



St Nicholas CE Primary School

Newsletter October 2024

Exploring Possibilities Together'
'Love one another, as I have loved you' (John)



D A T E S FOR YOUR DIARY

28 October to 1 November—Half Term

4 November—Children back to School

4 November— 3.30 pm Leeson House Meeting for Year 5's in Acers Class

5 November— Orienteering Child Okeford

8 November— **PTFA Event** for Reception, Years 1 & 2—Tea Party from 3.15 pm to 4.30 pm

12 November—Orienteering Shillingstone

13 November—15 November—Year 5's visit Leeson House

13 November—11.00 am to 12.00 noon Open Morning for prospective parents—September 2025

19 November—Reception Height & Weights

19 November—Orienteering William Barnes

22 November—**PTFA Event** for Years 3 & 4 Film Night from 3.30 pm to 5.15 pm

26 November—Orienteering at Durweston

4 December—Aspens Xmas Lunch Day

6 December—Yr 1 & 2 Nativity— Dress Rehearsal

11 December - 2.00 pm & 5.00 pm Reception Nativity Performance for Parents

13 December— 2.00 pm & 5.00 pm Yr 1 & 2 Nativity Performance for Parents

19 December—Last day of term.

End of Term Church Service at the Church at 8.50 am.

6 January 2025—Pupils back to School

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers

We have finally reached half term. It has definitely been a long half term and I think the children are in need of a half term break, especially our new Reception children who are new to being in school.

It has been a difficult half term here in school with the passing of Mrs Taylor. She is deeply missed by all and we are now trying to turn our focus to how we will remember her, thinking about those positive memories and also starting to make some plans to revamp the garden area and turning it into a reflective memorial area. We make a start on this after half term.

Mrs Bolar, has also been absent following her operation. She continues to progress slowly and we wish her well.

This half term has seen the Government's changes to attendance being brought into schools across the country. I would like to say thank you for all your efforts to ensure your child/ren are here and on time.

Our new attendance policy can be found on our school website. As always the second half of the Autumn term has lots going on, so please have a look at the key dates at the side for some of those yearly events.

Finally, I hope you all have a lovely half term break and let's hope the weather stays good so we can all get out and about.



Our Designated Safeguarding Lead in school is Ms Jill Watson (Headteacher). Mrs Belinda Bolar and Mrs Sarah Salisbury are our Deputy Designated

Safeguarding Leads. If you have any concerns related to child protection issues please contact them through the school office.



Reminder that term ends at **1.30 pm** on Thursday, 19 December 2024. Children who are booked into the Ark can stay in school until they are collected by The Ark staff at 3.15 pm.



Acers & Oaks—Planetarium Visit

The children in Acers and Oaks are studying Space this term and to enhance their learning about the solar system and space Mrs Salisbury organised a Planetarium Visit on 24 September.

The Science Dome is designed to explore science, astronomy, geology and geography in an interactive way with a digital mobile planetarium. The presentations use real scientific data to bring the real universe to the dome and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Secondary School Applications

Reminder from Dorset Council

If your child is due to transfer to a secondary school in September 2025 please ensure their application is made by the closing date of **31 October 2024**.

Sports Leadership Day at

Gillingham School—30 September

Four children from Oaks were selected to represent the School as an Ambassador for Sports Leadership. They were chosen because they have shown good leadership qualities and have expressed an interest in this important area of Sport.

Congratulations to Lara, Alfie,

Oscar G & Mollie



Harvest Celebration Worship

This year we had our Harvest Celebration Service in School with the Reverend Gubbins. Thank you to everyone for the generous donations we received towards our collection for Nourish the community larder and food bank in Blandford. The groceries have been dropped off and are being used to support families and people who need help. Thank you.



Every year we are lucky enough in the Sturminster Newton area to benefit from free Orienteering sessions for the children in Years 5 & 6. These sessions are always very enjoyable and rewarding and we are extremely grateful to Wimborne Orienteering Club for providing equipment and running the events for us. This is a fabulous opportunity for the children to learn new skills and enjoy being outdoors. Some children like to take part competitively, whilst others just enjoy the challenge of finding the map points and having lots of fun.

This year's timetable is as follows:-

22 October—Stalbridge School

5 November—here at Child Okeford

12 November—Shillingstone

19 November—William Barnes

26 November—Durweston

Ash Class have had a busy half term ...

On Friday, 11 October Ash Class took part in a 'Stone Age Experience'. The children were invited to come to school dressed in Stone Age clothing and were able to use VR headsets that Miss Palamountain organised to enter the Stone Age Era through 360 videos that offered them a fabulous learning experience. The class loved this and were able to talk about their topic Tribal Tales in much more detail.



Taco Making— The class made their own Tacos and were able to show how to make a balanced meal as part of their Cook well, Eat well topic in DT.