

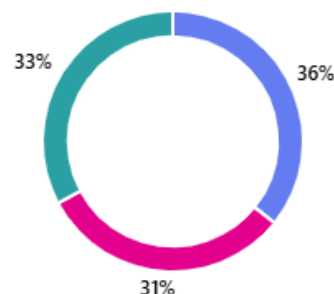


## Friday 14th February 2025

Thank you to everyone who responded to our home learning survey, contributing your views to our review of home learning. We had 93 responses and would like to share the results:

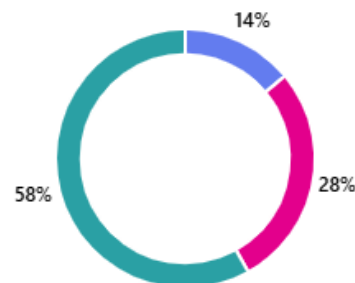
1. Parents felt that the purpose of home learning was more or less equally shared between the three options presented:

- to consolidate core skills 73
- to have 1:1 reading time with an adult to improve fluency and comprehension 64
- to show my child that their learning in school is important and valued at home 67



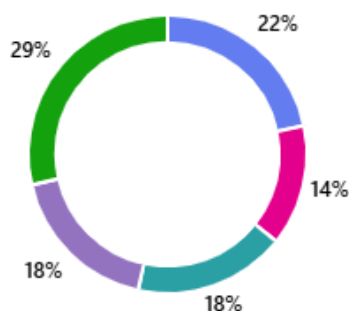
2. Most parents felt their child had about the right amount or too much home learning:

- too little home learning 13
- too much home learning 26
- about the right amount of home learning 54



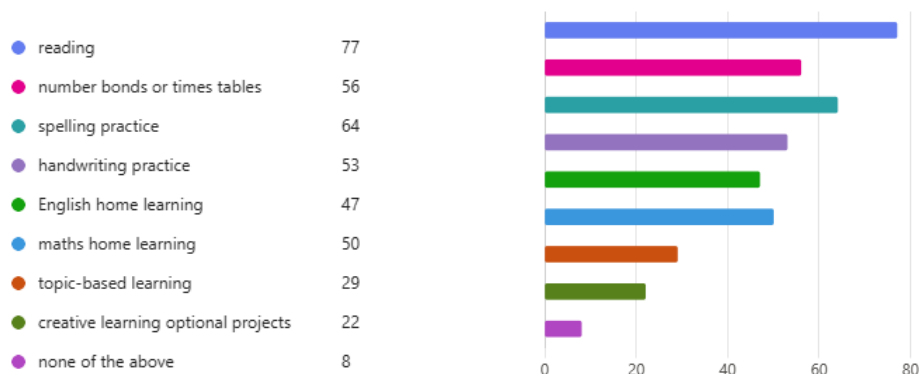
3. Families reported a wide range experiences related to home learning—many experienced both positives and negatives:

- conflict 48
- tears 31
- refusal 39
- enjoyment 40
- a sense of achievement 63

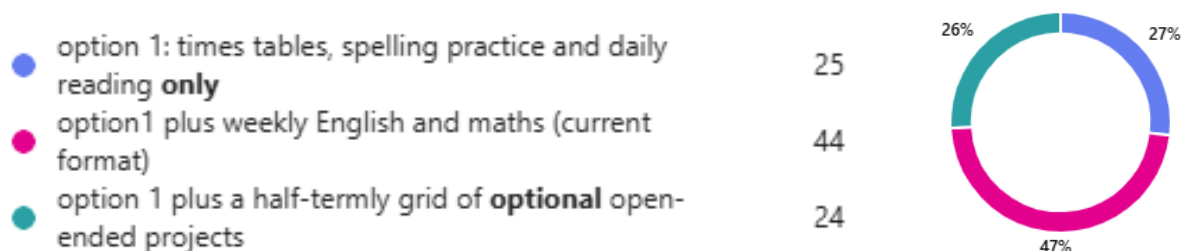




4. Parents felt that reading, spelling practice, number bonds and times tables and handwriting practice helped their child make most progress:



5. Preferences home learning options were divided, with 47% favouring the current format, and 53% preferring to have either less home learning, or less home learning with optional extra activities:



## Our new home learning policy

We recognise that there are many pressures on children and families these days. To support wellbeing, we have restructured to allow for more parental choice and flexibility, while still encouraging high expectations. We prioritise high-quality reading at home because this has the most significant positive impact on progress. Reading, spelling, number facts/arithmetic and handwriting will be set as **key home learning** and expected to be completed to the best of your child's ability. To complement this, we will provide optional, weekly English and maths on the class pages as support for parents to use, setting an expectation you feel appropriate for your child in **'Going the Extra Mile!'** This will start in the second week after half term. Full details can be found on our website here:

[Home learning policy 2025](#)

# St Nicolas' CE Combined School Newsletter

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

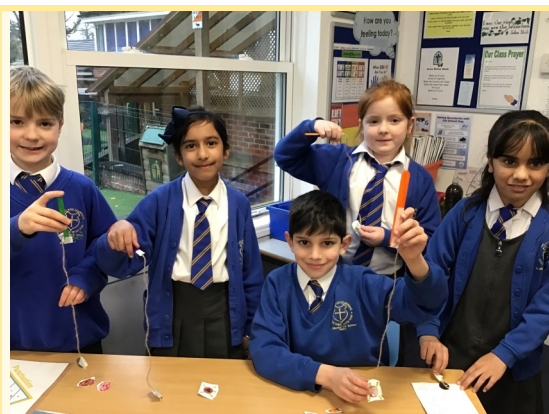
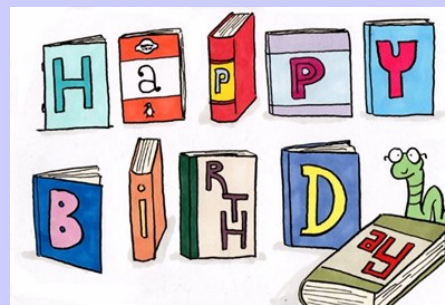


## Reading at St Nic's

At St Nicolas' we love celebrating your birthdays! **We have a birthday book 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.

Many thanks  
Mrs Anderson



## Year 3 Fishing Game

Year 3 made some fishing games on Monday afternoon in D.T

## Pupil quote of the week

**"Is that Mrs Dobson in the tight hot pants?"**

A writing sentence in phonics by a year 1 pupil.



## Year 1 visit to Chertsey Toy Museum

On Tuesday, Year 1 ended their history topic "Changes in Living Memory" with a trip to Chertsey Museum where we learnt all about the history of toys. They enjoyed playing with a variety of traditional toys.



I enjoyed seeing the spinning tops – Evie T

I enjoyed seeing the car mover with the steering wheel – Harry



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## House Points

Jaguars	Pumas	Lions	Tigers
181	235	220	265

Congratulations to the Tigers

## Busy Bunch

This week at Busy Bunch we have celebrated Valentine's Day.



**Coming up:** Half term

## Young coders competition

This half term, the children have been programming as part of their computing curriculum.

This Young Coders competition will give keen coders the opportunity to unleash their creative talents

working alongside their friends in groups of 2 - 6.

Details and links to the competition are on the school website on the computing page.

[Computing | St Nicolas' Church of England Combined School](#)



## Young Climate Warriors

A snowdrop's scientific name is Galanthus, which translates as 'milk flower'. Left undisturbed - preferably in light soil and partial shade - a single snowdrop bulb can multiply to many hundreds within ten years.

**Climate change is lengthening the 'growing season'. Spring arrives about 15 days earlier, and autumn 15 days later, than 30 years ago.**

#ShowTheLove2025 is organised by The Climate Coalition - representing over 100 organisations, and over 22 million individuals. Young Climate Warriors is proud to be a member!

Let's go on a treasure hunt ... 'X marks the spot'

'X marks the spot!' Find these stashes of treasure, buried underground since last Spring (leave for others to enjoy!).

- X - dainty dancing snowdrops
- X - gold or amethyst crocuses
- X - bluebell shoots just emerging
- X - daffodil green leaves, and maybe the odd trumpet in bloom

Draw a treasure map giving clues as to where you can find them?

♥#ShowTheLove2025♥ - create a 'green heart', take a photo and share it with others.

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



#ShowTheLove2025 throughout February – share your green hearts – show your support for urgent action to protect the climate and nature.



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

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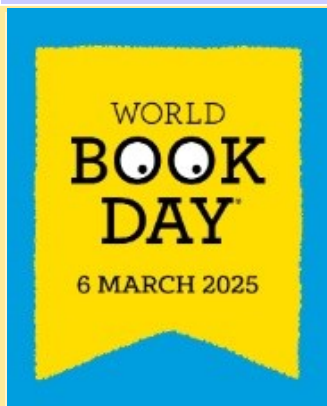
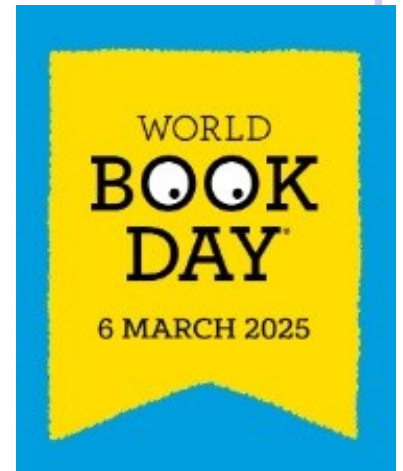
## World Book Day Thursday 6th March

Our theme at St Nicolas' School this year is 'enjoyment of reading.' To support this, please can children dress up as a character or a word from a book that they have enjoyed.

Children will have opportunities to discuss with their class teacher in school.

We look forward to celebrating their books!

Mrs Anderson



### World Book Day!

Your child will be coming home with their £1 book token today. These can be used in most retailers. Happy spending!

### Year 5 Assembly

We are excited to invite year 3 parents and carers to join us on

**Tuesday 11th March at 9.00am**

## Parents' Evening

Parent consultations will be on Wednesday 26th February from 1:30-7.30pm, in the hall. School and Busy Bunch will be open for children as usual. Spring reports will be sent home on Tuesday 25th in bookbags.

Bookings are open and will close on Monday 24th February:

[SchoolCloud - St Nicolas' CE Combined School, Taplow](#)

## Headteacher Awards



**Chestnut:** **Leo** for showing confidence and enjoyment when learning with lots of different children. **William** for explaining how he makes his creations in lots of detail.

**Elm:** **Jack** for exceptional behaviour on our trip to Chertsey Museum . **Neave** for working hard to improve her handwriting and sentence structure in phonics this week .

**Ash:** **Bobby** for writing a poem about the night sky that created powerful images for the reader. **Archie** for working hard to demonstrate equal groups with the maths equipment when learning to multiply.

**Oak:** **Avni** for being a great role model in our computing lessons. Her understanding of coding sprites and enthusiasm with adding , sounds and colourful backgrounds has been exceptional. **Jagger** for showing a mature and positive learning attitude both inside and outside the classroom.

**Pine:** **Harley** for confidence when measuring in m and km, understanding the link between these units of measure. **Grayson** for excellent focus when writing *-ing clauses* and being able to explain how to use them to others.

**Willow:** **Maia** for a focussed week of learning, demonstrating a positive growth mindset. **Matthew** for putting 100% into everything this term and being the best he can be .

**Fir:** **Isabelle** for good participation in maths discussions and providing articulate answers. **Jaden** for excellent focus in class and in reading group.

**And finally...**

Happy half term

From Ms Holmes and the team





# 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!

## Lottery

Are you registered with our school lottery? Support our school and buy a ticket for your chance to win!

### £1 a ticket

Winner from our school every week!

Weekly chance to win £25,000!

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

### Win a £1,000 Aldi Gift Card

You will receive one entry into this draw for each weekly ticket that you have. Buy more tickets for more entries!

