



# St Nicholas Church School

## School Newsletter

24th November 2023 Term 2 Newsletter 4

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been very quiet in school this week with many classes heading out on their first trips of the year.

On Monday, Year 1 had a fantastic trip to 'The Wild Place' in Bristol and enjoyed learning about animal classification as part of their science topic. On Thursday, Year 2 explored Cardiff Castle and were enthusiastically telling staff all about the facts they learnt from the guides at the castle. Also on Thursday, Year 4 experienced a visit a bit closer to home when they visited the Roman Baths. They had fascinating workshops where they dressed up as Roman citizens, made mosaics and handled artefacts. All the children on the visits were excellent ambassadors for our school and their behaviour and attitude was commended by the staff and members of the public. Well done everyone!

Next week, we look forward to welcoming you all to our annual Winter Fayre organised by the PTFA and also our exciting Christmas decoration making family event. We hope you can make it.

Have a fantastic weekend!

Mrs Biss and Mr Low

### **Feedback Friday: School Trips**

Thank you once again for the valuable feedback given today. On a week where 3 school trips went out, we thought it would be a good time to discuss parents' thoughts on trip provision at St Nics. The response we had was very balanced, with some saying they loved the trips and didn't want to change anything. Others felt strongly that the costs had become too high and we need to consider this.

This year we looked carefully at the costs and made sure that all years groups are either paying the same or significantly less for trips—some paying around half as much as last year. However, our biggest cost remains transport. Coaches are rarely cheaper than £300 and some this year have cost up to £600. We have investigated using public transport but the networks simply aren't strong enough to connect to all of the locations we would like to get to.

As our brilliant PTFA already contribute towards the cost of a trip for every year group, we will look into whether more fundraising can be done to bring down costs further, rather than limiting the huge range of trips we provide, that many of you told us today that you love. We may also consider removing non-curriculum based trips to ease cost pressures further, and only focus on those that significantly enhance learning.

The office will continue to set up payment plans for all trips to allow parents to spread the costs. Please speak to the office if you have any concerns regarding the payment of trips and they will try to help in any way they can.

"School trips should be free if you are receiving Free School Meals."



"School trips are great. Children really enjoy and look forward to them. It's an opportunity to go somewhere new. More would be good but I know money is an issue."

# KS2 Celebration Assembly

	Star	Maths Magician	Reading/Oracy	Wizard Writer
<b>Avon</b>	Paige D	Poppy B	Zachary B	Lexie-Maigh S
<b>Mells</b>	Riley M	Marcel S	Noah D	Maisy P
<b>Yeo</b>	Aidan H	Ruby P	James G	Florence D
<b>Hartlake</b>	Harry B	Harrison G	Harrison P	Amelia B
<b>Midford</b>	Cerys O'C	Lexi DW	Jaycub K	Caydn M

## Diary Dates

**Tuesday 28th November**

Toddler Group

**Wednesday 29th November**

3.00pm PTFA Christmas Fayre

**Thursday 30th November**

2.30pm Whole School Family Christmas  
Decoration Making

**Friday 1st December**

KS1 Celebration Assembly

**Monday 4th December**

PTFA Elfridges

**Wednesday 6th December**

PTFA Father Christmas

**Thursday 7th December**

10.00am— KS1 Performance

5.30pm—PTFA Wreath Making

**Friday 8th December**

10.00am—KS1 Performance

**Monday 11th December**

1.30pm—KS2 Performance

**Tuesday 12th December**

9.30am—KS2 Performance

**Wednesday 13th December**

KS1, Wellow & Y3 Christmas Lunch

**Thursday 14th December**

Yrs 4-6 & Midford Christmas Lunch  
Carol Service

**Friday 15th December**

Spirit Of St Nicholas Assembly  
End of Term 2

**Wednesday 3rd January**

Term 3

## Time To Talk

<b>Cam</b>	How are circles and triangles different?
<b>Somer</b>	Which was your favourite animal at The Wild Place and why?
<b>Dart</b>	Who is William the Conqueror?
<b>Avon</b>	How long was Tutankhamen's reign ?
<b>Mells</b>	Who was Boudicca?
<b>Yeo</b>	Did you enjoy 'Friend or Foe'? Tell your grown up about this story. What was the dilemma faced by the characters?
<b>Hartlake</b>	What do you know about Pompeii so far?

## School Lunches

Please can we remind everyone to book their child's school lunches on ParentPay.

We have had quite a few lunches not booked again this week. Please speak to the office if you are having any difficulty with this.

### Attendance

Cam	93.1%
Somer	94.8%
Dart	93.3%
Avon	93.5%
Mells	91.2%
Yeo	90.9%
Hartlake	88.3%
Midford	77.5%
Wellow	98.3%
Overall attendance is 91.6%	

### Peg Awards

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been awarded peg awards this week:

**Red**— Riley M, Sonny T, Amber V , Evie B, Fionnuala K, Finn R, Jack G, Ronny DB

**Yellow** - Zander H, Teo, Isla T, Archie H, Harry B, Ella T .

### Lunchtime Football

Mrs Smith will be running lunchtime football next term. Please bring in spare kit from home: top, shorts/joggers and boots or spare trainers. No school PE kit.

Monday—Y3 & Y4 boys

Wednesday—Y5 & Y6 boys

Friday—Y3-Y6 girls

### PTFA News

#### Would you like a craft stall at the winter fayre?

We are offering a limited number of stall space for craft businesses so if you would like one, please get in touch at [stnicsradstock.ptfa@gmail.com](mailto:stnicsradstock.ptfa@gmail.com).

#### We are looking for volunteers for the winter fayre please!

In order to offer the great range of activities we normally have, we will need extra support. If you are able to offer even 30 minutes on a stall that would be massively helpful. Please let the office know or email us. Thank you!

Please log on to ParentPay to pay for Wreath Making, Father Christmas and Elfridges.

Have a great weekend!  
Friends of St. Nic's PTFA

### Outside Achievements

Congratulations to Florence D who has been awarded Stage 7 in swimming.



Well done to De'Alla N who has awarded Star Of The Week at Razzamataz Theatre Schools, brilliant!

# **2023-2024 SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES**

**Including INSET DAYS**

<b>TERM 1</b>	
Start:	Tuesday 5th September
Finish:	Friday 20th October
<b>TERM 2</b>	
Start:	Monday 30th October
Finish:	Friday 15th December
<b>TERM 3</b>	
Start:	Wednesday 3rd January
Finish:	Friday 9th February
<b>TERM 4</b>	
Start:	Monday 19th February
Finish:	Thursday 28th March
<b>TERM 5</b>	
Start:	Monday 15th April
Finish:	Friday 24th May
<b>TERM 6</b>	
Start:	Monday 3rd June
Finish:	Tuesday 23rd July
<b>INSET DAYS</b>	
Friday 1st September 2023	
Monday 4th September 2023	
Tuesday 2nd January 2024	
Monday 29th January 2024	
Friday 12th July 2024	

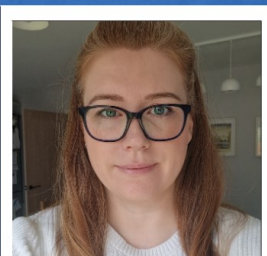


St.Nicholas  
Governors

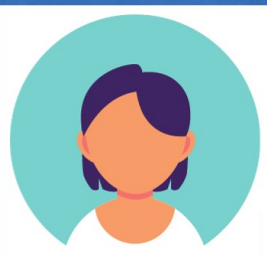
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for more  
information



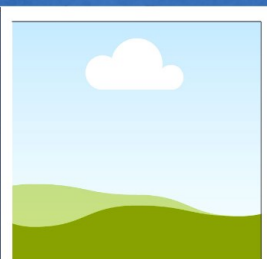
Leanne Maidment



Parent gov vacancy



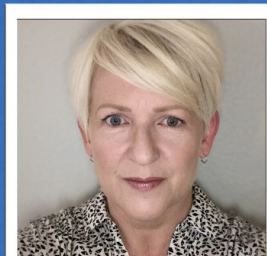
Emma Clarke



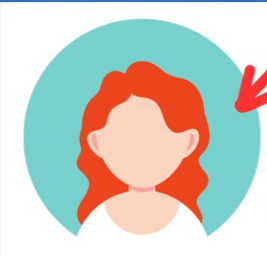
Emma Francis



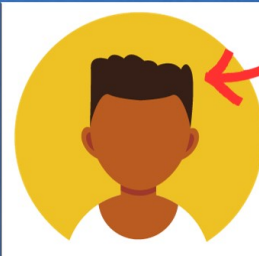
Sophie Hunt



Lee-Ann Britten



Parent gov vacancy



Parent gov vacancy

Could  
this  
be  
YOU?

Or you can email us at: [leanne.maidment@stnicholas.bwmat.org](mailto:leanne.maidment@stnicholas.bwmat.org)

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# SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

## PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

## ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

## AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

## DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

18  
CENSORED

## Meet Our Expert

Daniel Isaacson is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247.



## FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

## ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

## TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

## BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

NOS  
National  
Online  
Safety®



**Wednesday 13 December  
6-7pm, doors open 5:30pm**

# CAROLS AT THE REC

**FREE!** **2023**



**Scan to get your free ticket  
or visit [carolsattherec.com](https://carolsattherec.com)**

Bath Recreation Ground,  
Pulteney Mews,  
Bath,  
BA2 4DS

**Come along for carols, family fun, and a  
celebration of Christmas in the heart of Bath**



**WIDCOMBE**  
BAPTIST CHURCH



Bath • • •  
Recreation



UNIVERSITY OF BATH  
**Chorus**  
CHORAL & ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

**Saturday 4th November -  
Monday 1st January**

**ICE**

**VOLT**



**Ice Skating. Santa's Grotto. Alpine Bar**

**Book -**

**[www.icevolt.co.uk](http://www.icevolt.co.uk)**

Planet Volt, Charlton Lane, Midsomer Norton BA3 4BD



# LIBRARY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

w/c  
**27 Nov**

## Bath Central Library

### Storytime

Tuesday 10.30 - 11.00am 28 Nov

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### Baby Bounce and Rhyme

Wednesday 10.30 - 11.00am 29 Nov

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### Lego Lab, Family Fun Drop In

Mon - Sat During opening hours

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### Knit Two, Share One - knitting & Crochet group for any age/ability

Thursday 10.00 - 12.00pm 30 Nov

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### Norland Nannies Community Sewing Bee - For any age/ability, drop in

Friday 10.00 - 2.00pm 1 Dec

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### Board Game Saturdays

Saturday 12.30 - 4.00pm 2 Dec

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### Sensory Space, for families with children and young adults with sensory needs

Mon - Sat, Book a Session via Eventbrite

For any ticketed events, the link will be online via the blog.  
Visit [bathneslibraries.wordpress.com](https://bathneslibraries.wordpress.com)

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives



## **LEAP is a free programme for families of children and young people who are above a healthy weight\***

1-1 face to face support for 5-10 year olds and a combination of face to face & virtual support for 11-17 year olds\*

Receive a **FREE 3-MONTH leisure centre pass** upon completion for the child and nominated adult\*\*

Topics covered:

- Healthy food and drink swaps
- Physical activity/active play
- Impact of screen time
- Food choices

To book a place or find out more contact the  
Community Wellbeing Hub:

t: 0300 247 0050

e: [BATHNES.thehub@hcrpgcaregroup.com](mailto:BATHNES.thehub@hcrpgcaregroup.com)



## **FREE five week cookery course for parents/carers and children**

**Join an in person or virtual group course to discover  
how to make easy, healthy, budget friendly recipes.**

- Free recipe booklet and links to our NEW video recipes
- Support with meal planning and budgeting
- Encouraging children to eat balanced meals
- Ingredients and equipment provided or funded up to £30 for virtual courses
- For families with children aged 5-17

**Range of dates available:**

**Contact the Community Wellbeing Hub to find out more:**

**T: 0300 247 0050**

**E: [BATHNES.thehub@hcrgrcaregroup.com](mailto:BATHNES.thehub@hcrgrcaregroup.com)**





23rd  
Oct

### Bath Lantern Workshop

A fun activity for kids to get involved with over the October Half Term!

Banish the winter blues by creating a willow lantern at our lantern making workshop.

You can show off your lantern at Bath Lights the Night.

Tickets are free, donations are welcome

[welcometobath.co.uk/bath-lights-the-night](http://welcometobath.co.uk/bath-lights-the-night)



15th  
Nov

### Bath Lights the Night

Bringing light to the streets of Bath during the gloomy dark days, join us across the city to walk through the streets of Bath with beautiful handmade lanterns created by local children. Finishing at Bath Abbey for some music.

Seats are on a first come first served basis.

[welcometobath.co.uk/bath-lights-the-night](http://welcometobath.co.uk/bath-lights-the-night)



15th  
Nov

### Music at the Abbey

Following the Bath Lights the Night procession through the city, we will meet at the Abbey for an evening filled with music and singing from the Orchestra of Everything.

If you are in the parade we will reserve a seat for you.

Tickets are free, there will be a retiring collection in aid of Dorothy House.

[welcometobath.co.uk/bath-lights-the-night](http://welcometobath.co.uk/bath-lights-the-night)

Browse events and activities at [welcometobath.co.uk/beautiful-bath-at-christmas](http://welcometobath.co.uk/beautiful-bath-at-christmas)

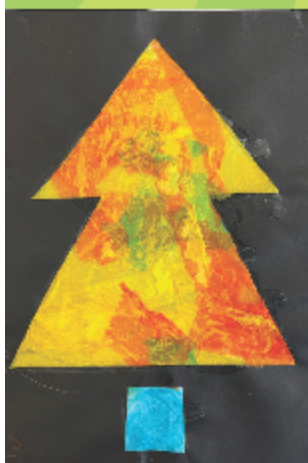


# Christmas Art Trail



**Make a piece of Art for the  
Christmas Art Trail in shop windows**

**Deadline** Friday 24th November  
**Trail** 29 November to 19 December



## **Christmas window**

Create an outline using  
black sugar paper or card.

Stick coloured tissue  
paper in the spaces.

Hand completed work  
to Unit 14, South Road, MSN



**Free workshop** Saturday 18 November 10-1 Unit 14

**contact** [manager@midsomernortoncommunitytrust.co.uk](mailto:manager@midsomernortoncommunitytrust.co.uk)

01761 419133      07903951168





Tax Free  
Childcare  
Accepted

# Festive Fun Holiday Clubs

Let's Play, Move, Create, Discover & Nourish

**St Paul's Junior  
School**



Shepton Mallet

**Mon 18th - Thurs 21st Dec**  
9-3pm or extend to 4pm



**St Johns  
Primary School**



Midsomer Norton

**Weds 20th - Thurs 21st Dec**  
9-3pm or extend to 4pm



"All 3 of my children came home full of joy."

Let's Play, Move, Create, Discover & Nourish

BOOK NOW AT [HAPPYMOJOS.CO.UK](http://HAPPYMOJOS.CO.UK)

OR USE OUR  
HANDY QR CODE





FREE  
CONCERT

VITAL ART PRESENTS



TICKET  
SHOP

# MANUS NOBLE



"Remarkably self-assured, Noble dispatched everything with refined technique, kissed by poetry." *The Times*

WEDNESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

DRAGONFLY THEATRE, WRITHLINGTON SCHOOL, 6:00PM

[TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/DRAGONFLYTHEATRE](https://ticketsource.co.uk/dragonflytheatre)

[MANUSNOBLE.COM](https://manusnoble.com)