

# St Nicolas' CE Combined School Newsletter

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



## Friday 17th January 2025

Congratulations to our two design competition winners, whose artwork will grace the covers of next year's planners.

The standard of entries was exceptional, and we could have easily used many of the designs. The children enjoyed watching a slideshow of the entries as they came into celebration assembly this morning. We thought you'd enjoy them at home, so have posted them under curriculum enrichment on the website:

<https://www.stnicolastaplow.com/enrichment-opportunities/>

### Pupil quote of the week

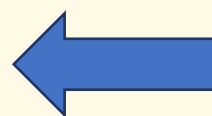
Child on year 2 trip to Beale Park

**"Miss Reid, I don't know where my bag is."**

**"It's on your back!"**

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 **97.5%**

### Calendar dates

Our website calendar is regularly updated with important dates. Did you know you have the option of subscribing to this? Please follow the link below to find out how.

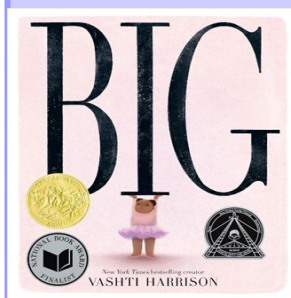
**How to subscribe to the calendar:**

<https://www.stnicolastaplow.com/diary/subscribe/>



### Reading at St Nic's

'Big' by Vashti Harrison



A picture book showing that words have the power to hurt but also to heal.

Suitable for ages 5+

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## House Points

Jaguars	Pumas	Lions	Tigers
263	230	199	280

Congratulations to the Tigers, who take the cup for a second week. Come on Pumas, Lions and Jaguars - get reading at home and earn some housepoints.

## Busy Bunch



This week at Busy Bunch we did creative art.

### Coming up:

Next week's theme is Winter

## Year 3 Assembly

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

**Wednesday 29th  
January at  
9.00am**

## Y4 Upton Court Residential

### parent information meeting

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 3.30 – 4pm**

Y4 parents and carers are invited to a presentation about our trip to Upton Court in March. 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.

## Young Climate Warriors

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 1,500 '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 – we're currently at 55,000 a year – 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)

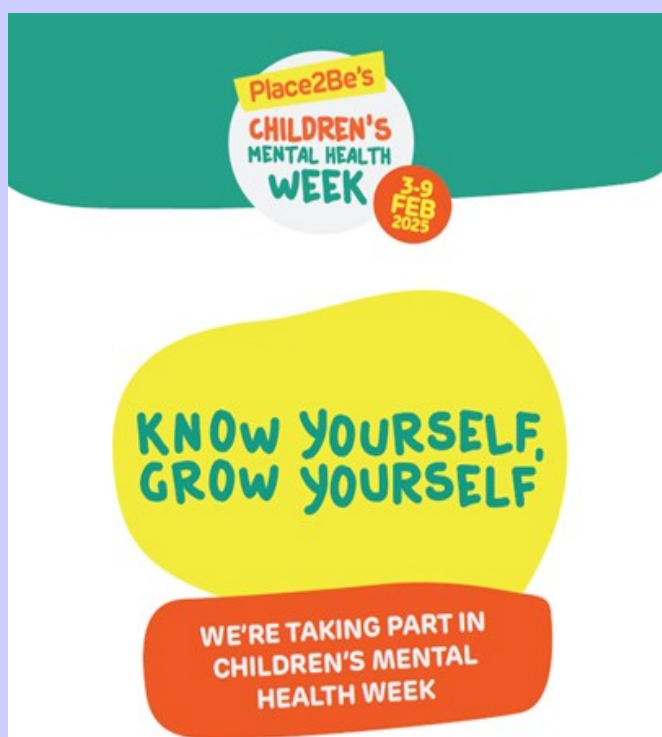
## Well-being and mental health

At St Nicolas' wellbeing and mental health is taught through our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) program. We use Coram Scarf as a basis to our program as well as other resources so that we can tailor it to their year group development. We hope that children can grow towards to using the 5 ways to wellbeing to support their mental health throughout their lives.



**SCARF** - Safety Caring Achievement Resilience Friendship

## Children's Mental Health Week 3-9<sup>th</sup> February



The week's focus is Know Yourself, Grow Yourself, with the aim to equip and empower children and young people across the UK to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them.

Children will be taking part in activities in their classes to continue their emotional understanding of themselves and their growth mindset.

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February, at the end of children's mental health week in school, children can wear a scarf to school with their uniform. We will be thinking about the meaning of safety, caring, achievement, resilience and friendship.

## Year 2 trip to Beale Park

This week, Ash Class visited Beale Park to support their learning in science and English.



"I loved seeing the meerkats," **Henry**

"I learnt that male hissing cockroaches have horns but the females don't,"  
**Hugo**

"I discovered that pythons are nocturnal," **Annabel**

"I learnt that pets need food, water and exercise to stay healthy," **Ellis**

"I liked seeing the lynx. I spotted three up in the tree," **Betsy**





## Headteacher Awards



**Chestnut:** **Liliana** for being confident and settling in well to Chestnut class. **Eleanor** for always trying her best, especially during phonics sessions.

**Elm:** **Edwin** for great work in phonics this week. **Sienna** for wonderful behaviour and being a fantastic role model.

**Ash:** **Betsy** for overcoming her fear and holding a cockroach at Beale Park! **Luna** for her careful counting and checking when finding out the number of edges on 3D shapes.

**Oak:** **Jacob** for taking more care with the presentation of his work. **Violet** for her attention and focus during our assembly rehearsals.

**Pine:** **Vincent** for taking on feedback to progress his badminton skills;

**Dolly-Belle** for showing resilience when she found some learning challenging and spending her own time trying to understand the concept better.

**Willow:** **Emmy N** for excellent creativity and positive contributions to discussions this week. **Kamran** for demonstrating great manners and consideration of others all week.

**Fir:** **Joel** for attention to detail when writing an absorbing recount of taking the Kindertransport. **Saskia** for constant conscientiousness, showing a mature and independent attitude to learning.

## And finally...

The children have been generating lovely ideas for refreshing our logo to bring it up to date and better represent the school vision of the vine and the branches. If any parent or member of the community has the necessary professional graphics experience to work these up into a suitable format, we would be very grateful. Please do get in touch if you feel you could help.

Have a lovely weekend,

**Ms Holmes**



## PTA and Community News

### Happy School Bags

**\*\*Great news, the next collection of Happy School Bags is  
Tuesday 21st January.**

They will collect from St Nic's so take this fantastic opportunity to throw in a black bag all those worn or outgrown clothes, declutter & sort through those wardrobes making room for new clothes! Include any school shoes too small from last term, high heels you will never wear again after years in trainers, worn or too small clothes no longer required. Fill as many black bags as you can and drop to the school

Reminder: they re-use all items and pay us per kilo - so the heavier the items, the more our School will get paid.

The School cannot accept bags before Collection day but PTA members will be at the school gates that morning from 8.15am to receive your bags.

Items accepted:

- clothing (not badged uniform or underwear)
- paired shoes
- console games
- souvenirs
- handbags
- belts
- hats
- accessories
- jewellery
- toiletries
- perfume

