

Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Seeing the children this week has really been a pleasure for me and all of the staff. We have been very impressed with the children's excellent behaviour and focus in both schools and are looking forward to a positive year.

Staffing

We welcome several new staff members, this term, as well as welcoming some people in a new role:

- Ms King is our new head of school at St John's. Please do introduce yourself to her before or after school, as she is keen to get to know parents
- Miss Hercules is joining us, as an apprentice, in Early Years
- Ms Bartholomew will be joining our Nursery as nursery nurse
- Mrs Godfrey will be working in Year 6 as a student teacher
- Mrs Patel has changed role this year and is now a student teacher, working in Year 2.

Reading

Reading is the single most important skill that children will learn in school and we place a very high level of importance on it. Research shows that children, who are the best readers, are those who read regularly at home with an adult and the best readers are those who go on to do well in GCSEs and A-Levels, in secondary school.

Therefore, our most important homework for all year groups is that they read at home several times per week, with an adult. This can include reading their school reading book, practising phonics and sharing a story together.

Please read with your child as often as possible.

St Nic's Individual Photos

On Wednesday 10th September, the photographer will be coming in to take individual and siblings (at St Nic's only) photos at St Nicolas School. Please make sure your child comes to school in smart school uniform on the day.

Parking and Road Crossing

Parents should not use the car parks at either school to park or at St John's as a cut through. The only exception to this is where a family holds a disabled badge. The reason for this is to reduce danger to our children.

Please be considerate of our schools' neighbours if you need to park near either school. In particular, please ensure that you consider the following:

- You must not park or wait on the yellow school zigzag lines outside the schools
- Please do not park or wait on single or double yellow lines, as this can cause danger for children and families crossing roads
- Do not park across people's driveways as this can be very annoying to our neighbours
- The car park at Link House, on Station Road near St Nic's is a resident only car park and residents can get very angry when parents park there
- When waiting near the schools, please ensure your engine is switched off to minimise the pollution in the air
- Please ensure your child is supervised when crossing roads to ensure their safety and for older children walking by themselves to or from school, it is essential that they are aware of road safety rules.

St John's P.E. Kit Changes – Years 1 and 2

I am aware that the P.E. kit announcement yesterday was perhaps a little hasty, not giving parents sufficient time to prepare.

Therefore, we are happy for the Autumn term for anyone that would prefer their child to change into their P.E. kit in school to do so. The changes will be fully implemented from the beginning of the Spring term, in January.

St Nic's Heating

Over the course of the Summer break, St Nicolas School has been transformed with the old heating system, boilers, radiators and pipes being taken out and a new air source heat pump system being installed.

Parents dropping off and collecting their children may notice the large fans in cages outside of the school. We have spoken to all of our children about the importance of staying away from these for safety reasons. Please ensure any younger children that may be collecting their siblings are kept away from the fans as well.

St Nic's Adventure Playground

For health and safety reasons, the St Nic's adventure playground should not be used by children at the beginning or end of the school day. Yesterday, I noticed that several younger children were on the equipment. Please do not allow your child to do this.

Upcoming Dates for this Term

Monday 8 th September:	Teacher training day – no school
Tuesday 9 th September:	Year 1 and 2 meet the teacher 8.45am
Tuesday 9 th September:	Year 5 and 6 meet the teacher 3.30pm
Tuesday 9 th September:	Arlington Arts sports evening (invitees only)
Wednesday 10 th September:	St Nicolas individual photos
Thursday 11 th September:	First celebration worship of the year 10.10am
Monday 15 th September:	All Reception children in school for the full day
Thursday 18 th September:	Year 3 Rock Workshop

Friday 19 th September:	Year 6 Racing to School
Tuesday 23 rd September:	Pyjama day – both schools
Thursday 25 th September:	Year 4 scrapheap challenge
WB 29 th October:	EYFS Share and Celebrate
Tuesday 7 th October:	St John's Harvest Service 9am
Wednesday 8 th October:	St Nic's Harvest Service 2pm
WB 13 th October:	Foundation Stage parents' evenings
Friday 17 th October:	Year 2 Great Fire theatre
Tuesday 21 st October:	Diwali celebration in both schools
Thursday 23 rd October:	End of Autumn term 1 (schools end at the usual time)
24 th Oct to 2 nd Nov:	Half Term Break
Monday 3 rd November:	Start of Autumn term 2
Thursday 6 th November:	Year 3 Museum workshop
WB 10 th November:	Year 6 early mock SATs
WB 10 th November:	EYFS share and celebrate
WB 17 th November:	Year 1 and 2 share and celebrate
WB 24 th November:	Years 3 to 6 share and celebrate
WB 1 st December:	Years 1 to 6 parents' evenings
Wednesday 3 rd December:	Foundation stage nativity 9.30am
Thursday 4 th December:	Foundation stage nativity 9.30am
Thursday 4 th December:	Year 6 Victorian toy sessions
WB 8 th December:	Year 1 nativity – dates to be confirmed
Tuesday 9 th December:	Year 4 play
Wednesday 10 th December:	Year 4 play
Thursday 11 th December:	St John's Christmas Lunch (St Nic's Christmas lunch will be confirmed later)
Tuesday 16 th December:	St John's Christmas Service 9am
Wednesday 17 th December:	St Nic's Christmas Service 2pm
Thursday 18 th December:	Last day of term; 1.30pm St John's; 1.45pm St Nic's

Yours sincerely,

Keith Harvey
Executive Headteacher