



St Nicholas C of E Primary School

School Newsletter

9th October 2020

'Joyful is the person who finds wisdom'

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, the Governing board have for a number of years kept under review our position with regard to becoming part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). The backdrop to this is that within Bath and North East Somerset, there is an ever-increasing trend towards academisation, and this is reflected in the fact that at this point in time we are one of only eight schools in the district who remain maintained directly by the Local Authority.

There are a number of considerations as to why a school might join an academy. Collaboration with other schools, operational and logistical support are key factors, but the overriding test has been whether joining a MAT would be the right 'fit' and is necessary. Up until now, the Governors, in close consultation with the Head Teacher, have concluded that to date we are 'self-sufficient' and are in fact thriving as a school.

However, we are now at a time where the level of support that has been historically provided to maintained schools by the Local Authority is being scaled back. In light of the changing landscape in BANES, we are starting to feel this impact directly, both operationally, and with respect of the development of our teaching staff who are able to access fewer opportunities to collaborate, share best practice and learn alongside their peers in other schools.

The Governors therefore recently reconsidered the position for our school and agreed that we should reassess the options that are open to us with respect to joining an academy. At the forefront of the Governor's minds has always been that we have a fantastic school and preserving the unique ethos of our school is of utmost importance, whilst safeguarding its future operational viability. The Governors had previously spoken to a number of local multi academy trusts and made the decision not to join them as at the time, the 'fit' wasn't right.

However, we are now writing to announce that following very positive talks, the Governors have recently voted in principle to join the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust. More details about the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust can be found at <https://www.bwmat.org/about-us/>.

Formal consultation with parents, staff and the wider community will be part of the process once all sides including the Governors, Diocese, Trust and the Regional Schools Commissioner have carried out all of their initial due diligence.

At each stage we will keep you updated via the school newsletter of what is happening; if everything goes to plan, the intention is that our school will formally join the MAT on or around 1st April 2021.

If you have any questions you wish to ask please email us at head@stnicholasschool.co.uk or chair@stnicholasschool.co.uk

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards,

Nicola Smith	Andrew Smith
Headteacher	Chair of Governors.

Key Stage 2 Celebration

Class	Star of the Week	Maths Magician	Wizard—Best Effort	Wizard—Most Improved	Writing Wizard
Avon	Amelia B	Jack G	Harrison P	Henry C	Ronny DB
Kennet	Milo J	Blake V	Marley DG	Hollie H	Amelia D
Mells	Zachary H	Finley C	Leo W	Amy F	Alfie T
Severn	George A	Ashley C	Jacob C	Phoebe B	Regan S
Hartlake	Logan C	Lucas H	Fabio G	Angelique L	Macie D
Huntspill	Ethan L	Vinnie P	Liam B	Gabriella S	Lily G



A Thank You from the Lord's Larder Food Bank

Dear Nicki,

We would like to thank all the generous parents at St Nicholas' Primary, Radstock who donated an amazing **340** items at the school's Harvest Festival this year.

We took your donations to the Lord's Larder Food Bank in Yeovil today and the people who run it were delighted. The manager is already seeing a rise in demand this week and expects it to increase, so was very grateful for your donations.

The Lord's Larder is run by various churches in the town working together and is based at the GateWay in Addlewell Lane. They provide food parcels for individuals and families who have been referred by an agency.

Many thanks, everyone. What a brilliant bunch you are!

Kind regards,

David and Elspeth Rymer

Please could we ask everyone to NOT swear on the school site. Some parents have expressed concern regarding swearing when waiting in the queue in the morning and evening. Thank you for your help.

Talking to teachers.

If you have a concern that you wish to raise with a teacher, please phone the office and they will arrange an appointment for you. Please remember to bring a mask if you have an appointment in school.

Parents Evening

We have decided that parents evening will be by phone the week beginning November 2nd—further details on how to book will follow

Lateness

If you arrive late, please ensure you wait with your child until we are able to take them into school after the reception class. Pupils remain the responsibility of parents until they have been taken into school.

Pupils in years 1-6 who arrive after 8.45am are marked as late. Those who arrive after 8.55 are given an unauthorised absence mark which is reported to the Child Missing In Education Officer each term. Persistent lateness may lead to parents being added to her caseload and may lead to fines being issued.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe by wearing a mask on our site!

Rule of Six no more than six people including children should be in a group.
Everyone should maintain a distance of 2m between each other.

We have been asked to remind everyone that the rule of six applies to the when you are picking up your children too. Please ensure that you do not gather in groups on the school grounds. We are desperately trying to keep the times for pick up as they are but we may have to spread them out further if parents do not socially distance. Thank you for your support.

NEW LUNCH ORDERING SYSTEM

In our continued effort to remove cash and cheques from school, we are moving to a system where parents choose and pay in advance for school meals. This will continue to be through ParentPay.

I am pleased to let you know that as from Monday 12th October the school lunch menu will be available on ParentPay for you to prebook lunch choices for the following week with your child. This facility will enable you to sit down with your child at home to choose their lunches. The children will no longer be able to order their lunch when they come in to school in the morning. Once chosen, you are able to change up to the cut off which is 4.00pm on the Thursday before.

If you pay for your lunches, payment must be made when you confirm your order ie in advance. Any meals not paid for are cancelled by the system. If this is the case you will need to provide a packed lunch.

For example, for meals the week beginning Monday 19th October, all meals for that week will need to be chosen and paid for by 4.00pm on Thursday 15th October, even if you only want one meal on the Friday of the following week.

Pupils In Reception, Y1 and Y2

All of the pupils in these year groups receive a Government funded meal. You will need to select meals with your child by the Thursday of the previous week ie select meals for the week beginning Monday 19th October by 4.00pm on Thursday 15th October.

Free School Meals

If your child is entitled to free school meals you will need to select meals with your child by the Thursday of the previous week ie select meals for the week beginning Monday 19th October by 4.00pm on Thursday 15th October.

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

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