



Living and learning
together with God

St Nicolas' CE Combined School

Welcome to Our School



Thank you for considering our school for the education of your child. At St Nicolas', the children's best interests are at the heart of everything we do. Every member of our dedicated staff team works hard to make sure your child's time with us will be happy and successful. We aim for children to leave St Nicolas' as confident, resilient and kind individuals, ready for the challenges of secondary school.

St Nicolas' is a one-form entry school with approximately 218 children aged 4-11.

A child's perspective (from a Year 6 pupil)

"I love St Nic's! The teachers are amazing and they are really supportive; I have made loads of great friends too. Here at St Nic's, there is a challenge for everyone, and we have strategies to help us when we get stuck. If you try your best, there are reward systems: class dojos and house points. We always have fun and learn so much every day. I love this school and I'm sad about leaving this year."



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About Our School

Academy status

We achieved academy status in May 2012. As an academy we benefit from our own curriculum design, ensuring that we teach content which engages and inspires our children to learn.



Our curriculum

We provide a broad, engaging curriculum which begins in the classroom but extends far beyond in assemblies, trips, events, clubs, sports, performances and more.

Music plays a key role at St Nicolas', with a singing assembly every week and the opportunity to learn and play a wide variety of instruments. All children learn the recorder in year 2, African drumming in year 4 and the trumpet in year 5.

Our main club is Busy Bunch, which is a breakfast and after school club. This is available to all children in school and booking is flexible. We also have a wide range of sports clubs and others including our choir, ukulele clubs, drama and Lego. More information can be found on our website.



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Pupils have several forums which influence activities in the school. Eco councillors lead projects and assemblies to raise awareness and promote sustainability. We are proud of our solar panel array which reduces our environmental impact. The elected school council meet regularly to decide on future projects and represent pupil voice to the senior leadership team. We also have school ambassadors who welcome

our visitors and talk to them about learning in their class and school.

Our children enjoy a variety of exciting trips and visitors, all appropriate to age group and supporting topics being studied in class. Children particularly look forward to residential trips. This year, year 4 will visit Ufton Court Outdoor Activity Centre for two days of environment and team-building activity and year 6 are looking forward to a fantastic activity-packed outdoor adventure week at the River Dart in Devon.

Keeping safe and healthy

The safety of our children is paramount, and through our PSHE curriculum and assemblies, they are taught how to keep themselves safe in real life and online. We promote walking, scooting and cycling to school and offer BikeAbility training for KS2 to keep themselves safe on the roads. Our children learn to swim in year 3.

Home learning at St Nicolas'

We believe home learning should not be a battle between parents and children. It has great value if it complements and supports what is being learnt in lessons. Key home learning includes spelling, times tables/arithmetic and daily reading. Additional home learning activities are provided for children and families who want to 'go the extra mile'.



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Community and church

We are a Church of England School and have collective worship every morning. We have close links with St. Nicolas' Church and we visit for services such as Easter, Harvest, St Nicolas' Day and Christmas as well as using it for school concerts and projects.



Our School Vision

Jesus said, 'I am the vine and you are the branches.'

Our school is rooted in the Christian Faith. Nourished by God, we want to grow together drawing on His strength to live out our Christian values so that we can reach out to others in our community. We are all unique and together with God we want to be the best that we can be. As we learn together in a supportive and nurturing school, we will thrive and be ready to face the challenges of life.

Our Christian values are respect, love and friendship, honesty, thankfulness, courage and peace.



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Our school prayer

*Thank you, God, for our school,
And for freedom to learn.*

Help us to make it a place of happiness, thankfulness and peace.

A place where friendships are made and respect is shown to all,

A place where we can have courage to do our best,

And a place where we can all work together,

to be the best that we can be

Amen



Parental involvement

Working in partnership with parents and carers is vital to ensuring success for our children. Our main communications are the weekly Friday newsletter, our website, and the termly curriculum newsletters which give information specific to each class. Information is also sent direct to parents via ParentPay.

If you have a concern regarding your child or their learning, we encourage you to contact their class teacher in the first instance. Teachers can be contacted via the school office, and a telephone call arranged. In KS1 and KS2, children have planners in which they record their daily reading and through which parents and teachers can also communicate. We can also be found on the gate most days, although we do ask that you allow us to release all the children safely first.

Parents are invited to class assemblies where the class present their learning. These are greatly looked forward to and an opportunity to see the class working



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together. We also invite parents to join us for harvest (led by Y4), the nativity play (EYFS and KS1), carol concert (KS2), summer concerts, Easter service (led by Y3), open evening, sports day and the Year 6 production, as well as events around learning through the year.

Please see our website calendar: www.stnicolastaplow.com

We welcome volunteer helpers to come and read with children or help in classes; we usually avoid helpers working with their own child's class.



PTA

We have an amazing Parent Teacher Association (PTA) who organise fun events to support the school. Over the last few years, the PTA have funded many items including our fantastic adventure playground and new computing suite. The PTA's involvement really enriches the children's experience and we ask all parents to please pledge at least one hour of your time to the PTA each year.

Parent survey June 2024

"St Nic's continues to be the most amazing nurturing school and has given all my children the best primary school experience I could wish for. St Nic's creates a wonderfully caring environment for a child to learn, explore and develop individually. It feels like school life is an extension of our family and community. Thank you St Nic's for all you do."

"Communication is excellent. Recognised our child's personality early and looked to find ways to support, encourage and develop them. Strong feeling that our child's teachers are available and working hard to educate."

"I feel that the team at St Nicolas genuinely care about the wellbeing and education of my children and know them well. When they have experienced difficulties I have felt able to speak with Ms Holmes about it, and action has been taken swiftly to support - with myself and my child able to see and feel the effort being made. Equally when one of my children has struggled in areas, the teaching



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staff have been very open with me and taken the time to let me know what's happening and work together to resolve it. My children are thriving at school and - most importantly - are enjoying being there."

"St Nic's is exceptional at building and providing an environment where children are excited to go to school and where they feel safe and supported. There's a sense of community and all the staff have such an evident sense of purpose and care it's wonderful to see. The culture within the school comes from the Headteacher down and we feel so lucky that our children are able to go to St Nic's."



Admissions Process

Applications for entry to Reception or Year 3 in September 2026 need to be submitted to your local authority no later than 15th January 2026.

For the full admissions criteria please see the Admissions Policy which can be found on our website www.stnicolastaplow.com/admissions 2026-27

Applications can be submitted from November 1st 2025 from 11am onwards. National offer day is 16th April 2026 when parents will receive their primary school allocated space.



Contact Us

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