



St Nicolas' CE Combined School Newsletter

Living and learning together with God

Friday 6th March 2026



We hope you all enjoyed World Book Day

Securing good attendance and tackling persistent absence

We are concerned by the number of children whose attendance has fallen below 95% and who are therefore deemed by the DfE as *at risk of persistent absence*. We also have some children whose attendance is below 90% and are now categorised as *persistently absent*. Attendance at school is vital to children's academic progress, social development and wellbeing. We ask that parents work in partnership with us to ensure children are in school, on time, every day during term-time, unless they are too unwell to attend.

How can I improve my child's attendance record?

1. Don't keep your child home because they have common cold symptoms or are tired. Give Calpol if appropriate. If we feel they are too unwell for school, we will call you and send them home.
2. Don't take your child out of school for holidays, weddings or other family events.

If you need support to improve your child's attendance and punctuality please contact us. We are here to help.



Y4 children have been giving their time for community projects

House Points

Jaguars	Pumas	Lions	Tigers
273	273	269	293

Well done Tigers!

Ms Holmes to the Year 6 children,
 “Is everyone alright this morning?”
 A child replied,
 “ I don’t think anyone is upset, but Big Science is tearing us apart!”

Year 1 phonics screening check information session

Parents and carers of Elm class pupils are invited to attend a parents' information session about the Phonics Screening Check in the Year 1 classroom on Wednesday 11th March 3.30pm — 3.50pm .

Year 2 assembly

We are excited to invite Ash class parents and carers to join us on Tuesday 10th March at 9.00am

Year 4 assembly

We are excited to invite Pine class parents and carers to join us on Wednesday 25th March at 9.00am



The children enjoyed a lively World Book Day assembly and lots of story-related activities during the day.

A highlight for everyone was paired reading with children from a younger/older class.

We hope that the day has helped to encourage daily reading for pleasure.

Oceans have absorbed 90% of the heat caused by climate change since the 1970s.

Join [The Big Plastic Count](#) (9-15 March '26). The UK's biggest people-powered investigation into household plastic waste! Help gather evidence to show the true scale of our plastics crisis.

Check out these 'UK Ocean Entrepreneur' projects:

[Notpla](#) - packaging from seaweed

[Odyssey Innovations](#) - recycles retrieved marine plastics.

[UK Seagrass project](#) (scroll down for video)



Magnificent, mighty and marvellous!

Our oceans are suffering from climate change - they are warming, becoming more acidic, and sea ice is melting - in addition to overfishing and plastic pollution. Our oceans also offer MANY SOLUTIONS.

Check out some pioneering, entrepreneurial projects - recycling retrieved marine plastic, making plastic alternatives from seaweed, restoring UK seagrass, seaweed farming ...

Join The Big Plastic Count this week - help our oceans by helping your family to reduce your household plastics!



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



Seagrass meadows, salt marshes, and mangrove swamps absorb more carbon per hectare than the Amazon rainforest - this is referred to as '[Blue Carbon](#)'.



Red Nose Day - Friday 20th March

COMIC
RELIEF

Comic Relief – Red Nose Day Friday 20th March At St Nics' on Friday you will be allowed to wear or have One item that is red with your school uniform. You do not need to buy anything. It could be a red hair band, a red nose that's painted/make up, a red hat/scarf, red socks, a red painted finger nail, or other fun ideas you may have. Donate coins you would like to go to Comic Relief on the school gate on the day.



Easter Service led by Oak Class

We invite you all to our Easter service on Tuesday 24th March at 2.00pm in the church. This service is being led by Oak class but all the children are taking part. We hope to see you there!



End of Term

The last day of term is **Friday 27th March.**

School will finish at **1.20pm for EYFS and KS1 1.30pm for KS2**
Busy Bunch is available until 4.30pm . Normal full afternoon rate will apply.

Headteacher's Awards

Well done to everyone who received an award in celebration assembly today!

Chestnut: **Emily** for retelling her favourite story using lots of detail. **Giulia** for showing enthusiasm when reading words using her phonics.



Elm: **Savannah** for fantastic behaviour, upholding school values, a calm focussed attitude to learning and showing wonderful manners. **Betsy** for working hard to improve her presentation and focussing on using lead ins and lead outs in her writing.

Ash: **Evelyn** for demonstrating amazing reading skills on World Book Day when reading to some children in Chestnut Class. **Myla** for creating a fabulous '5minute story' on World Book Day.

Oak: **Fred C** for increased focus in maths, involving himself in lesson discussions and quickly working out answers. **Grace** for a positive attitude towards all learning, asking questions to help her to understand and trying her best.

Pine: **Edith** for her improvement in sequencing events in reading lessons. **Robyn** for being an excellent class role model.

Willow: **Jake** for asking pertinent questions and considering thoughtful ideas during our Big Science activity with Mrs Reece. **Tamanna** for excellent group work as part of Big Science and for communicating well with others.

Fir: **Emmy N** for use of ambitious vocabulary and complex sentence structures, resulting in her captivating writing. **Ruby** for working hard at learning her weekly spellings and showing excellent progress.

We have been thinking about our school value of courage this week, and the children have shared their ideas in assembly. We have talked about the things that make us worried or afraid, and about how we can help each other to be resilient and have courage. We came up with ideas for how to encourage people who are feeling anxious or who have to do difficult things.

Wishing you a good weekend,

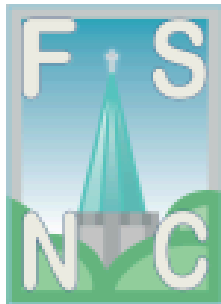
Ms Holmes and the staff team



PTA and community news

St Mary's Church

St Mary's Church, Hitcham is recruiting a part-time Pioneer Children and Families Minister to help us reconnect with children and families in our local community. The role involves developing children's sessions on Sunday mornings, supporting our Monday toddler group (Roots & Shoots), engaging with local schools, and leading seasonal family events. It's 15 hours per week on a three-year contract, paying £31,000 pro rata. We're looking for someone creative, warm, approachable and passionate about helping children and families thrive - both inside and outside the church walls. If this sounds like you, or someone you know, find out more and apply at:
<https://premierjobsearch.co.uk/job/50987/pioneer-children-and-families-minister-part-time/>



Rowing the Atlantic: a 3000 mile life changing journey

...the next Friends
of St Nicolas
Church popular
Taplow Talk

Have you ever wondered what motivates someone to take on something like this?

Karl Austen and Ed Shaw learnt to row at Maidenhead Rowing Club with the dream of taking on this challenge. Come and hear their inspiring story of fear, determination, resilience and ultimate elation!



Thursday, 12th March
**Join us at 7:00pm for coffee
and dessert: the talk begins
at 7:30pm**

**Tickets £10
available on
the church
website**

