



# St Nicholas C of E Primary School

## School Newsletter

Lockdown 3 22nd January 2021

*'Joyful is the person who finds wisdom'*

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well. What a start to the year! Thank you so much for your continued support, help and encouragement. Thank you also for really considering whether it is possible to keep your child at home rather than taking up a vital key worker space. Your respect of this has allowed us to maintain the level of online learning that we have and kept our staff safe too.

The last two weeks have been a flurry of paperwork, ordering and technical support! I hope that everyone is now able to join online learning and that those of you entitled to free school meals have all received your voucher entitlement.

I am thrilled by the numbers of children engaging in their online learning and can't believe how much work they are completing. I hope you agree that the staff are all doing an amazing job. The staff really empathise with the challenges of working from home whilst home schooling as the vast majority of staff have their own children at home too! We know that as the weeks go by, there will be struggles—please do not feel alone, message your class teacher or give us a ring at school. We will be able to talk with you about your challenges and talk to your child too. Please be aware that many of our calls will come through as 'No caller ID', please do pick up as we are required to ensure everyone is Ok and we may be phoning about technical issues!

Although the majority of the children are not in school, I am still required to report if any of the children have COVID! So if your child has a positive test, please could you let me know as soon as possible.

Yesterday, the Secretary of State promised us two weeks notice of a return to school. At the moment it seems likely that the lockdown will continue beyond half term. With this in mind, teachers are currently preparing the next work packs for after half term and writing the children's reports! We will have a virtual parents' evening in March, details of how to book will be released after half term.

We have an INSET day on Monday but we look forward to welcoming the children back to virtual school on Tuesday.

Best wishes,  
Nicki

### Year 6 Residential—new dates

I am sure those of you who are parents of year 6 will be wondering about the residential. The March dates have been cancelled but I am delighted to be able to tell you that we have secured new dates in July. All being well, we will now go on Monday 5th July to Wednesday 7th July 2021. The change of dates have meant an increase in costs but I am delighted to say that we have had a very kind donation of £1200 to cover this so the cost to your selves will not change. We will be in touch regarding final payments when we know what is happening regarding COVID 19. All payments already made are safe with us. We so hope that we will still be able to go in July as we want the year 6 final year to have as many of the usual treats as possible.

## Please Help Us Keep the Community Safe.

- Please keep your distance in the car park and wear a mask.
- Please ensure that you go off site as soon as you have dropped off or picked up your children.
- When on site please ensure you stay two metres away from everyone.
- Please keep all of your children with you at all times.
- Please ensure you enter and leave via the correct gate.

## Devices for Online Learning

The response from the children to the live online classrooms has been absolutely fantastic and we are so grateful to parents for ensuring that their child gets online each day. Children who access the live classrooms are far less likely to fall behind with their learning during the lockdown period.

We have been lucky to receive a number of donated devices, along with an allocation of laptops from the Government, to support families who are struggling to access the live online lessons. We are in the process of allocating these to families who qualify for support but **please let us know if your child has difficulty accessing the live Google Classroom, as we may be able to help**. This includes children who are using a mobile phone, as we know this can be tricky. We are currently investigating how we can support families who have internet and data issues as well. Please contact school for help with any tech issues and we'll see what we can do.

These are just a few things we have learnt:

**Laptops, Chromebooks and computers with cameras** seem to provide the easiest access to the Google Classroom.

**Tablets / Ipad**s generally work well but even if you can sign in to Google, you may need to download the Google Classroom and Google Meet Apps separately to be able to access the live classroom lessons.

**Mobile phones** may also require you to download the Google Classroom and Google Meet Apps separately. They don't allow you to easily access the chat and messaging features while on the live lesson.

**Xbox / Playstation.** Both of these have internet browsers that allow access to the main page of the google classroom **but it appears that they do not allow access to the live online classroom**. Xbox users can use the Microsoft Edge App and Playstation 4 users can select the Web Browser App to access the main classroom page and see the chat / messages from the teacher.

As far as we are aware, all of the above devices allow full access to the VLE (accessed through our school website) so children can find plenty of work and information there.

## Keeping Everyone Safe Online

- Make sure you are dressed appropriately for the classroom (no pyjamas or dressing gowns).
- Try to sit at a desk, table or workspace where you can write neatly and carefully.
- Don't move around while on camera —it can distract other children.
- Only use the class stream and chat function to answer questions that the teacher has asked or to ask something relevant to the learning.
- Don't change your screen background during the lesson. It is distracting for others.

## SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>TERM 1</b>     | <b>2020-2021 Academic Year</b>                      |
| <b>INSET DAYS</b> | Monday 1 September 2020<br>Tuesday 2 September 2020 |
| Start:            | Wednesday 3 September 2020                          |
| Finish:           | Friday 23 October 2020                              |
| <b>TERM 2</b>     |   |
| Start:            | Monday 2 November 2020                              |
| <b>INSET DAY</b>  | Friday 20 November 2020                             |
| Finish:           | Friday 18 December 2020                             |
| <b>TERM 3</b>     |   |
| <b>INSET DAY</b>  | Monday 4 January 2021                               |
| Start:            | Tuesday 5 January 2021                              |
| <b>INSET DAY</b>  | Monday 25 January 2021                              |
| Finish:           | Friday 12 February 2021                             |
| <b>TERM 4</b>     |   |
| Start:            | Monday 22 February 2021                             |
| Finish:           | Thursday 1 April 2021                               |
| <b>TERM 5</b>     |   |
| Start:            | Monday 19 April 2021                                |
| Finish:           | Friday 28 May 2021                                  |
| <b>TERM 6</b>     |   |
| Start:            | Monday 7 June 2021                                  |
| Finish:           | Wednesday 21 July 2021                              |
|                   |   |