

St Nicolas' CE Combined School Newsletter

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



Friday 29th November 2024

A heartfelt and massive 'thank you' to the PTA for such a fabulous festive fair last Saturday. Everyone agreed it was a special day and lots



of money was raised towards the new computer suite.

Please join the PTA, even if you only have a little time to spare - they would love some class reps and angels!

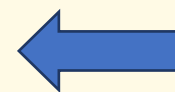
Pupil quote of the week

"I am not sure what is going on but I can tell it's not good".

Year 2 child review of yesterday's Nativity rehearsal

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 nearly there **95.5%**

Reading at St Nic's

'There's a Beast in the Basement' by Pamela Butchart. I recommend this book because it is funny and creepy.

Review by Hugo, Y3



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House Points

Jaguars	Pumas	Lions	Tigers
349	309	117	421

Congratulations to the Tigers

Busy Bunch

This week at Busy Bunch we have made Christmas wreaths.



Coming up:

Next week's theme is Christmas goodies.

Reindeer Run

Friday 13th December



This year we will be supporting the Thames Valley Hospice charity and raising much needed funds to help them in whatever way we can. Look out for further information from Wednesday 4th December following our assembly that day.

Y4 Upton Court Residential—parent information meeting

Wednesday 22nd January 3.30 – 4pm

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

There's a clear link between the health of the Amazon rainforest and the health of our planet. Rainforests are enormous carbon stores and recycle rainwater - we need to help protect them.

Globally, nearly three-quarters of consumers (71%) bought or sold 'used goods' in 2023.

The Amazon region, about 2/3rds of the size of the United States, is home to jaguars, harpy eagles, pink river dolphins, sloths, black spider monkeys, poison dart frogs ... over 40,000 plant species, over 3,000 freshwater fish species, and over 370 types of reptiles. (WWF)



'Amazon': toys, books, presents, shopping ... OR ...

'Amazon': a South American rainforest that is one of our carbon-storing, climate change-fighting powerhouses?

Black Friday deals, tv adverts, click, click goes the mouse. Maybe 'less is more'? Help to protect our planet this week by reducing the 'clicks'.

Homemade presents with an 'animal' theme - modern art wire spiders, rainforest lanterns, Amazon-inspired plant pot, animal poems ... let your imagination wander.



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

'It's not the size of the gift that matters, but the size of the heart that gives it'. Anon.



www.youngclimatewarriors.org

Driving and parking outside the school

We are increasingly concerned by the dangerous driving and parking choices of a small minority of parents in the road outside school.

We still have drivers stopping in the road to let their children out; parking on the footpath along the side of the green; and executing three-point turns right by our gates where children are walking in. There have been several near-misses involving children.

Please park further away or in the car park so the approach road to school remains two-way and everyone can come and go safely without risk of having to reverse.

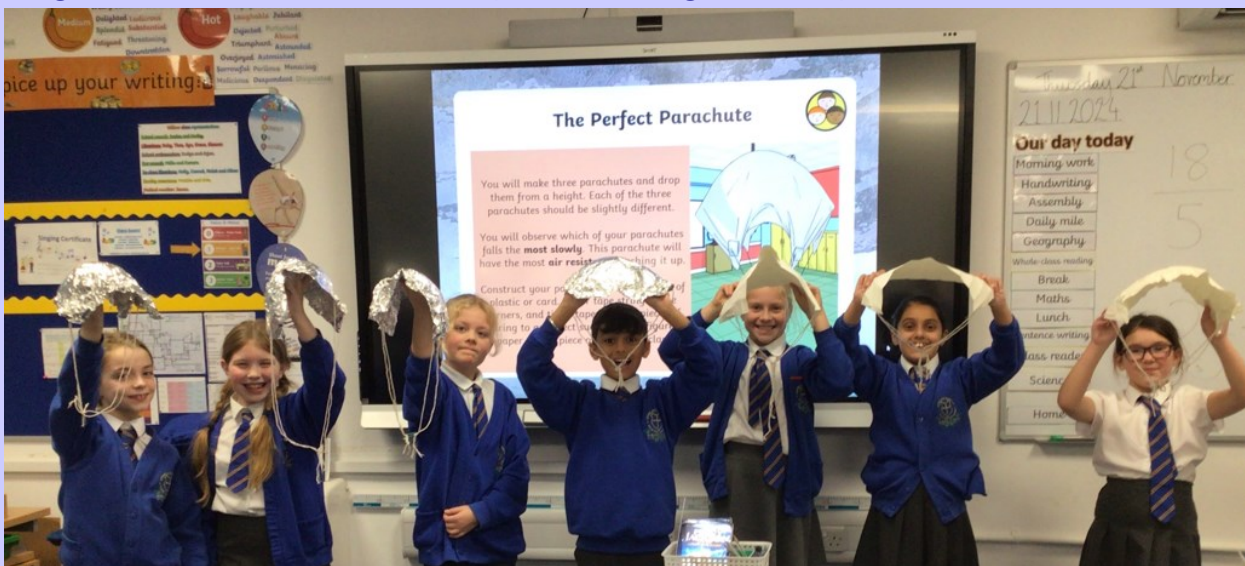
We are appealing to our whole parent community to directly and politely address those few individuals who persist. The safety of the children is all of our responsibility. Please share this message with all family members who bring your child to or from school.

Head lice alert

We have had an outbreak of head lice reported. Please take some time to check and treat all the family over the weekend. Happy hunting!!

Year 5 The Perfect Parachute

Year 5 experimented to design the perfect parachute. Tests involved using different materials, shapes and flight ability.



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Headteacher Awards



Chestnut: **Livia** trying so hard to use her phonics when writing a party invitation to Kipper. **Connie** for always following instructions and working well with everyone in Chestnut Class.

Elm: **Myla** for her enthusiasm in history learning about the Gunpowder Plot. **Evie H** for her fantastic approach to learning and performing our nativity songs and knowing all the actions.

Ash: **Thea** for her enthusiasm in the Nativity - and supporting everyone in the songs. **Dennis** for his clear explanation of our spelling rule this week.

Oak: **Jagger** for being a conscientious member of Year 3. She always tries hard to improve her learning, independently using the resources in the classroom to help her. Keep it up super star! **Oliver** for always trying his best in all subjects and for being a valuable member of Year 3. Keep it up super star!

Pine: **Jake** for the extra effort made with letter formation and presentation when writing his setting description. **Jakob C** for his confidence in explaining his answers in our maths topic on area.

Willow: **Bella** for being quietly brilliant this week in all she has done. Well done for being an independent learner. **Matthew** for great focus when rehearsing with the hand bells in music this week and for a positive attitude all round.

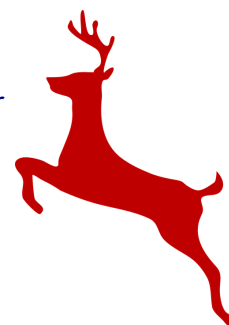
Fir: **Lily** for excellent home reading with summaries and interesting, thoughtful spelling sentences. **Woody** for an impressive growth mindset and keenness to catch up on missed learning.

And finally...

Our KS2 Carol Service takes place on Tuesday 17th December at 2pm at St Nicolas' Church.

All are welcome.

Have a good weekend, **Ms Holmes**





WhatsApp

A Guide for Parents & Carers

Age Rating
13+

WhatsApp is a free messenger app. It uses the internet to send messages, images, documents, audio or video. The app offers end-to-end encryption, which means that all messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient.

Privacy

Show your child how to **adjust their privacy settings**, such as hiding their profile photo, last seen status and about info. Set them to either of the following:

My Contacts: available to contacts from their address book only
Nobody: not available to anyone

Talk to them about not sharing their personal details online.

Messaging

Encourage your child to think about these things before they message:

- Is it kind?
- Is it true?
- Would your parents/guardians approve?
- Would you say it to their face?
- Have you asked permission to post photos?
- Have you used your online manners?
- You don't have to join in!

Contacts

Make your child understand that they should **only connect with friends, family, or trusted individuals**.

Teach them not to accept messages from **unknown contacts**.

Go over with your child how to **add, block and report contacts**.

Group Chats

If a child is added into a **Group Chat**, it may include people they don't know. This can put them at risk of being contacted by a stranger.

Go to **Settings -> Privacy -> Groups**. Select specific contacts that can add your child into groups.

Encourage your child to only join a group with people they **know and trust**.

Location

WhatsApp allows users to share their **location** with others.

If this feature is enabled, it could potentially let others **track** your child's location or discover their home address.

Speak to your child about keeping this feature **disabled**.

Check

Check in with your child regularly to **review their phone settings**.

Have an open dialogue about their WhatsApp usage and **how often** they are using the messaging app.

Encourage them to share what they're experiencing and periodically check that they are **staying safe and happy** online.



Encourage your child to come to you if **ANYTHING** online makes them feel uncomfortable, upset or worried.



Snapchat

A Guide for Parents & Carers

Age Rating
13+

Snapchat is a communication service. Users can take photos, record videos, add text or drawings (called Snaps) and send them to Friends. Snaps disappear after the recipient views it, or within 24 hours (for a Story or Chat).

Privacy

Go to Settings > Privacy Controls and adjust the following:

- **Who Can Contact Me:** Set to 'My Friends' to limit messages from strangers
- **View My Story:** Select 'My Friends' or create a custom list
- **See my location:** Enable 'Ghost Mode' to hide your child's location
- **Contact me:** Click 'Friends'
- **Quick Add:** Disable to prevent strangers from easily adding your child

Snaps

Encourage your child to **THINK BEFORE THEY SNAP:**

- Remember that screenshots can be taken and content might not be as 'temporary' as it seems
- Don't share any of your personal details
- Would your parents/carers approve?
- Have you asked permission to post photos or videos of other people?
- Have you used your online manners?

Snapstreaks

A **Snapstreak** tracks the number of consecutive days two users exchange snaps. Snapstreaks may contribute to a user's Snapchat score (a number reflecting app activity).

For a child, Snapstreaks can feel like a measure of friendship, creating pressure to maintain them, which can lead to stress or anxiety. It's important to discuss healthy app use with your child.

Family Centre

Family Centre allows you to monitor your child's activity, including usage, contacts and privacy settings. There is also an option to restrict your child from using My AI (AI chatbot).

Install the app and link your account by adding them as a friend. While you won't have access to the specific content they've sent or received, you can view their friend list and see who they've interacted with in the past 7 days.

Snap Map

Snap Map shows your child's location on a map in real time. Only their friends can see where they are.

You can turn this off by enabling **Ghost Mode**, which allows you to see the map but not be seen by others.

NOTE: Your child can submit snaps to the Snap Map and their name and location could appear on a public map.

Check

Regularly review Snapchat's **features** and updates to understand new tools or risks.

Have an **open dialogue** about your child's Snapchat usage and how often they are using the app.

Encourage them to share what they're experiencing and periodically check that they are staying safe and happy online.



Encourage your child to come to you if **ANYTHING** online makes them feel uncomfortable, upset or worried.