



# St Nicolas' CE Combined School Newsletter

Living and learning together with God

Friday 16th January 2026

## Year 2 visit to Maidenhead Synagogue

On Thursday, Ash Class visited Maidenhead Synagogue to find out: 'Why are synagogues important to Jewish people?'



"I noticed that the stained windows had pictures of stories from the Torah." **Dhaani**

"I was amazed to learn that the Torah scroll is as long as a football pitch!" **Albie**

"It was interesting to learn how Jewish people live and look after their community." **Bailey**

The synagogue gave us challah bread to take back to school, which we enjoyed eating in our music lesson whilst listening to some Jewish music.



The children described the bread as, "sweet and smooth."

Our guide was very impressed with the children's questions, their knowledge of Judaism and their good manners.



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## NSPCC: Speak Out, Stay Safe safeguarding programme

We are pleased to have completed the **NSPCC Speak out, Stay Safe** safeguarding programme.

**Speak Out, Stay Safe** is a safeguarding programme that aims to equip a generation of children with the knowledge they need to stay safe from abuse and neglect.

It provides resources for primary schools, home educators and practitioners in alternative provisions to help children aged 5 to 11 years understand:

- abuse in all its forms and how to recognise the signs of abuse
- that abuse is never a child's fault and they have the right to be safe
- where to get help and the sources of help available to them, including Childline.

**Your  
Speak out. Stay safe.  
certificate**

**Awarded to:**

St Nicolas CE Combined School

.....

A massive thank you and a big well done to all pupils for being such great listeners and taking part in *Speak out*.  
Stay safe. with Buddy.

*Chris Sherwood* Chris Sherwood  
Chief Executive

Date: 03.11.2025  
.....

Thank you for helping to keep more children safe!

**NSPCC**

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR



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## School Dog Top Trumps

Halle had a visit from some of her friends in Y4 this morning, followed by a very competitive game of Top Trumps!



## Pupil quote of the week

"Giving Halle a cuddle is like having a warm bath."

**Year 2 child**

100%	Perfection
98%	Impressive
97%	Very good
96%	Good
95%	Nearly there
94%	Needs to improve
<94%	Poor

## Attendance matters

Attendance is down from last week at **96.4%**. Please bring your child into school every day unless they really are too poorly to attend. Tiredness is not a reason to miss out on education.

## Year 3

### Assembly

We are excited to invite Oak class parents and carers to join us on

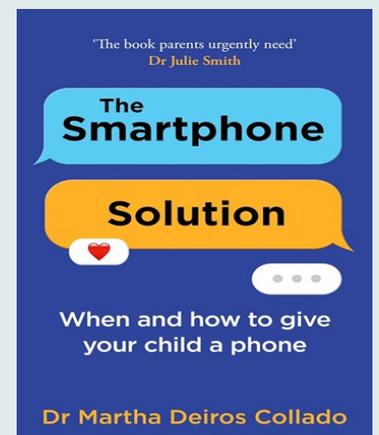
**Tues 27th  
January at  
9.00am**

## Reading at St Nic's

"The Smartphone Solution: when and how to give your child a phone" by Dr Martha Deiros Collado.

A must-read book for parents that discusses the risks and benefits of smartphones, developing healthy phone habits and how to keep children safe online.

Recommended by staff - who are also navigating the world of phones and social media with their children.





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## House Points

Jaguars	Pumas	Lions	Tigers
300	194	262	313

Congratulations to the Tigers

## Busy Bunch



This week at Busy Bunch we have been creating and playing with chatterboxes and having fun with the construction sets.

## Y4 Upton Court Residential—parent information meeting

Thursday 22nd January 3.40 – 4pm

Y4 parents and carers are invited to a presentation about our forthcoming trip in March to Upton Court. This will include information about the activities, kit list, food, the cabins and preparation for the trip. There will be an opportunity to ask any questions.

## Sustainability

Polar bears live in arctic winters (-34°C), with a body temperature close to that of humans (37°C) yet are virtually undetectable using infrared cameras – they simply do not lose body heat. Scientists are designing materials to mimic their incredible insulation – [Learn about how Polar Bears keep warm](#)'.

There are over 2,250 'passive houses' in the UK – they're so well designed, with very high insulation levels – they don't need central heating at all! [Learn more about 'passive houses' here](#).

Europe already has over 15 million heat pumps used for heating buildings. The UK target is to install 600,000 a year by 2028. In 2024, in the UK around 98,000 heat pumps were sold – more work is needed!



### What can you draw without a pen or pencil, chalk or charcoal? ...

– Your curtains!

They're great at helping to keep the heat in and carbon emissions down!

Warm air leaking out of our homes lowers the temperature – so the boiler has to work harder, burning more fuel, costing more money, and creating more carbon emissions.

This week draw your CURTAINS at dusk – keep the heat in, and help look after our planet.



When you've completed this challenge ... Remember to hit the red button!



**Drawing the curtains can reduce heat loss from a home by 10%**



[www.youngclimatewarriors.org](http://www.youngclimatewarriors.org)



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## Headteacher Awards



**Chestnut: Franek** for listening carefully and answering questions about the story of Noah's Ark. **Lucas** for persevering and carefully moulding clay to make a boat.

**Elm: Jayden** for some fantastic work writing sentences in English and making a real effort to write independently. **Mia** for her super speedy recall of her number bonds to 10.

**Ash: Seamas** for his mathematical thinking and application of shape vocabulary when creating patterns with 3D shapes. **Albie** for the care and pride he takes in all of his work - a great role model for the class!

**Oak: Arabelle** for her great teamwork during PE lessons and supporting others with developing their skills. **Dillon** for his focus and sharing of ideas during group work in history.

**Pine: Xanthe** for her increased confidence when participating in class. **Edith** for her resilience in maths this week.

**Willow: Enes** for asking well-considered questions and providing strong contributions to maths and RE discussions this week. **Thinula** for excellent maths learning and idea sharing on fractions during our latest unit.

**Fir: Grace** for excellent focus in independent work and readiness to learn in all lessons. **Sofia** for eager participation in writing group and for a beautifully descriptive opening to a story.

## And finally...

Year 4 enjoyed their visit to the Gurdwara today—look out for their report in next week's newsletter. We would all like to extend our thanks to both Maidenhead Synagogue and Slough Gurdwara for their warm welcome and enthusiasm for supporting the children's learning.

Wishing you a peaceful weekend, **Ms Holmes and the staff team**



## PTA and Community News

### Quiz Night is back!

After such a brilliant night last time, we're doing it all again — expect laughs, friendly competition, and a great excuse for a fun night out with friends. No quiz expertise required, just come along and enjoy!

Book your place here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/quiz-night-2026-tickets-1977607221435>



### St Nics' Quiz Night

**Friday  
27th February**

at St Nicolas' School Hall  
Doors open at: 7pm  
Quiz starts at: 7:30pm

Drinks bar available

Quiz Host - Danny O'Reilly

For tickets & further  
information scan the QR code!



Over 18s only

**£5** per person

6 people per team. If you have a  
set team please book 6 at 1 time.

Why not order yourself a pizza?

Our amazing friends over at  
**PAPA JOHNS®**  
will be available to deliver you  
a tasty pizza whilst you quiz  
the night away!

Pizzas need to be pre ordered via our eventbrite link



## PTA and Community News

### Gift Amnesty

If you received any gifts at Christmas that aren't quite to your taste (or got two the same), please recycle as a kind donation to the PTA. All we ask is that items are NEW & UNUSED and would make a good prize!

Please drop any gift donations into the school office.

Please don't buy anything to donate; this is simply a request for anything you already have but don't want!

**WAKE TO UP  
MUSIC**  
Saturday  
7th February 2026  
**CENTRE**

**WEAR YOUR PJ OR ONESIE**  
**HAVE FUN WITH MUSIC**  
**BRING A FRIEND**  
**9AM-12PM**

FOR ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED INSTRUMENTALISTS AND VOCALISTS  
EXISTING MEMBERS: WEAR YOUR PJS/ONESIES AND FEEL FREE TO BRING A FRIEND ALONG!  
RECEIVE A DISCOUNT ON HALF-TERM MEMBERSHIP WHEN YOU JOIN AFTER THE EVENT!

**FREE**

**AMERSHAM MUSIC CENTRE, AMERSHAM SCHOOL, STANLEY HILL, AMERSHAM, HP7 9HH**  
**FOR MORE DETAILS, EMAIL: [AMMUSIC@BUCKSMUSIC.ORG](mailto:AMMUSIC@BUCKSMUSIC.ORG)**



# PTA and Community News

## ST NICOLAS LUNCHTIME & AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

### UNITED AS ONE



DAY	LUNCHTIME	AFTER SCHOOL	AFTER SCHOOL
Monday 12th Jan - 23rd March	CHESS YR 3-6	FOOTBALL YRS R, 1 & 2	
Thursday 15th Jan - 26th Mar	LEGO YRS R, 1 & 2	NETBALL YR 3-6	FOOTBALL YR 3-6
Friday 16th Jan - 27th Mar	GIRLS FOOTBALL YR 3-6	BASKETBALL YRS R-6	

**BOOK  
HERE!**



BOOK ONLINE THROUGH OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.MAIDENHEADUNITEDFC.ORG](http://WWW.MAIDENHEADUNITEDFC.ORG) OR THE QR  
 CODES AND TYPE ST NICOLAS FOR FURTHER  
 DETAILS CONTACT: MARK NISBET -  
[MARK.NISBET@MAIDENHEADUNITEDFC.ORG](mailto:MARK.NISBET@MAIDENHEADUNITEDFC.ORG)

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