



St Nicolas' CE Combined School Newsletter

Living and learning together with God

Friday 23rd January 2026

It's been a full week with Year 3 welcomed to Maidenhead mosque; an inspiring visit from a local author and an enjoyable and productive staff and governors twilight training with our Diocesan school improvement advisor.

Thank you to all those across the school community and locally who give of their time and expertise to help us create learning and enrichment experiences for our children.

Year 3 trip to Maidenhead Mosque

On Thursday 22nd January, we took an amazing trip to the mosque in Maidenhead. Before we even went inside the mosque, we had already learnt something - in Arabic, they write from right to left.

When we got in, we had to take off our shoes, otherwise the carpet (where you pray) will get dirty. Our favourite bit was the quiz where we were tested what we had learned.

by **Billy, James, Annabel, Luna, Leo and Hugo**





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Year 4 trip to the Gurdwara



Today the trip to the gurdwara was brilliant. We learnt lots about Sikhism such as the 5 Ks and we had a yummy meal in the langar. We all had to wear a special head scarf. We learnt that the orange flag is called Nishan Sahib. We got to taste some warm dal and some tasty roti bread. **Beatrix**

I loved going to the gurdwara. When I first learnt about the gurdwara I wondered what it would be like when we went. When we got there, I stopped for a second, looked around and said, 'Wow, it's amazing here!' Later on, we got to bow down and see the Guru Granth Sahib which is treated as a living guru. Finally, the food was everyone's favourite part. I loved it. **Lola H**

Our trip to the gurdwara was calm and full of learning. I enjoyed learning about the 5 Ks and eating in the langar. I liked it in the prayer hall where I bowed my head and knelt on the floor. After that, we sat at the back of the hall and ate prashad which was sweet and soft. Outside the gurdwara is an orange flag called the Nishan Sahib with a Khanda on it. You can see it for miles as it is that tall. Near the end of our visit, we went to the langar hall which is where we ate dal and roti. I really enjoyed our visit to the gurdwara, I don't think it is possible to come out without feeling calm. It is a peaceful place where your stress disappears. **Niall**





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Packed lunches



We have noticed a few inappropriate items in the children's lunchboxes and feel a reminder would be useful:

If you decide to provide a packed lunch for your child, please ensure that it does not contain chocolate bars, sweets, fizzy drinks or any products containing nuts (including Nutella or chocolate spread). This helps to support our healthy schools initiative and protect children with allergies.

Please do not put too much in the lunchbox: it can be overwhelming. We are trying to teach children how individual items do not need to be plastic-wrapped—please support if you can. A piece of fruit for break time is supplied for EYFS and KS1 children. KS2 children should bring in a fresh fruit or vegetable snack.

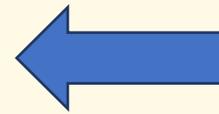
Pupil quote of the week

Overheard in the corridor

“It’s not a proper trip — we’re not even having lunch out!”

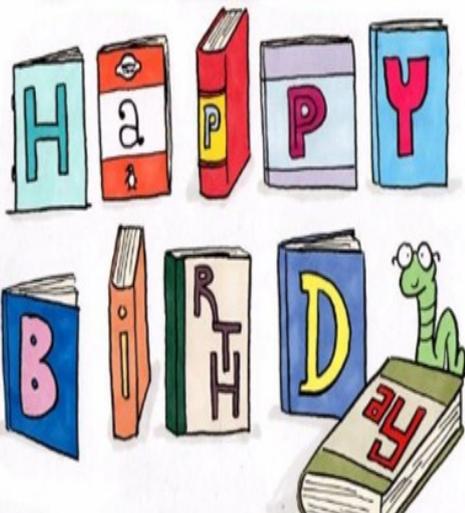
100%	Perfection
98%	Impressive
97%	Very good
96%	Good
95%	Nearly there
94%	Needs to improve
<94%	Poor

Attendance matters



Attendance for this week was a very good **97.1%**

Reading at St Nic's



At St Nicolas' we love celebrating your birthdays! **We have a birthday book wish list on the English section of our website.** Any book purchased for your child's birthday will have their name placed inside the book and will be presented in assembly. This book will then be placed in the library to be enjoyed by others for many years to come.

Please hand any books bought to the office with your child's name and birthday details.



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House Points

Jaguars	Pumas	Lions	Tigers
218	212	263	136

Congratulations to the Lions

Busy Bunch

This week at Busy Bunch we have been having fun playing table tennis.



Threadworms

We have been made aware of cases of threadworm. Please check and treat your child as soon as possible to prevent further spread. We are encouraging the children to wash their hands regularly and not put their hands in their mouths.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/threadworms/#:~:text=If%20you%20or%20your%20child,off%20nursery%2C%20school%20or%20work>

Year 3 assembly

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

**Tues 27th January
at 9.00am**

Sustainability

More and more electric vehicles are being driven on our roads. See how many you can spot on your route to school.

Idling for just 30 seconds produces twice as much air pollution and wastes more fuel than switching off and restarting your engine.

It's national puzzle day – 29th Jan – check out the challenge on our website for a [Climate Change Crossword and Word Search!](#)

Birds, and insects which they feed on, are particularly sensitive to air pollution. Join The [2026 Big Garden Birdwatch this weekend!](#)



Cars and vans are responsible for about 19% of carbon dioxide emissions in Europe.

A guzzle-busting jigsaw puzzle!

Guzzle-busting challenge!

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



www.youngclimatewarriors.org



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Author visit

St Nicolas were delighted to welcome local children's author Julia Blackburn to our school this week. She talked about her love of nature and taking time to notice things; it fitted in very well with our school's vision! Julia also taught us some interesting facts about nature. For example - that snails have thousands of tiny teeth! She taught us how to get an initial idea and then develop it to create a story. Some children came into school the next day, having written their own stories after being inspired by Julia.

"I enjoyed Julia's assembly because she taught me how to write good stories. For example using the question 'What if?'" **Hannah - Ash Class**

"I was really excited because it was my first time meeting an author." **Harry - Ash Class**

"We learnt that a good story includes an idea, a 'What if?' and Trouble!" **Billy - Oak Class**

"We got to do a story workshop with Julia. It was really fun!" **Jessica - Oak Class**





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Ash Class design technology

Ash Class really enjoyed making fire engines as part of their mechanisms project in DT.



"I am really proud of my fire engine." **Elodie**



"I enjoyed designing and making them." **Finn O**





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Headteacher Awards



Chestnut: Elodie for carefully sounding out her words whilst writing a description of an owl. **Ava** for an amazing collage of an owl.

Elm: Ammar S for writing a great advertisement for his 'perfect pet' in English. **Christian** for working hard to improve his letter formation and having a good knowledge of 2d and 3d shapes.

Ash: Jack for the amazing focus, craftsmanship and detail he put into creating his fire engine. **Evie** for the thoughtful and deep questions she asked on our trip to the synagogue, and then creating a brilliant thank you letter when we returned to school.

Oak: Freddie O for showing a positive mindset and making honest reflections of his effort and outcomes in his learning. **Theo** for going that little bit further to embed his learning when writing his explanation text by selecting some misspelt words to practise.

Pine: Ivy for her fantastic story opening when writing a story from a different culture. **Maia** for good use of synonyms for 'said' in English.

Willow: James for being ready to learn and showing a growth mindset. **Emelia** for taking a positive and independent approach to maths.

Fir: Millie for thoughtful, eager and interesting contributions in class. **Rajan** for a mature, self-regulated attitude to learning.

And finally...

This morning PAWS Therapy Dogs joined us in school and we broke the golden rule of filming—*never work with children and animals!* We had what felt like a cast of thousands and far more willing volunteers than we could use in the time allowed, so year 6 have proposed an end-of-year filming project of their own...

Have a good 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

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're reaching out as the PTA to ask for your support with our school lottery, which plays an important role in helping fund activities, resources, and opportunities for our children.

Since its launched in 2022 its raised over £6,000 for the school AND we have had a weekly winner! That's pretty amazing!

At the moment, ticket numbers are very low, and unfortunately this means we may have to close the lottery altogether if numbers don't increase.

The great news is that the lottery really is a win-win:

It takes no effort at all to take part

You're entered into a weekly £25,000 draw

Every week, someone connected to our school is guaranteed to win

There are also fantastic Super Draw prizes

Most importantly, it directly supports our school and our children

You can sign up yourself or share the lottery with friends and family — every ticket helps keep it running and supporting our children.

If you're able to join, we'd be extremely grateful. Your support truly makes a difference.

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/st-nicolas-church-of-england-combined-school>

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for supporting our school community.

Warm wishes,

The PTA Team





PTA and Community News

happy school bag

HAPPY BAGS

We collected 426kg, which raised £191.70. Thank you!!!!

f in Happyschoolbag www.happyschoolbag.co.uk 0170 868 5071 info@happyschoolbag.co.uk

Enter our **Super Draw**

Win a £1,000 Aldi Gift Card

OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE



 **YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY**

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/st-nicolas-church-of-england-combined-school>



PTA and Community News

**Taekwondo
Classes**

Mondays
Dorney Village Hall
SL60DS
dorney@powelltkd.co.uk

1630 – 1715 (ages 4 – 7)
1730 – 1830 (ages 8 to Adult)
Sibling / Family discounts available

Contact 07725 494871 to book your free trial class

Come and join a fun, energetic class with DBS checked instructors who have qualified to represent England in competitions. Encourage your child or even train together and grow together. Children 4+, Teens and adults welcome.