

# St Nicolas' CE Combined School Newsletter

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



## Friday 7th February 2025

Our competition winners enjoyed an afternoon of hot chocolate, biscuits and watercolours this week. All our children are encouraged to get creative and share their artwork, which we put in 'Halle's Gallery'. Pictures including our therapy-dog-in-training at school are especially welcome!

For this week's BIGGEST news, please read on to the PTA page...

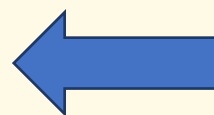
### Pupil quote of the week

"I like doing maths because you can do easy questions like  $1 + 1$  or hard ones that Mrs Bunce gives us."

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 poor **93.2%**



### 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.

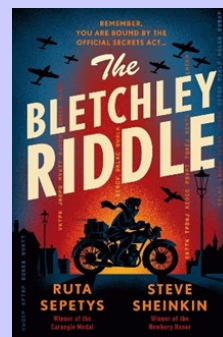
Details and links to the competition are on the school website on the computing page.

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



### Reading at St Nic's

'The Bletchley Riddle' by Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin



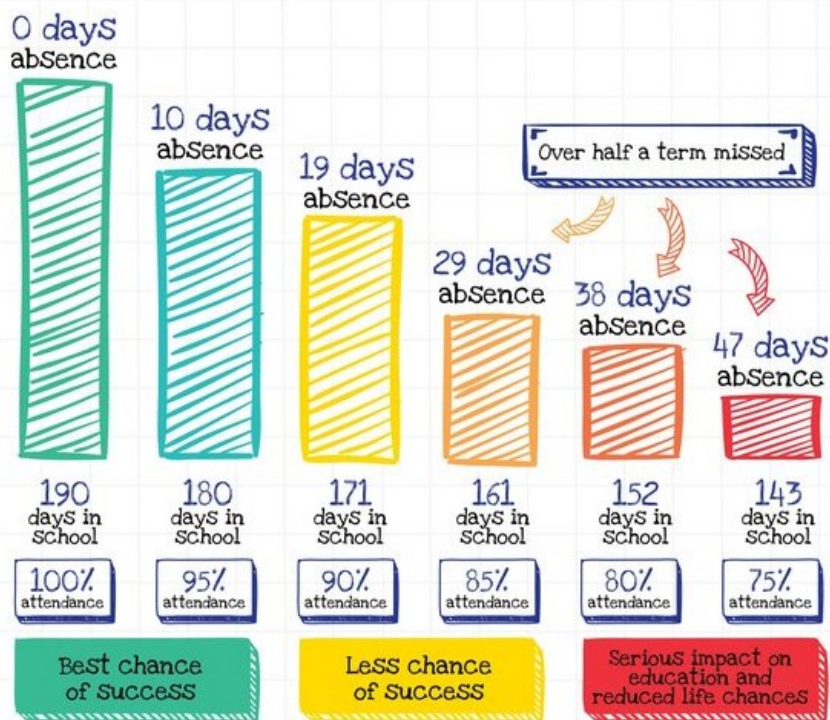
A thrilling World War II code-breaking adventure filled with mystery, secrets and spies.

Suitable for ages 9+ (and especially suitable for year 6 and their history topic!)

## How does school attendance affect a child's learning?



Present for their future



365 days in a year  
190 school days  
175 non-school days

Having 90%  
over five school  
years, is half a school  
year's work missed

A two-week holiday  
in term time,  
means the highest  
attendance a child  
can achieve is 94.7%

School attendance can start to become challenging at any age. Help is available for younger children, including free courses and support from our Family Hub Service and Family Centres. Click the links below to find out more: [Family Information Service Education and Learning Hub](#)

[How to improve your child's school attendance](#)

[How to support your child's school journey](#)

[Information about Family Centres and the support they can offer](#)

[Free parenting Courses run by the Family Hub Service](#)

## Wellbeing support for primary school aged children

The Family Hub Service delivers a course called 'Wellbeing Matters' for 7-11 year olds. You can find out more about the course, upcoming dates, and how to book on the [BFIS Wellbeing Matters page](#).

If your child seems unwell and you're not sure if they can still go to school, use the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' advice](#) to check. It's usually safe for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild illnesses, like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat.

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## House Points

Jaguars	Pumas	Lions	Tigers
299	206	265	244

Congratulations to the Jaguars

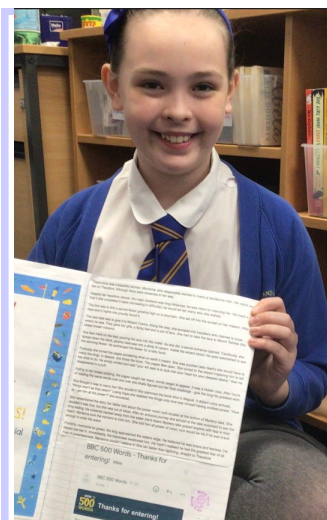
## Busy Bunch

This week at Busy Bunch we did yoga.



### Coming up:

Next week's theme is Valentine's Day



## BBC 500 Word finalist

Thank you to everyone who entered the BBC 500 Word competition, we are pleased to announce that we have a pupil in the final, an amazing achievement!

**"My story is about a determined lady called Mariana who goes on a quest to achieve her dream. When I was writing my story, I found that my imagination was opened."**

## Young Climate Warriors

100 billion items of clothing are produced every year - nearly 14 items for every human on the planet!

Clothing is currently responsible for 9% of global carbon emissions ... and increasing each year.

Choosing an 'organic' cotton T-shirt, creates 40% less carbon emissions, and saves 2,400 litres of water! That's equivalent to eight glasses of water a day for three and a half years!!

This [TED-ed talk](#) 'lifecycle of a T-shirt' explains how T-shirts are made, and their impact on our environment.



Swapping, patching, borrowing, altering, mending, re-designing, dyeing

A 1/3 of clothes in UK wardrobes haven't been worn in the last year!

Dig deep, rummage around, and maybe you'll find some surprises!

It's time to tidy your cupboard ... help tackle fast fashion ... and climate change.

If it still fits - great!! If there's a tear or a stain - can you mend it, patch it or even tie-dye it? If it's too small, pass it on - to a cousin, neighbour, friend?



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



**50 million tonnes of clothing go to waste every year!**



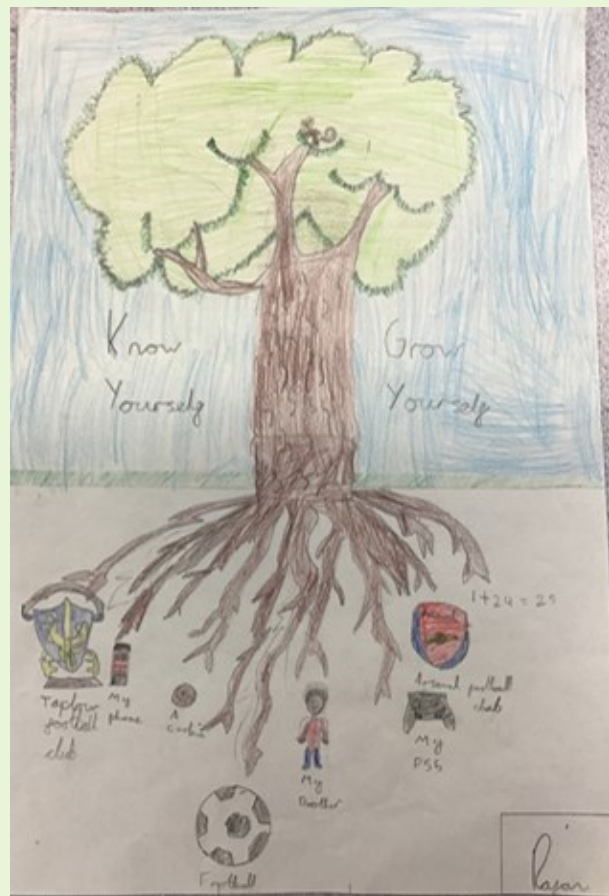
[www.youngclimatewarriors.org](http://www.youngclimatewarriors.org)

## Children's Mental Health Week—Know yourself, Grow yourself

Across the school in PSHE, children have been thinking about what is important for them to grow mentally healthy. They have shown this in their artwork using the roots and then as a growing plant.



Evelyn



Rajan

We have enjoyed learning about Know yourself, Grow yourself. We even made our own trees to represent ourselves. We drew the roots of the tree under the ground and around them, we wrote all of the things that make us happy.

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## Celebrating SCARF Day!

SCARF - Safety Caring Achievement Resilience Friendship



## TIPS FOR FAMILIES

Place2Be's  
**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK**

- 1 Encourage journalling**  
Just like Riley, encourage your older children and young people to express their emotions and thoughts through journalling. It can be less confronting than speaking out loud and is a helpful way to process what is going on.
- 2 Make space for reflection**  
When children and young people reflect on their different emotions, it can help them better understand themselves and what they need.  
Go for a walk, drive, or try some mindful colouring or baking together.
- 3 Be visual**  
Use imagery, such as emojis or flashcards to help children and young people recognise and label their feelings.
- 4 Practice mindfulness**  
Try mindful activities, and quiet family time, to enjoy being in the present moment. This can help children and young people be aware of their thoughts and emotions and learn a useful new coping technique.
- 5 Communicate**  
Feedback is crucial for helping us see our blind spots and gain greater insight. Children and young people are no different. Creating safe and supportive ways to share your own experience with your child can help them understand themselves and their impact on the world around them.



If you're a parent or teacher, you'll find loads of useful advice to help you support the brilliant young people in your lives – from FAQs to downloadable packs. [Here4You.co.uk](https://here4you.co.uk)



<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

<https://here4you.co.uk/>

## Headteacher Awards



**Chestnut: Samantha** for being a wonderful role model to others and always trying her best. **Macie** for always being a good listener and working so hard during phonic sessions.

**Elm: Seamas** for some great independent writing of an apology letter to Little Red Riding Hood from the wolf. **Nick** for fantastic work in maths.

**Ash: Hugo** for amazing detail in his diary writing as Bob - and taking great care in his presentation. **Annabel** for giving clear explanations for her thinking in maths by modelling to her peers how to use the equipment to get the answer.

**Oak: Felix** for his mature independent approach in class and to his learning, and for always being a great role model, especially during our French lessons. **Harry S** for being a conscientious member of Year 3. He always has such a mature approach to his learning and he has produced some excellent work in maths this week.

**Pine: Henry W** for excellent use of facial expression when miming events from 'Escape from Pompeii'. **Aliza** for confidence when dividing 2-digit numbers.

**Willow: Grace** for being considerate of others and taking the time to perfect her writing this week. **Emmie S.** for excellent work in her in-class writing and in the BBC 500 words competition.

**Fir: Charlie** for good focus in lessons and therefore making fantastic progress. **Sam** for his maturity and for always striving to go the extra mile.

## And finally...

Thank you for all the SCARF-related fun today!



Have a great weekend, Ms Holmes



## PTA and Community News



ST NICOLAS'  
SCHOOL PTA

**WE'VE DONE IT!**

*Thank you*

**£18,000.00**



### THANK YOU!

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and thanks to all our sponsors, donors, school staff, parents and carers for their invaluable support in all our fundraising efforts to acquire new IT equipment for the school. The new technology will provide our children with valuable skills and knowledge for their future.

A special thank you goes out to all the parents/carers/family who volunteered for our events. You played a crucial role in the success of our fundraising. We couldn't have done it without you!

### PTA FUNDED ARK FARM VISIT

We know that hands-on learning is very valuable – it's not all about classrooms, and we understand that external trips can be expensive. The PTA has decided to fund a visit from Ark Farm in May for the whole school. They specialise in bringing a variety of friendly animals into schools, delivering a real hands-on educational, fun, and tactile experience for children and adults of all ages. The kids will love it!



## PTA and Community News

# WELLNESS WORKSHOP

Relax, Recharge, and Renew  
with



Join us for a peaceful two-hour wellness experience designed to calm your mind and rejuvenate your spirit. Immerse yourself in the soothing vibrations of a sound bath and the heart-opening warmth of a cacao ceremony.

For a truly transformative experience, 9 guests will also have the opportunity to participate in a powerful 9D breathing exercise with **Kelly @ Healing Healers** —an energizing journey for body and mind. Look out for the special 9D tickets!

Spaces are limited to 30 guests, so don't miss your chance to unwind in a serene, supportive space.

Where possible, please bring a mat, pillow and blanket to use during the soundbath ceremony

FRIDAY 21ST MARCH  
6:30PM-8:30PM

£20 pp\*

St Nicolas' School Hall  
Rectory Road, Taplow, SL6 0ET  
Parking available in village hall car park

\*In order to create a more relaxing atmosphere, we will be implementing an age restriction of 16 and older for this event.

### Wellness Workshop

To book your space please use the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/st-nicolas-pta-wellness-workshop-tickets-1219094567669>



# 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!