f>

Upcoming Dates

WB 24 th November:	St Nicolas Share and Celebrate (see above)
Thursday 27 th November:	Celebration Worship 10.10am
Tuesday 2 nd December:	Parents' Evenings
Wednesday 3 rd December:	Reception and Nursery Nativity 9.30am
Thursday 4 th December:	Reception and Nursery Nativity 9.30am
Thursday 4 th December:	Parents' Evenings

Yours sincerely,

Keith Harvey
Executive Headteacher

Learning Behaviours at St Nicolas Junior School

Independence (Polar Bear)	Collaboration (Ant)	Determination (Iguana)	Curiosity (Monkey)	Pride (Lion)
				
I can settle into learning quickly I am not distracted easily I can tolerate feelings without getting upset I can use my initiative I have a growth mindset I can listen well I can act on advice and feedback I practise things I find difficult I know my strengths and weaknesses I can think about how I learn	I can share ideas I can work well as a team I can respond well to other people I can listen well to others I value ideas from others I can explain to help others I can ask for support when needed	I show perseverance I am not put off by being stuck I always try my hardest I try different strategies I start on task quickly I always have a go I show resilience I don't worry if it goes wrong I keep improving	I often wonder "why?" I can ask questions I try to find out why I can look for patterns and connections and make links I notice things I become engrossed in what I am doing I am excited to try new things I can share and show things I have a "what next?" attitude	I feel pleased I've made progress I follow expectations I always aim for very best I am keen to impress I enjoy learning I sit in a good work mode I don't continue to receive the same next steps I can ask questions I can put my hand up regularly and contribute answers I can talk about learning