

St Nicholas CE VA Primary School Newsletter

March 2018

Vision Statement

At St Nicholas, we nurture everyone to 'be the best we can be' in a caring and inclusive Christian Environment



DATES

27th SEND Parent Consultations

**27th March Ash Play
6pm**

28th March Parent Consultations Ash, Willows, Chestnuts and Acorns 1:30 pm – 6:30 pm

**29th March:
Easter Service.
2pm in school**

Easter Holidays:
Friday 30th March –
Sunday 15th April
2018

Monday 16th April:
First day back

Thursday 19th April :
Family Support Day

Friday 20th April : Y6
Millbrook House
Group 2

Thursday 26th April:
Weymouth
Information Evening
3:30 pm

**May 14th – 18th KS2
SATS**

Introducing Millie - a three-year-old cockapoo.

Following a rigorous interview process, including all the necessary risk assessments, we are excited to announce that, Millie has been appointed by the governing body to lead pet 'therapy' at St Nicholas.

Millie is an extremely placid, gentle and sociable dog owned by Mrs Salisbury. She has been brought up in a busy household where she has had contact with a wide variety of people (including young children) and other pets. She is exceptionally good natured and enjoys giving and receiving attention.

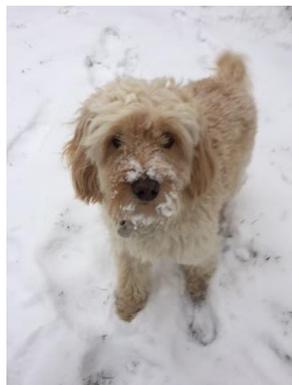
The value of pet 'therapy' is widely accepted as a powerful aid to stimulation and communication. Studies have shown that the presence of companion animals can improve the well-being of children and lower the rate of anxiety, simply by making the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding.

Millie will initially be in school 2 days a week and her primary job is to support the emotional well - being of the children by sitting and playing with them or taking them out for on a walk, with Mrs Salisbury.

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but that for most it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parent who does not wish their child to interact with Millie is invited to write to inform Mrs Maley of their wishes.

Our risk assessment will be reviewed annually and the school senior leadership team will evaluate the impact of a school dog on a regular basis.

We are all looking forward to welcoming Millie after Easter.



Sport

Sport continues to feature heavily at St Nicholas.

Congratulations to the school netball team for representing Sturminster Area in the North Dorset High Five Annual tournament at Gillingham School. The team played with excellent spirit and determination. Thanks to Mrs Corbett for taking the team and for coaching them throughout the season.

Willows and Acers have been enjoying some cricket coaching this term, on Thursday afternoons. This is led by Rob Newton and provides the children with an excellent introduction to cricket. Rob hopes to inspire players to join local clubs and further their skills and enjoyment in the sport. Details of local clubs are being sent home to families. Please contact Mrs Salisbury if you have further enquiries.

We have also hosted the Sturminster annual area football tournaments this term for years 4, 5 and 6. All teams played with excellent spirit and skill levels were impressive. The final positions after several nail biting matches were:

St Nicholas Y5/6 B team 3rd and St Nicholas Y5/6 A team 5th and Year 4 3rd. Well done to everyone who took part!

Our girls have also competed in an area football tournament and played very well. They are becoming increasingly engaged in the sport and showing lots of potential.

Year 1 and 2 winter sports day

On Wednesday 7th March 2018 Oaks class (Year 5 and 6), Chestnuts (year 1) and Willows (year 2) had a winter sports day. The children in Oaks class organised and ran the event while Chestnuts and Willows completed the activities. There was Rugby, Hockey and Netball. Every team played every activity. The rain started to fall heavily, but every child was really brave and carried on going.

Sports Relief

Thank you for supporting this event. The children have been running / walking the mile all week. We raised £201.35 and a think everyone got a little fitter as a result!

In the summer term, staff will be aiming to incorporate short bursts of exercise in the children's week. Learning through physical activity is something we recognise as a vehicle for aiding concentration, well – being and learning!

Music

We have also held a couple of musical assemblies this half term, to give our budding musicians the opportunity to play in front of an audience. The children displayed confidence and resilience and made us very proud. Thank you to Mrs Velazquez for her commitment to music at St Nicholas and for organising these events.

Our Year 4 have also enjoyed a term of learning the guitar with the Dorset Music Service, which culminated in a brilliant performance to the whole school and parents. Well done children- YOU WERE AMAZING! Thank you to Mr Adey and Mrs Vincent for supporting and encouraging the children to persevere over the past 10 weeks!



Attendance

We regularly publish our attendance figures on our website.

Our whole school target this year was 97.1% and we are currently at 97.0%! Thank you for all your support in helping us to achieve this goal and avoiding term time holidays.

Health & Safety

Keeping children safe in our top priority at St Nicholas and the responsibility of us **ALL**. Thank you to parents and children who have recently raised concerns about on-line games being played. It is a clear indication that we have an ever-strengthening safeguarding culture, when all members of our community actively report concerns.

Keeping Safe On- Line

We regularly post the latest advice and guidance from our Dorset Safer Schools Team on the Safeguarding Page, on the school's website: www.childokeford.dorset.sch.uk . These leaflets provide valuable guidance and advice and are well worth a read.

Policies

We have recently updated the policies below. Once these have been approved by the governing body we will upload them on our website: www.childokeford.dorset.sch.uk ; a text will be sent to notify you.

Please take a moment to read.

- Behaviour Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Assessment Policy
- EYFS policy

Questionnaires- Your chance to contribute!

Some time ago we asked parents to complete a questionnaire to help us evaluate our effectiveness as a Church School. We had a very positive response and wish to thank you for taking the time to complete this for us. We have published the results on our website: www.childokeford.dorset.sch.uk

We also asked parents to complete the Ofsted online questionnaire 'Parent View'. As you know we are expecting Ofsted and would welcome your support in preparing for this inspection. To date only 15 out of our 110 families have completed this. Your views are very important in letting us know what is going well and what can be improved on, as well as helping the Ofsted inspectors make a decision about our school.

To access Parent View please go to <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>. You will be asked to register with an email address and a password. Once your login has been activated, it **only takes a few minutes** to complete the questionnaire, which covers a range of areas, from the quality of teaching to dealing with behaviour issues.

Mrs Hanson and I will be on hand during parent consultations on **Wednesday 28th March 2018**, if you would like some help.

Your views are very important to us and by sharing them with us, you will be helping our school to continually improve.

On behalf of the children, staff and governors I'd like to thank you for your continued support.

Thank you to all those who attended Acers and Oaks parents evening and for all the positive feedback. Parent consultations for Acorns, Chestnuts, Willows and Ash are on Wednesday 28th March. Please contact the office to make an appointment if you haven't yet done so. Whilst we are happy to discuss your child's progress at any point during the year, we plan formal consultations to coincide with key assessments, so we can provide an accurate picture of your child's learning and their next steps.

Midday Supervisor Vacancy

Mrs Hall is retiring at the end of April 2018. She has done a fantastic job of caring for the children and will be missed by us all. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work, support and commitment. I am sure you will join me in wishing her a long and happy retirement.

If you are interested in applying for the position of Midday Supervisor please visit the www.dorsetforyou or contact the school office on: 01258 860581. Alternatively, email Mrs Hanson : office@childokeford.dorset.sch.uk

Hall of Fame- Class Cup Winners!

Acorns: Odin Isla

Chestnuts: Tilly Jacob

Willows: David Courtney

Ash: Maisie Edith

Acers: Freddie Nati

Oaks: Harry George



WELL
DONE
CHILDREN



PTFA Events

Many thanks to our PTFA who have worked so hard this term to raise much needed funds for our school. In addition to cake sales, KS1 have enjoyed a wonderful disco and the vintage tea party on Saturday was magical. Thank you to the Pitt – Rivers family for providing the wonderful venue and to everyone who made it happen.

Thank you for supporting these events; I am always humbled by the generosity and support of our community and these extra funds help us to enrich our curriculum for the children.



THANK
YOU!

Date for the diary -NOT TO BE MISSED!

MUSIC CONCERT!

Saturday June 8th

School Hall - time and ticket information to follow after Easter



We would like to purchase new percussion instruments for the children and our resident guitar teacher, Tom Clements, has kindly offered to help! He is putting on an exclusive gig at St Nicholas Primary School on Saturday 8th June 2018.

Tom is a professional performer, who regularly gigs with The Clementynes. We are extremely grateful to him for giving his time free, to support us in our quest to improve our musical resources. Tickets can be purchased via the school office. Please email office@childokeford.dorset.sch.uk or phone 01258 860581 to book.

And finally... this half term our value has been generosity and it has certainly been visible throughout the school and across our community. As a result, the children have enjoyed a wealth of experiences and progress across the school continues to be good. The children's attitudes to their learning is fabulous and the support we receive from you as parents ensures the vast majority of the children are fulfilling their potential. Together we really do make a difference.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with the school for their continuing support and commitment and I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Easter break.

I look forward to welcoming you back **on Monday 16th April.**

Best Wishes,

Tracy Maley Headteacher

Current Parent Representatives:

Abi Rudd – abi@ice-break.co.uk (Acorns & Ash)

Serena Orchard - seren.b@tiscali.co.uk – (Chestnuts)

Emma Procter - emsiegemsie26@gmail.com (Chestnuts & Willows)

Mrs Carpenter - marioncakes@gmail.com (Ash)

Mrs Andrew – randrew@huntsfoodservice.co.uk (Acers)

Tanya Mason Flynn – themasonflynns@gmail.com (Chestnuts & Acers)

Mrs Tonks -samtonks@hotmail.co.uk (Oaks);

Mrs Sharples -helenno58@aol.com (Oaks);

Mrs Belbahi -mehdi.belbahi@btinternet.com (Oaks)

On a day -to -day basis the school is run by the Head teacher and staff. They are held to account by the Governing Body. If you wish to contact the governors concerning a school related issue or are interested in being a governor, please contact our clerk Robert Wellen: robertwellen@btinternet.com . Co Chair of Governors: Rev Lydia Cook and Carol Wee.