

# St Nicholas School Weekly Newsletter

*Shining Together-  
Embracing our Differences*



## School News

Dear all,

What a brilliant end to the term we have had here at St Nicholas. There has been some fantastic learning happening in classes and the children have settled really well into their new class routines. Thank you to all of the parents who have attended some of our Christmas events in the last few weeks.

**Children in Need:** Earlier in the term, we had our annual mufti day for Children in Need. On this day, children wore their own clothes and participated in a Dance-a-thon with their friends. The children were happily dancing to their favourite tunes and enjoyed using the inflatable microphones, guitars and saxophone as props. The day definitely brought a lot of smiles to lots of faces! Thank you to everyone who donated to our Just Giving page. We raised a total of:



### Important Dates

**Monday January 6<sup>th</sup>:** Children return

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January:** SaLT coffee morning – Receptive Language/blanks/ICWs

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January:** Year 4 + 5 Secondary School Transfer. There will be a coffee morning + an evening meeting

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January:** Explore Coffee Morning

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January:** Coffee Morning – Supporting your child with Reading

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February:** Numbers Week  
**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February:** Coffee Morning – Behaviour

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February:** Safe Internet Week

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February:** Safer Internet Day

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February:** Coffee Morning – Online Safety

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February:** Half Term

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup>:** Children return

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February:** Coffee Morning – How to play with your child

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February:** Parents Evening All years

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March:** Book Week

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March:** World book Day  
Mufti

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March:** Science Week

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March:** SaLT coffee Morning – Zones of Regulation/sensory regulation

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March:** Red Nose Day  
Mufti

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March:** Coffee Morning – Supporting your child with Maths

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April:** Last Day of term – Children leave at 1:30

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April:** Children return to school

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**Winter Crafts:** We held our wonderful Christmas craft events at the end of November. The staff organised some lovely craft activities for the children that included Santa hats, face painting, glitter tattoos, scratch art snowman and many more. It was lovely seeing many of our families come to school and share in this activity with their children. The Friends of St Nicks also had a stall where they sold some Christmas merchandise to raise money for the school. Well don to Peju and her team of staff volunteers for organizing the event. We hope to see many more at this next year.

**Remembrance Day:** In November, we also celebrated Remember Day in school. The children thought about who we remember and why and how we can remember them. They produced some lovely art work and writing about Remembrance Day and these were displayed around the school. We also took part in the Legion Poppy Appeal and raised £43.50.



**Christmas Events:** We have ended the term with a range of Christmas events in school. Our first were the Christmas Shows that took place last week. All of the classes either performed a song or a dance on stage and I was so proud of who well they all performed. We definitely had some future stars of the stage at St Nicholas School. They were also supported by the wonderful choir who sang their hearts out in all 4 shows! I hope you also enjoyed coming to see the children perform.



Earlier in the week, we had a very special visit all the way from the North Pole. Father Christmas spent the whole day in school with the children and all of the children loved visiting his grotto and receiving their present. It was delightful to see how happy and excited the children were and they were all so polite when they received their gift. Some of the older children also enjoyed asking Father Christmas questions about his job and the work of the reindeers. We are already looking forward to his visit next year.

We also enjoyed our Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day in the dining hall. The children were served by the adults in their class and all enjoyed eating their lunch with their class staff as well. The children all wore their Christmas hat that they made in class and some classes made some table decorations as well. Lots of festive fun was had by all.

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## Discovery

Our youngest children have had an excellent first term at St Nicholas School. They have settled well into their classes and have demonstrated their understanding of school routines and making friends.

**Bumblebee Class:** Bumblebee Class have enjoyed the sensory stories linked to Dear Santa and Polar Bear What Can You Hear books as well as the song linked to the Polar Bear story that can be found Youtube by Mr Elephant. We have also enjoyed learning about different festivals and celebrations and have taken part in lots of craft and art activities linked to these themes.

We have all worked really hard practising for the School Christmas performance and were all stars not just for our performance but for the way we dealt with all the routine changes and transitions.

**Dragonfly Class:** Dragonfly class have been busy thinking about the different festivals and celebrations that have happened during the half term. The class have loved interacting with our attention autism and sensory story sessions that we have linked in with our celebration theme.

They loved our pumpkin maths and took part in pumpkin counting, weighing and size ordering. The class have enjoyed looking at pictures from the different celebrations and have been using colourful semantics to begin to describe what they see. In art we have made Diva lamps and Chanukah candles, and everyone has enjoyed taking part in lots of Christmas crafts.

**Ladybird Class:** Ladybird class have enjoyed learning through all our winter themed books this half term. We particularly enjoyed 'polar bear polar bear what can you see?' and 'Dear Santa'. We liked the different noises the animals made. We have also loved our maths works looking at different shapes, patterns and puzzle. We have also enjoyed learning about different celebrations for our half term theme. This includes Halloween, Bonfire night, Diwali and now Christmas. We made lots of different pumpkin themed art. We have completed firework pictures. We looked at Diwali Rangoli patterns and Diva lamps. Then for Christmas we have decorated Christmas trees, made reindeer headbands and our own Christmas cards.



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## Explore

Our Explore Pathway learn through play or engage in practical experiences in their learning to generalise and transfer skills. Children also work on their social and communication skills through these experiences.

**Spider Class:** We have had a busy term in spider class and have enjoyed lots of different activities. In science we have been looking at Light, we have been able to explore different objects that produce light such as a torch, we enjoyed making shadows with the different sources of light we discovered. In literacy we have been looking at *The Tiger who came to Tea* and worked hard on retelling and ordering the story. We have enjoyed all of the festivities that we have done, we loved Watching the Panto, we built our own snowmen by adding buttons for the eyes, a carrot for the nose, a big smile, sticks for the arms a hat and a warm scarf, we also looked at different shapes and created our own snowmen using them. We have enjoyed making our Christmas lunch hats, but best of all we loved dressing up as “jingle, jangle snowmen” for our Christmas show!

**Giraffe Class:** Giraffe class have had a busy term with lots of fun activities. We have worked hard on our phonics and handwriting and all look forward to our fine motor skills sessions. In geometry we have worked on 2D and 3D shapes while in PE we have worked on football skills and using different apparatus. We have all enjoyed our cooking sessions working spreading skills while making toast and developing communication while making choices. We have all been working on sharing through playing different games during our social skills sessions. The run up to Christmas has been very busy preparing for our performance of ‘On Christmas Eve’ in the school show, and making hats, calendars, placemats and different decorations!

**Zebra Class:** In Zebra Class we have been building on our love for reading by sharing lots of stories together! We have been doing impressive listening, remembering parts of stories and joining in repeated lines. We explored “*The Tiger who came to Tea*” through bucket time, art and using GRID to learn new words. We particularly impressed the adults in our class when we used props from the story to retell the story through our best form of communication. In Maths, we have been ordering numbers, doing number bonds to 5 and comparing heights and lengths. Our Science, our topic was “light” and we looked at some sources of light, observed changes in lights in and learned new words such as “dim” and “bright”. We have been out and about! In Road Safety Week, we learned about traffic lights and how to stay safe on the road. Christmas- It was lovely to see the happy faces of our parents during our Christmas shows. Thank you for coming! We have written our wish lists to Santa using our best pencil holds, phonics and the letter formation we have been learning all term in Phonics and handwriting without Tears. We know the friendly elf in our class will tell Santa that we have been good.

**Elephant Class:** We have really enjoyed our science topic this term looking at different materials and their properties – all the children really enjoyed this. For remembrance we made poppies, and everyone took part in a silence as well as using colourful semantics based on Anzac Ted. In history we have looked at old films compared to today – this was lovely in the lead up to Christmas as we looked at the Snowman story. It was sad to say goodbye to Josh before Christmas but we are all enjoying getting to know Ashleigh and looking forward to next term.



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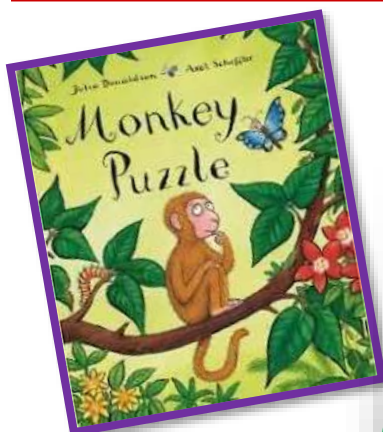
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**Badger Class:** In Badger Class this half term we've really got in to the festive spirit. We made chains for our Christmas tree, wrote letters to Father Christmas requesting Christmas presents and decorated our place mats for our Christmas lunch. Our Rainforest topic saw us reading the Monkey puzzle, we explored the importance of family. Children brought in family portraits and talked us through their family members. In Maths we were counting objects up to 20. In Science we learn about our 5 senses and matched the body part to the correct sense. We labelled our main body parts and looked at the importance of maintaining healthy teeth.

**Beech Class:** This term in Beech class, we have continued learning about the rainforest by comparing lifestyles. In English, we went on a treasure hunt on the trim trail to find characters and objects from the story book 'There's a rang-tan in my bedroom'. The children were able to locate the treasure by listening to positional language instructions. We have continued to work hard in our handwriting, reading, spellings and phonics sessions collectively and individually. In Maths, we have revisited additions, introduced subtractions, position language and money. The children have visited, 'Rhiann's corner shop' to purchase some beloved classroom toys with play money. In Science, we have investigated our 5 senses, our body parts and a put together our own skeleton. Our year 4 children have been swimming again this term and have enjoyed splashing around with confidence. As Christmas is approaching, we have decorated our classroom together and gave two amazing performances at our Christmas concert. We have made a wreath out of handprints, Christmas cards, Christmas decorations and much more. We have even written letters to Santa and posted them in Santa's mailbox.

**Orchard Class:** Orchard Class have had a wide and stimulating learning journey this term. In English we have been focusing on building varied and interesting sentences with greater detail using our *Colourful Semantics* system. In History this term we have looked into the past, the present and the future alongside the Mayans. In Science we have learned about our bodies, where the organs are and how they help us to stay healthy. Our maths journey has taken us from addition and subtraction to learning about size, from tallest to shortest and biggest to smallest. This term also saw a lot of brilliant effort to learn The Birdie Song in preparation for our wonderful performance during the Christmas Show. We also welcomed Gavin to Orchard class as Tammy has gone on her maternity leave. A big thank you and merry Xmas from everyone in Orchard Class.



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## Investigate

Our Investigate Pathway is for our Sensory Learners. Here the children are supported to regulate through sensory integration so that they can access learning. They work on their communication skills using their preferred method of communication, social skills and tolerating spaces with other children. They explore their learning through a range of sensory activities.

**Caterpillar Class:** This term we've had so much fun! We have learnt and explored lots of topics within 'Lights Camera Action'. From pumpkins exploration to firework pictures, Remembrance Day, interfaith week, to road safety week where we posted our letters to Santa and practicing our Christmas Song 'The music man'. It's never been a dull moment! We are now busy creating Christmas Hats and Ornaments. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!! From Caterpillar Class

**Butterfly Class:** This term Butterfly class have learnt about Remembrance Day and Firework night. We have enjoyed doing art activities such as making collage poppies, flicking paint to make firework paintings and using cardboard tubes to make Catherine Wheel pictures.

We have enjoyed Christmas in Butterfly class and had fun learning our dance for the Christmas show. We have also participated in lots of fun Christmas activities such as making Christmas cards, Christmas party hats and Christmas place mats. We hope you enjoy looking at the children's Christmas work when we send it home.



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**Lion Class:** This half term we have been looking at '**Celebrations**'. We have been very lucky to have had so many celebrations to celebrate in the recent weeks. We celebrated a child's **birthday** in our class and talked about singing and how we like to celebrate events with presents and food. During **Diwali** we looked at how lights are used in celebrations, and we made some rangoli patterns, with a focus of 2D shapes. We celebrated **Firework night** and made some firework pictures rolling a ball into paint and printing it on pictures. Next was **Remembrance Day**, where we made poppies using apple prints. Another celebration we celebrated was **Halloween** we explored pumpkins, and we looked how special it is to dress up. We celebrated **road safety week** and looked at the importance of holding hands and what colours are associated with stop and go. We were very excited to be named **winners of International Faith Week** where we looked at God. We learnt a little song about God and looked at different peoples' beliefs on who God is. We celebrated **Thanksgiving** and made a thankful Turkey (please see photograph below). We also celebrated children in need and looked at what was special about the charity and how they help others. Lastly, we have been celebrating **Christmas**, and we have made lots of lovely things that the children will be bringing home. **We have been extremely proud of all the children in Lion class, and we wish you all a wonderful Christmas. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.**

**Forest Class:** Forest Class have really enjoyed learning about the Rainforest and Celebrations. We enjoyed reading our book, Slowly, slowly said the sloth and naming animals from the story using our communication mats and symbols on Grid Player. In Science we learnt about bones in the body and made skeletons out of straws. We took turns playing the game operation and enjoyed making the nose light up and beep! We looked at our own characteristics and made jigsaw puzzles of ourselves, which was fun. We made firework pictures for Bonfire night and Diwali and also have made lots of Christmas crafts. We really enjoyed our walk to the field during road safety week and crossed the road so carefully. We have done lots of Phonics work and handwriting and also using our communication grids to ask for what we want and for more or again. We spent lots of time in Outdoor Learning, the children have loved exploring the paths and looking for plants and minibeasts.



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## Adventure

In our Adventure Pathway, the children learn through structure and routine. They are supported with their sensory integration and regulation by completing sensory diets throughout the day. The children also work on their social and play skills through a range of modelled activities. All of this is done by engaging the children using their preferred method of communication.

**Grasshopper:** With Christmas fast approaching, Grasshoppers were busy writing a letter to Santa. Firstly, we started by choosing holiday gifts from the pictures, sticking them on the letter and finished by writing our names. It was a really fun and enjoyable activity for everyone as well as a good way to practise writing, spelling and constructing a sentence.

**Beetle:** This term Beetle have been reading the 'Tiger who came to Tea', and we took part in a sensory story while reading. We also been working on mat man and mark making in different sensory story materials. For road safety week in Art we made bright coloured people using different materials such as wool, foil, felt and foam. For Christmas, we looked at the snowman and made different Christmas crafts such as using tweezers to find the snowman clothes and making a snowman on the interactive whiteboard using Grid.

**Elm:** The year 4 children within Elm class have been swimming this half term and have come on leaps and bounds! Many children were reluctant to get wet earlier in the term but are now working on star fish floats (floating on their backs), long ladder arms or swimming under water. Well done swimmers! Elm class have engaged particularly well in phonics this half term. They've been streamed into phonics groups within class (based upon their phonics assessments) and are beginning to work well within their phonics groups. Their progress, retention of taught sounds and oral blending of Consonant-Vowel-Consonant words have wowed everyone in class. Well done Elm Class!

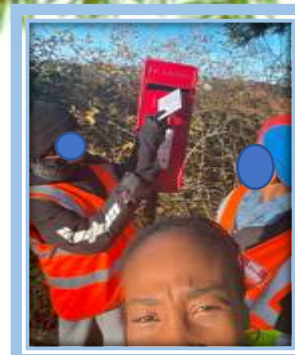
**Pine:** Pine class have been continuing with the 'Rainforest' theme. We have been going through the book 'Walking Through the Jungle', and acting it out in class, using masks, sounds and images to retell the story. We have also been practising our addition using the 'Part-Whole model'. Our year 4 children have been swimming and getting better and more confident each week. It's been another great term, and we've all been preparing for Christmas by making our hats, place mats, calendars and more.





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**Fox:** This term Fox class, we have enjoyed swimming and developing with our independence. We had a superb multi faith week, the children became confident in naming the various faith symbols. We went on our first local outing, where we walked down to the field, focusing on the awareness of stranger danger and keeping safe in public. The children enjoyed road safety week, we talked about the importance of being seen and wearing bright clothes. The children are able to identify different types of crossing, zebra crossing and pelican crossing. We wrote a letter to Santa and the children walked across the road safely with an adult to post our letter in the letter box. Fox class have had a super half term filled with learning and experience; we are very proud.

**Willow:** This term we started the new science topic 'The Heart'. The children looked at different parts of their face, body, organs and senses. They were able to find their heart and investigate the effect of exercise on their heart. In maths, the children began to look at money; recognise coin values. The class began exploring money, exchanging coins for items and making amounts. In Geometry we explored time; day, night, am, pm, days of the week, months of the year and seasons in a year. In Art – The children created firework pictures and pictures to celebrate Remembrance Day. They also made candle holders out of clay to celebrate Diwali. English/Topic: the class learnt about life for Mayan children and matching and recording facts about their lives to create a simple report. The children enjoyed learning about the Mayan Dynasty; exploring our story the Rain Player. PSHE: the children learnt about the different jobs in the classroom, at school, at home, in the wider community and thought about the job that they would like to do when they are older and the reasons, they will need to earn money when they are older. We talked about the different types of jobs that people in the community might have. Children had an amazing time this term, celebrating Children in Need, Sensory Week, International Faith Week, Road Safety and went to the Christmas Carol Concert at Fairfield Halls.

**Ocean:** Ocean class continued their learning about the rainforest, exploring the various animals that live there. They used printing techniques to create vibrant pictures of parrots, while also developing their fine motor skills by cutting card to make sloths. In maths, they focused on number skills, practicing counting and number recognition. During English lessons, the class worked on commenting and describing photos of the rainforest, helping them improve their language and observation skills. The students also continued to follow their individual timetables, working on tasks suited to their own learning needs and progress.



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## Challenge

Our challenge Pathway is our Formal Pathway. Here the children have more independent methods of communication. Children work in small groups, paired work or independently. They continue to work on social and independent skills.

**Squirrel:** This term has been packed with exciting activities and learning opportunities! We participated in **Road Safety Week** engaging in various activities to understand the importance of staying safe on the road. During **Interfaith week** we celebrated diversity and learned about different beliefs and cultures. On **Remembrance Day** we created beautiful poppies to mark the occasion. In **Geography** we explore the topic of deforestation and read the captivating book *The Great Kapok tree* to deepen our understanding on how cutting down trees affects the world. In **Maths** we practiced measuring using different tools and compared lengths. In **Science** we explored the bones of animals and humans learning about how they help us move and stay strong. It's been a wonderful term full of new experiences.

**Hedgehog:** Hedgehog class have been so busy this half term doing lots of lovely Christmas craft and of course practicing for our 'Christmas Pudding' Performance! The children did so well rehearsing, practicing their singing and maracas shaking to get the timing just right. We were very proud of them all. We also listened to the Christmas story and sequenced it, to remember the real reason Christians celebrate. Apart from the Christmas activities, we have also been talking about our differences in PSHE, we have explored what we look like on the outside and what we are like on the inside. We had a chat about our Characteristics and the children came up with something nice to say about each of their friends' individual characters. It was such a lovely session. During Road Safety Week - Hedgehog class were very sensible when we walked down to the field, they held hands, listened to the adults and stopped, looked and listened just like in the Green Cross Code, we have been learning about.

**Oak:** This term In Oak Class we have been reading the story of *The Great Kapok Tree*. The story is set in the rainforest and the children enjoyed role playing key parts of the story. The story has helped the children gain a better understanding of the impact of deforestation. The children were also able to write their own version of the story using Colourful Semantics to support sentence writing. In maths we have been learning how to double numbers and quantities. We have also learnt about capacity, recognising full, empty half full and using comparative language. We are also learning about the Human Body starting with the skeleton. The last few weeks have been a flurry of Christmas activities and crafts, making baubles, creating angel wings using hand cut outs and rehearsals for the show. The children put on a magnificent performance at the Christmas Show this year, singing the Christmas Rap with great enthusiasm. Thank you to all who came to see us.



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**Meadow:** In Meadow Class, we have continued learning about Mexico and have also explored the topic of Celebrations. In History, as part of our term's focus on Mexico, we have been learning about the Maya civilization. The children discovered where the Mayans lived, learned about their gods, and explored their diet. This led to some fascinating connections between modern Mexican cuisine and what the Mayans used to eat. The children were especially excited to learn that the Mayans were the first to use cocoa and even invented hot chocolate! In Art, we worked together to create a model of a Mayan temple, specifically the Chichen Itza Pyramid. The children cut, painted, and assembled the pieces to collaboratively build the temple. We also created a fingerprint composition to commemorate Remembrance Day, crafted Christmas decorations, and designed our own Mayan masks. In Literacy, the children have been learning how to use capital letters at the start of sentences and for proper nouns, as well as how to end sentences correctly with full stops, question marks, or exclamation marks. They have also explored how to use commas in simple lists. Additionally, we have been identifying verbs as action words and nouns as naming words, helping them build simple and accurate sentences. In Science, the children have been learning about the human body, exploring its various parts, organs, and their functions. They studied the different systems that keep our bodies working and learned how each organ contributes to our overall health. Special focus was given to the heart, where the students explored its structure, its parts, and how it pumps blood throughout the body.

**River:** Another great half term from River Class. We have delved into the Mayan's topic and enjoyed learning about the origins of chocolate. We celebrated Mexico Day where we learnt information about Mexico culture, but I think the part the children enjoyed most was tasting some Mexican food. Another highlight of the half term was our short walk down to Reedham. It was fantastic to see the children use their road safety skills we learnt during our Road Safety Week. Each week we are still enjoying writing out weekend news. All the class team are so impressed with the progress in the children's communication and writing. Another favourite topic of the class was learning about money in maths. We are so impressed with their knowledge and skills regarding money. The class enjoyed opening up their own shops and charging the adults money to make purchases. I know the



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**Valley:** What a fantastic half-term we've had! It's been full of fun, discovery and important learning experiences. We have been learning about road safety and understanding that it is an essential life skill. We have spent time learning how to stay safe as pedestrians. To put our learning into practice, we took a short walk to Reedham, where the children demonstrated their knowledge of road safety.

The children had an exciting and enriching experience during Mexico day. They explored different culture through delicious food tasting, lively music and engaging activities that celebrated the vibrant traditions of Mexico.

In Science we have been investigating the human body, discovering the roles of different organs and how they work together to keep us alive and healthy. From the beating of the heart to the incredible functions of the brain, the children have been amazed by the wonders inside them.

Valley class were superstars during our Christmas performance, superb singing. Bravo!!!!

**Lake:** This term Lakestars have been very busy bees. We have learnt about Remembrance Day and created some beautiful art work and poems for the special day. We also celebrated International Faith week, the children enjoyed exploring many different cultures/religions. Road safety was a big hit in Lake class, the children enjoyed going out of school to learn how to cross the road safely. The children designed their own road safety sign, which will end up being displayed outside of school. The children showed great listening and understanding. We've been working hard in all our subjects this half term. From Subtraction and Time in maths, to learning about different organs in our body and all about our heart and how important it is, in Science. In PSHE, we have been learning and talking about jobs as an adult, and the children all chose 2 jobs they would want to do when older, and they created some great illustrations for it. We also had a discussion as a class the importance of having a job as an adult and earning money. We have really enjoyed getting into the Christmas spirit in Lake class too. We have made our classroom all Christmassy with lots of lights and decorations, and we decorated our special Christmas tree too. We have had a special visitor in class since 1<sup>st</sup> December and his name is Buddy the Elf. The children get so excited each morning coming into class to see what cheeky Buddy has got up to. We were lucky to be invited to Fairfield Halls for a Christmas Concert, the children enjoyed getting public transport to the venue. Super proud of Lake class for a fantastic performance in the Christmas show. YOU GUYS ROCK! Well done Lakestars.

**We are extremely proud of all the children in Lake class, and wish you all a wonderful Christmas. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.**



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## Inter Faith Week



In November, St Nicholas School celebrated Inter Faith Week. It was a wonderful opportunity for our school community to embrace diversity, recognise commonalities, and build positive relationships between people of different faiths and customs.

The children and adults showed fantastic enthusiasm, and it was a pleasure to see everyone engaging in activities and learning about various religions.

In addition to in-class activities, we held several whole-school events, including:

- **An art competition** with four themes to choose from and prizes awarded for the best projects.
- **A Tree of Hope**, adorned by the children with their thoughts, prayers, and drawings.
- **Interactive stations in the LRC** (Learning Resource Centre) featuring religious artefacts, posters, and activities for children to explore.
- **A Kahoot quiz** for KS2 students to test their Religious Education knowledge on topics such as religious symbols, festivals, holy texts, and places of worship.

It was certainly an enriching experience that united the school community in celebrating and learning from the diversity of religions and beliefs.

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## Road Safety Week

This term, we also took part in the annual Road Safety Week alongside community work that was being done by The Co-op Funeral Services. One of our parents donated some colouring activities, key ring torches and reflective wrist bands to the children for taking part in the week.

Over the week, the children too part in a range of Road Safety activities. These included learning about different types of transport; how to keep safe when walking out and about in the winter months when it is dark; and the different types of road crossings.

The children completed a range of work on Road Safety in their classroom including creating some posters on crossing the road safely and being safe in the car park.

All children also learnt about the Green Cross Code and how to cross the road safely with all of the children being taken on a walk in the local community down to the school field where they practised crossing the road and waling safely along the pavement.

Some of these community walks have continued the rest of this term with children as children have walked to the post box opposite school to post letters to Santa. We will also continue with our community walks in the Spring Term as well so that the children continue learning a key life skill.



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## LPPA

### Pathways Coffee Morning

"I liked learning about what goes on in the classroom"

"It would be great to visit the classrooms"

### PICA Coffee Morning

"It was very comprehensive"

"Please can we have ore follow up options"

### Pathway specific coffee morning

"I got to understand how my child's work is modelled"

"I'd like to see some examples of the work they do"

### SALT Coffee Morning

"The session went beautifully – it was very clear and my questions were answered"

"Can they be interactive"

### Parents Evening

"I have a very good understanding of where my son is academically"

Can we have more time?"

### Christmas Show KS1

"I think it was brilliant and I also like the fact that the children can be themselves and participate in their own way"

"More decoration around the hall and maybe the staff can dress up more festive instead of just black"

### Winter Craft Evening

"Kids loved it – all the staff are amazing!"

"Carrir bags to put the bits the kids make in"

### Christmas Show KS2

"It was a special day for all of us and it was fun and joyful and wonderful time"

"More Christmas decorations on stage e.g., a Christmas Tree"

Work is continuing on the LPPA and we are very grateful for all the feedback you have been giving after coffee mornings and school events – we are looking at all the feedback received and looking at actions to follow up so do please continue to send your thoughts! I am pleased to be able to share just some of the feedback we have received with you.

**E4L:** Thank you for being patient with us while we have worked to sort out the issues we have experienced with Evidence for Learning – we believe most of these are now sorted but please do let Sarah Holliday know if you experience further difficulties.

We would also like to encourage families to share activities that you do at home on the app – we love seeing activities you have done at home, and this also supports communication and learning opportunities in school.



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**Friends of St Nicks (FOSN) A Year in Review:** Earlier this year, Friends of St Nicks (FOSN) was officially formed, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Laura Taylor, who worked tirelessly to research and secure school approval. Since our inception in February, we have built a fantastic committee comprising:

Chair: Laura Taylor

Secretary: Lataanya Curling

Treasurer: Bianca McCabe

Events Coordinator: Tasmine Harris

Legal & Charity Officer: Anne-Marie Irvine

Grants Officer: Rachael Cook

We are still on the lookout for a Catering Officer, Raffles/Lotteries Officer, and Communications Officer, so if you are interested in joining our team, please get in touch via email!

In our first year, FOSN has raised over £1000 and established positive relationships with local businesses, whose generous donations have been instrumental in our success. Our events, such as the Mother's Day Wrap, Father's Day Raffle, and Christmas festivities, were thoroughly enjoyed by the children and families alike.

One highlight was our collaboration with Parentkind and FatFace's No Cold Child initiative, which provided excellent-quality coats to children within our community.

We have also supported school-run events, including:

Donating decorations and creating stunning balloon arches for the Year 6 leavers' party (with special thanks to the Irvine family for their help including setting up).

Assisting Peju with the popular Winter Crafts event.

Selling second-hand uniforms and FOSN merchandise at coffee mornings, Christmas shows, and local craft fairs.

Looking ahead, we aim to plan a full calendar of events in 2025 to bring the St Nicholas community together. But for now, we're taking a well-deserved break to enjoy the holiday season with our families.

From all of us at FOSN, thank you for your support this year. We wish you a restful holiday and a happy new year. We look forward to an even bigger and better 2025!

Kind regards,  
The FOSN Committee

**Spare Clothes:** We are on the hunt for any spare clothes (tracksuit bottoms, trousers, t-shirts) and underwear that we can use when the children have accidents at school. We especially need some bigger sizes such as ages 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14. If you have any spare, please send in after the Christmas break. Thank you.-

# St Nicholas School Weekly Newsletter

*Shining Together-  
Embracing our Differences*



**CSMA Christmas Concert:** Earlier this month, our year 6 children were invited to the Fairfield Halls to attend the annual Croydon Schools Music Association Christmas Concert. Here they listened to some beautiful Christmas music played by an orchestra, watched a nativity show and a Diwali dance. They enjoyed being part of the audience and joined in all of the audience participation songs. Some of the staff were also able to see one of the old St Nicholas alumni play in the orchestra. The children in Lake Class also travelled by public transport to the Fairfield Halls. They were really sensible walking down to the Brighton Road and waiting at the bus stop and were really polite on the bus to the driver and to other passengers with many offering up their seats. We are so very proud of them all.



**Evidence for Learning:** Thank you for being patient with us while we have worked to sort out the issues we have experienced with Evidence for Learning – we believe most of these are now sorted but please do let Sarah Holliday know if you experience further difficulties.

We would also like to encourage families to share activities that you do at home on the app – we love seeing activities you have done at home, and this also supports communication and learning opportunities in school.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of our wonderful parents for the support and engagement you have given us this term; whether that be through the use of the E4L app; messaging on Weduc; attending coffee mornings and parents evening; and attending whole school events. As you can see from some of the comments earlier in the newsletter, these have been positively received by our parents. We hope to see you at some of our Spring term events next term.

Please have a wonderful Christmas break with your loved ones. Stay happy, healthy and safe and we look forward to seeing all of the children back on Monday January 6<sup>th</sup> 2025.

Many Thanks  
Katie Goodwin