

'Where charity and love are, God is there'

Newsletter 15.12.23– Term 2 -Week 7

Reflection

As we come to the end of another special term at St Nicholas, it is always lovely to reflect on our achievements and the wonderful experiences the children have had.

This term has been full of Christmas Cheer, from pantomimes, nativity performance, carol concert and so much more for our children and community.

Christmas is a time when we can reflect and be grateful for all that we have. I am so grateful to be the head at St Nicholas and have loved watching our community go from strength to strength. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at school, who really do go above and beyond for all of our children.

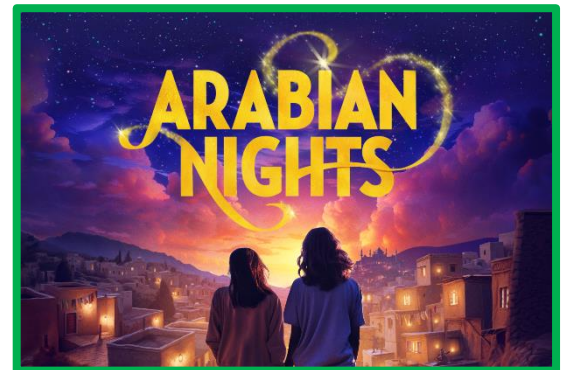
I wish you a very happy break and look forward to seeing you all back on Wednesday 3rd January 2024!

Living God, help us to listen to your word, to be kind and generous and helpful to others and to be ready to welcome Jesus when he comes. Amen.

Advent
BE WATCHFUL. BE ALERT

Year 5 and 6 Arabian Nights

Year 5 and 6 classes were treated to an enchanting performance at the Bristol Old Vic last week. They loved the performance and were full of excitement about the show. They were so respectful during the performance, not only to the performers but also to members of the public. We were extremely proud of them.



Whole school Pantomime.....Oh no it's not....Oh yes it is!

Due to all the money raised from our summer fayre, raffle etc we were able to pay for a whole school pantomime. The children were treated to a production of Treasure Island, and Mr Tajjan dancing. The children loved it, it was great to hear all the laughter and cheering from the hall.

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STEAM Day – Science!

Year 4 researched James E West, the inventor of the foil-electret microphone. We discovered how his work influenced other engineers in sound recording. Then it was our turn to be inventors... we used junk modelling to create our own instruments that make high and low pitched sounds. We even formed a class orchestra!

Year 3 learnt all about the Volcanologist Dr Jazmin Scarlett. We found out about what Dr Jazmin Scarlett roles and responsibilities are as a volcanologist! Can you tell your family at home?

We then created our own exploding volcanoes! We used the volcanoes we created in DT and painted in our art lessons to create eruptions!



Year 5 were visited for a DNA Extraction workshop on STEAM Day, where they worked in pairs to extract DNA from a kiwi. This was a fantastic, hands on experience for the children, with a lot of learning in the process. Did you know that we share of DNA with a banana?

As part of our STEAM day, year six enjoyed a workshop all about renewable energy. Here they are designing their own wind turbines to see which blades are the best shape for capturing the wind!



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Outside School Achievements – Ariana (Y4)

Ariana, who has enjoyed dancing for as long as she can remember, has been making waves! Joining the Alien Dance company less than a year ago, she immersed herself in a variety of styles, showcasing moves in freestyle and street dance.

In a testament to her rapid progress, Ariana entered her inaugural competition in Wales last November. Despite being a beginner, she displayed exceptional talent by reaching the finals in four categories—an impressive feat for any dancer. Her outstanding performance was crowned with success as she clinched victory, earning three trophies and two medals.

Ariana's signature move, the kick, has become a standout feature in her routines, captivating audiences and judges alike. She extends her passion for dance by teaching her favourite moves to other children on the playground, inspiring other children in our school community. Ariana's journey in dance is not just marked by achievements in competitions but also by her commitment to sharing the joy of movement with others. We are looking forward to seeing her develop in the years to come, we have a star on our hands!



We took a team of 10 basketball players to compete in the Sainsbury's School Games Tournament. The event counts towards the school gaining our School Games Badge by taking part with high levels of Teamwork, Honesty, Respect, Self-Belief, Passion and Determination. We won our first two matches, a highlight, winning 18-6. Alayaa managed to school 4 hoops in one game (She scored was also our top scorer in the tournament with 12 points! Unfortunately, we narrowly lost our next two matches to come third in the tournament, which was a great result! Player of the tournament - Adrian F for his wonderful dribbling and long shots.

The appetite for Basketball at our school was encouragingly high, with many from Year 5 and 6 attending try outs. As a result, we will be starting a Basketball club after half term!

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Christmas at St Nicks!

We have had such a busy two weeks at St Nicholas, especially with all of our Christmas celebrations this



Our KS1 team performed 'Shine Star Shine' for their nativity this year. We were so impressed with how well they learnt all their lines and how beautiful they sang!

Our Christmas Fair was a huge success, it was lovely to welcome so many families into the hall. I would like to say thank you to Mr Mark and Miss Delves for all their hard work in preparing for the Christmas Fair!

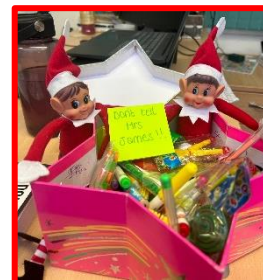


Our KS2 children finished the week with their Carol Concert. They sang beautifully, and the year 6 song had a few of us in tears with how lovely it was! Thank you to the parents who were able to join us for some communal hymns!

It would not be Christmas at St Nicks without the annual Christmas breakfast. Breakfast club were treated to a delicious cooked breakfast this week! Thank you to Mr Mark and his helpers: Miss Hassett, Miss Logan, Miss Lou and Miss Palvinder for serving all the children (and staff).



Not forgetting our special visitors the past two weeks – Elsie and Eddie who were getting up to mischief through the school! We can't wait to welcome them back hopefully next year!



Santa paid us an early visit this week, giving each child a goodie bag of gifts. We were so fortunate to have lots donated to our children, St Nicholas Church in the city centre provided bags, the school (with the help of parents) donated selection boxes, and we won a competition meaning each child received a book. Gaia's parents in year 1 also made sweet treats for every child in school – we have the best community!!



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Class Assemblies – Round Two.

We are so excited to welcome you to more of our class assemblies!

Year 6 – Friday 19th January

Year 5 – Friday 26th January

Year 4 – Friday 2nd February

Year 3 – Friday 9th February

Year 1 and 2 – Friday 1st March

Reception – Friday 8th March

Attendance

Thank you to those children who attend school regularly and on time. We will continue to monitor closely, if attendance continues to be a concern we will send out an earlier letter than the end of term. The target for all pupils is set at **96.1%** and any figure below is a concern.

Any classes who achieve a 100% attendance for the week will be able to have a non-school uniform day the following week.

Class	Yearly Attendance	This week's attendance	Late sessions this week
Diamond Class	91.7%	85%	3
Emerald Class	93.7%	92.1%	19
Ruby Class	94.9%	92.4%	5
Amethyst Class	94.3%	89.6%	11
Sapphire Class	93.5%	89.5%	10
Topaz Class	94.9%	96.4%	7
Total	94%	91.6%	55

Thank you to those who attend regularly. Please remember to phone the school office if your child is going to be absent. If we do not hear from you, we will ring you and then may also make a home visit if we are unable to contact you. Thank you to those who arrive on time. Remember, children can go straight to class from 8:40am or attend breakfast club from 8am if necessary. There is also access to the walking bus if required. If your child is constantly late to school this can affect their self-esteem and they could be missing out on valuable reading, phonics or Maths activities and interventions

Dates for your Diary - Term 3

Tuesday 2 nd January	INSET Day
Wednesday 3 rd January	Children back in School

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs R James