

'Where charity and love are, God is there'

Term 2 Newsletter 14.11.25

These first two weeks back in school have been incredibly busy and full of meaningful moments.

I wanted to share some highlights and important updates with you. Our school community has been actively living our values, with many moments of reflection since we returned. We began with our back to school Mass for All Saints and held a poignant Remembrance Service, which provided opportunities for our pupils to pause and consider deeper meanings.

We were fortunate to welcome Author Jasbinder Bilan, who shared her inspiring journey to becoming a writer. Her visit was a wonderful opportunity to motivate and spark creativity among our young writers, showing them the potential of their own storytelling abilities.

Our Green team has been instrumental in educating our entire school about the critical importance of recycling. Their dedication to environmental awareness is truly commendable and demonstrates how our pupils can make a real difference.

I would like to make a gentle reminder about our school uniform. While the majority of children are arriving in full school uniform, we expect ties to be worn with shirts at all times. Your support in maintaining our standards is appreciated.

An important date for your diary: Parent's Evening is approaching on Tuesday 25th and Thursday 27th November. Sign-up sheets will be placed on class doors next week. This is a crucial opportunity for us to work together in supporting our children's progress, so please make every effort to attend.

We concluded the week with a wonderful Children In Need event and cake sale. Thank you so much for all your generous donations. This perfectly embodies our school motto: *"Where Charity and Love are, God is there!"* Your kindness and community spirit shine through.

Luke 21: 5-19 The 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

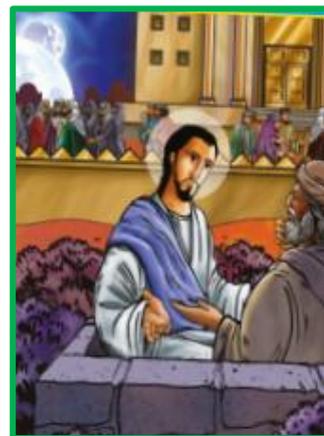
Some people were talking about the beautiful stones used to build the temple and about the gifts that had been placed in the temple. Jesus said, "The time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: they will all be knocked down." The disciples asked Jesus when this would happen and he replied, "Before the world ends, many things will happen. People will appear and pretend to be me saying, 'I am the Christ and now is the time!' But do not believe or follow them. And when you hear about wars and earthquakes, do not be afraid; just stay faithful to me."

If we choose to be faithful to Jesus, we still need God's help and the help of the Church (the community of the faithful) to stay faithful. We can be certain that our faithfulness to God will be rewarded.

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies." St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

To be faithful is to be true to someone or something.

Our mission this week: How can we grow in faithfulness to God and to each other?



Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for being our faithful friend. Please help us to keep growing in faithfulness to you and to one another. Amen.

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All Saints Mass

We began this term with a beautiful celebration of All Saints' Mass, followed by a reflective service on the significance of Saints in our lives. The children showed deep reverence and thoughtful reflection throughout, reminding us that Saints are all around us in the everyday acts of kindness and faith. Our Chaplains and Trainee Chaplains led the Mass with grace and confidence, creating a truly prayerful atmosphere. As always, our worship through joyful singing lifted hearts and brought the whole school community together in praise.



Green Team

Our wonderful Green Team inspired the whole school with an engaging assembly on the importance of recycling and caring for our planet. They reminded us that every small action makes a big difference and linked their message beautifully to Catholic Social Teaching on Care for Creation. Through their leadership, we reflected on our responsibility as stewards of God's world, encouraging everyone to reduce waste and protect the environment for future generations.



Music comes alive!

We were delighted to welcome Nataniel Amaral from Preludes for a wonderful showcase of his violin playing. Our children were captivated by the beauty of live music, asking thoughtful questions and showing great curiosity about the instrument. Some even had the exciting opportunity to try playing the violin themselves! At St Nicholas, we are passionate about music and believe it enriches learning and nurtures creativity. We feel truly blessed to offer such inspiring experiences that open hearts and minds to the joy of music.



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We will Remember

On Tuesday 11th November, our school community gathered for a moving Remembrance Service, confidently led by our Chaplains. It was a special moment to honour and remember those who gave their lives so that others may live. The service provided time for quiet reflection, prayer, and gratitude, as everyone paused to consider the sacrifices made for peace and freedom. We are proud of the reverence shown by all and the leadership of our Chaplains in guiding such an important occasion.



Author Inspiration

We were thrilled to welcome award-winning author Jasbinder Bilan as part of the Clifton LitFest—and even more excited that our school was chosen for a free visit! Jasbinder shared her inspiring journey to becoming an author, encouraging our children to embrace creativity and the power of storytelling. The session sparked imagination and left pupils brimming with ideas for their own writing. To make the day even more special, some lucky winners received prizes, including a copy of Jasbinder's latest book!

Anti-Bullying Week

This week we marked Anti-Bullying Week with the theme "Power for Good." Across the school, children explored what bullying means and how it makes others feel. We discussed the definition in a child-friendly way: bullying is when someone hurts another person on purpose, more than once, and it makes them feel sad or scared. We also looked at how bullying is different from simply falling out with friends. Classes reflected on how reactions to incidents can sometimes make situations worse—retaliating often escalates the problem instead of allowing adults to help. We understand how upsetting these moments can be for parents, but working together is key to resolving issues calmly. Linking to our Catholic Social Teaching theme "We Are One," we focused on building a community of compassion and love, helping everyone make the right choices. I am so proud of how thoughtfully the children engaged with this important theme.



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Uniform

We are all so proud to be a part of St Nicholas school, and we have all seen first-hand the improvements made within the school. This year we are focusing on uniform, all children MUST wear correct uniform each day.

- Grey/black trousers, tailored shorts or skirt
- Pale blue polo shirt or shirt (ties to be worn with shirts)
- Navy blue jumper/cardigan
- Plain black shoes

PE KIT

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain black/grey jogging bottoms or shorts
- Navy Jumper
- No Sports Sets
- Trainers or daps

All children have been provided with 1 free school jumper to support us in maintaining high standards of uniform.



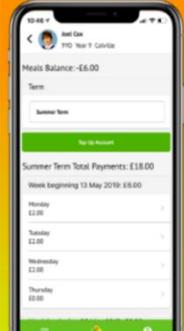
We are now using Arbor as the main source of communication for parents, at the moment we only have 49% of parents signed up. Please ensure you have signed up to be able to access all communication.



Check on your child from anywhere



Make payments on the go



 **Arbor** App & Portal

- View your child's Timetable, Clubs and Attendance
- Pay for School Meals
- View your child's Guilford Golds!
- Update your details
- Receive instant messages
- Sign up to trips and after-school clubs

No more forms!



Card payments



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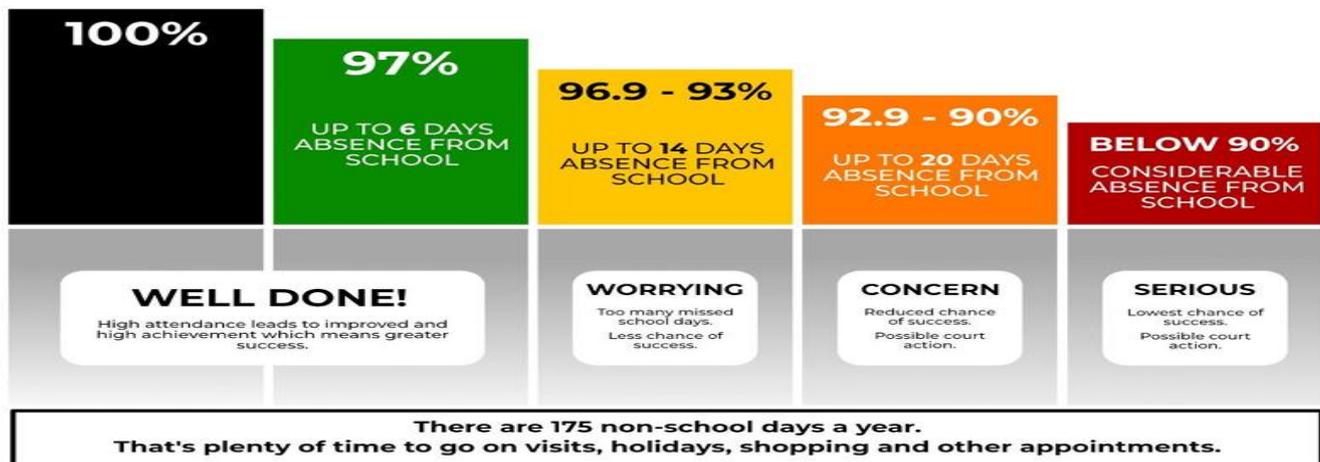
Attendance

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	98.9%	99.1%	1
Emerald Class	86.4%	89.3%	11
Ruby Class	96.6%	99.6%	11
Amethyst Class	95.7%	94.8%	17
Sapphire Class	97.9%	98.6%	1
Topaz Class	94%	95.3%	12
Total	95%	96.2%	53

WHAT IS YOUR ATTENDANCE?



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.



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Term 2 Dates

Date	Event
Friday 21 st November	Individual School Photos Jubilee Year of Hope Celebration
Tuesday 25 th November	3.30pm – 6pm Parents Evening
Thursday 27 th November	3.30pm – 6pm Parents Evening
Friday 28 th November	STEAM DAY
Tuesday 2 nd December	Y5/6 Inclusive Sports Event – chosen children
Thursday 4 th December	9.30am – Advent Mass – All welcome Amethyst Class to St George for Preludes Concert
Friday 5 th December	Ruby and Amethyst to Bristol Zoo EYFS Open Afternoon
Tuesday 16 th December	Mini Panto in school for children
Wednesday 17 th December	2pm – EYFS, Y1 and Y2 Nativity
Thursday 18 th December	2pm – Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 Carol Concert
Friday 19 th December	9.30am Christmas Mass – All Welcome Last Day of Term 2

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs R James