

## Friday 22nd November 2024



The highlight of the week was a visit from the New Mozart Orchestra who delighted the whole school on Wednesday morning. For most of the children, this was their first experience of a live orchestra. They were mesmerised and talked all day about what they had seen and heard.

"I didn't know it would be that loud!" **Riley**

"I learnt that the biggest string instrument plays the lowest sound." **Arabelle**

"I loved it. It made me feel joyful. I would like to play the oboe." **Max**

"I liked the bit when we all sang "You've Got a Friend in Me." **Finn C**



# St Nicolas' CE Combined School Newsletter

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



"I would like to play the violin." **Rosie**

"I liked learning the names of the instruments." **Megan**



"I would like to play the flute. I want to be in the orchestra when I grow up." **Milana**

## Pupil quote of the week

"I liked the oboe, especially when you take the reed off it, it sounds like a duck".

**Charlie**

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 **88.2%**



## Thank you

Thank you we raised £219.33 for Children in Need

## Reading at St Nic's

'Lost' by Mariajo Ilustrajo

This is a charming book about friendship and kindness.

Suitable for ages 4+ '



## Sickness

A gentle reminder that if your child is absent from school that a phone call or email message must be made by 8.45am on each day of absence. Otherwise, we will need to contact you directly in order to comply with our safeguarding requirements.

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## House Points

Jaguars	Pumas	Lions	Tigers
160	273	242	222

**Congratulations to the Pumas**

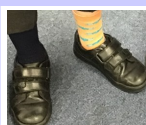
## Busy Bunch

This week at Busy Bunch we did colourful art.



### Coming up:

Next week's theme is Christmas decorations.



## Odd Socks Day



**Orla:** We learnt from Ms Jones' assembly that we should respect and love each other for our differences, no matter what we look like or who we are. We can choose respect by listening and responding to people to show it.

**Ava:** Respect is to show kindness to each other, always putting others first before ourselves. You choose respect because you can be different from everyone but still be united.



## Young Climate Warriors

Of the 2 billion children in the world, many are already feeling the impacts of climate change – some much more than others.

UNICEF is working in over 70 countries leading child-inclusive programmes to ensure access to basic services – water, health care and education – are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

We will need to move away from burning fossil fuels for our home heating – currently 23 million homes in the UK rely on gas boilers for heating.

Only 1 in 3 households had central heating in the 1970s, and the average internal temperature of a home in winter in the UK was nearer 15°C.

5,4,3,2,1 ...  
I'm coming to find you!  
Count down & turn it down!

**Thermostat challenge!**

I'm just a tiny little box stuck on your wall, you probably walk past me every day, maybe you haven't even noticed me?

Can you 'seek' out your thermostat – and turn it down by one degree this week (check with your parent/carer first!)

Wear an extra jumper, pop on a woolly hat, snuggle in a blanket, wear socks in bed ...you'll be helping to combat climate change!



YOUNG CLIMATE WARRIORS

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



'Climate Change is the most far-reaching crisis facing children and future generations'. (UNICEF, 2022)



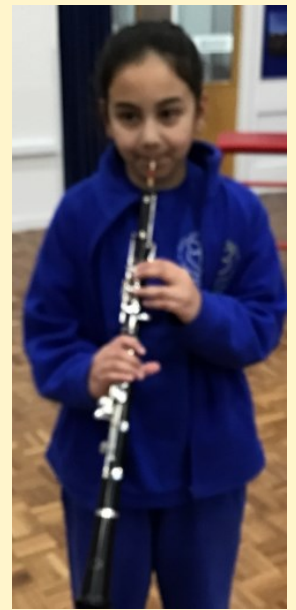
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## Orchestra workshop

30 lucky children from KS2 spent Thursday morning trying out all of the instruments, all at once! Officially the noisiest school event ever!



## Year 3 trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum



'My favourite part of the school trip was lighting the fire with Geoff and being allowed to throw a spear with Zoe.' **Mia**

'On the school trip we learnt how to make fire with Geoff. Geoff roasted a parsnip and ate it because he was hungry, I can't wait

to try them!' **Lola B**

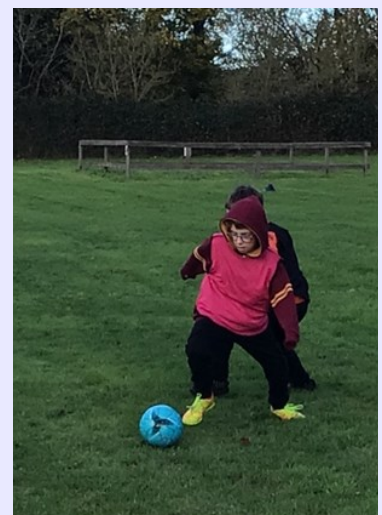
'The school trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum was all amazing but my favourite bit was making the stone age drawing. We ate lunch in a World War I



## House Football

Today saw our first inter-house football match, organised by the Sports Monitors, with House Captains managing their teams. Well done!

Lions 2—Jaguars 2





At The National College, our WakeUp/Wednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

### 1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

### 2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

### 3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

### 4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel ..." or "I think ..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

### 5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

### 6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

### 7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

### 8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each other.

### 9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

### 10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

### Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.





## Headteacher Awards



**Chestnut: Dylan** for trying so hard in phonics and always being enthusiastic. **Arabella** for being kind and sensible when speaking about the way situations make her feel.

**Elm: Sienna** for wonderful maths work sorting 3d shapes. **Finlay R** for a great effort in his learning this week.

**Ash: Grace** for showing how to add 2 digital numbers together with the math resources. **Hakeem** for a clearly labelled design of a fire engine in DT.

**Oak: Sam** for showing such a mature and positive learning attitude in class and with his work. **Robyn** for being a super focussed learner and for producing an excellent piece of History work.

**Pine: Hazel M** for interesting word choices to create expanded noun phrases in her writing. **George** for perseverance when learning how to perform a cartwheel in our gymnastics topic for PE, showing great progress.

**Willow: Josh** for pushing himself in his maths learning this week and being an independent learner in French and RE. **Orla** for producing an accurate and detailed sketch map of Taplow village with all the necessary features.

**Fir: Charlie** for good focus during lessons and small groupwork, leading to progress with his learning. **Isabelle** for consistent, excellent engagement in her learning and for making valuable contributions in

## And finally...

What a week! Thank you to everyone who made it happen. We are lucky to have such an amazing community and are all looking forward to kicking off Christmas together at the Christmas fair tomorrow.

*Ms Holmes and the St Nics team*



## PTA and Community News

# ST NICOLAS' SCHOOL & PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR

NOVEMBER 23RD • 12-3PM

Santa's grotto - Beer stall  
BBQ with burgers and sausages  
Hot and cold drinks, cakes & snacks  
Fantastic raffle with amazing prizes  
Bottle tombola - Grinch grab game  
Advent game - Shootdown Snowman  
Adopt a Bear - Letters to Santa  
Biscuit decorating - Pine Pong  
Children's Tombola - Mystery Bags

The Globe

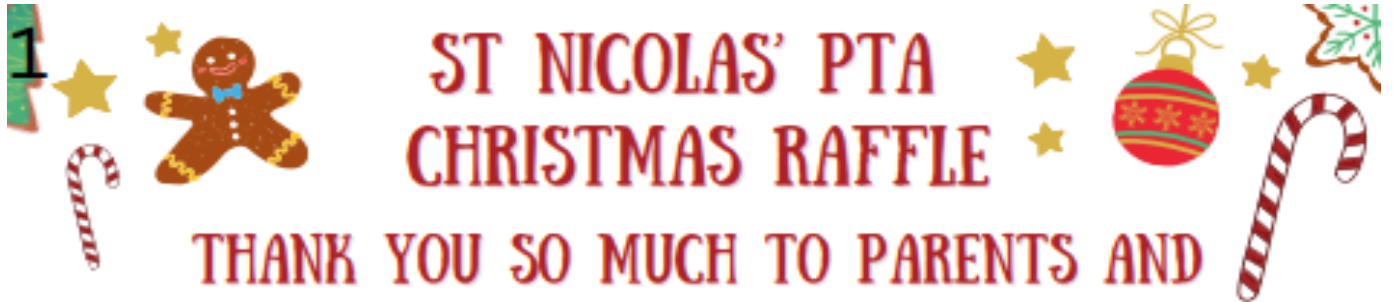
Selection of external stalls &  
much much more...

Cant wait to see you there!

ST NICOLAS' SCHOOL  
TAPLOW, SL6 OET



## PTA and Community News



### ST NICOLAS' PTA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO PARENTS AND  
COMPANIES FOR DONATING PRIZES!

FORTNUM & MASON HAMPER FROM  
THE PORTMAN ESTATE

MARLOW DONKEY £30 VOUCHER

THE CROWN AT BRAY MEAL FOR TWO  
WITH A BOTTLE OF WINE

SOUTH BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GOLF  
CLUB FREE ROUND OF GOLF (18 HOLE)  
FOR 4 PEOPLE WORTH £140

FLIP OUT AYSLEBURY X 2 TICKETS

£50 SWEATY BETTY VOUCHER

HENLEY ADVENTURE GOLF  
FAMILY PASS

DAWS VALLEY WINE TOUR FOR 4

DAWS VALLEY WINE TOUR FOR 2

HURLEY HOUSE AFTERNOON  
TEA FOR 2

HOBBLEDOWN HEATH X 2 TICKETS

CLARA'S CORNER SESSION VOUCHER

SIREN CRAFT BREW BREWERY  
TOUR VOUCHER FOR 2

OAKWOODS TREAT HAMPER

HAIR HAMPER

MAGPIES FREE DAY AT FOOTBALL  
AND MULTISPORTS CAMP

NANDOS CHICKEN CHEQUE -  
TWO MEALS AND DRINKS

NINJA WARRIOR GUILFORD X 2 TICKETS

WINDSOR & ETON BREWERY GIFT PACK

VELOCITY PAINTBALLING TEAM  
TICKET FOR 10 PEOPLE X 2

HENLEY RIVER AND ROWING  
MUSEUM FAMILY ANNUAL PASS

KEW LITTLE PIGS "PIGGY,  
PET AND PLAY" VOUCHER

WHIZZ POP BANG 3 MONTH  
SUBSCRIPTION

EVERYONE ACTIVE ICE RINK  
FAMILY PASS

EVERYONE ACTIVE CLIP & CLIMB  
FAMILY PASS

THAMES RIVER SIGHT SEEING  
FAMILY RIVER PASS

GULLIVER'S WORLD THEME PARK  
TICKETS X 2

BARDO LOUNGE £20 VOUCHER

£200 PUMPKIN AND PIXIES  
PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE VOUCHER &  
FREE PRINT & £75 GALLERY CREDIT

MAIDENHEAD MAGPIES FAMILY  
TICKET TO MAIDENHEAD FC

MAGPIES SATURDAY SESSION  
BLOCK VOUCHER

BOTTLE OF PROSECO FROM  
THE OAK AND SAW