



St Nicolas' CE Combined School Newsletter

Living and learning together with God

Friday 19th June 2026



Chestnut Class first assembly

It was great to welcome parents, carers and grandparents to Chestnut Class assembly on Tuesday. We all enjoyed their energy and confidence in speaking and singing, as well as the video of their country dancing.

Here are some reviews from Y1:

'I liked that their paintings of tractors and cars were all different.' **Christian**

'I liked how they spoke into the microphone.'

Jensen

I liked how they were talking clearly.' Sadie

'Their model houses were great! One even had a fire in it!' **Betsy**

Year 6 English

In English, Year 6 have been debating 'Should social media for under 16s be banned?'

They divided themselves into two teams and listened considerately to each other. Using persuasive phrases, they argued their points articulately. The debate closed with 14 children voting in favour of a ban, 9 against.

'There is always a possibility of bullying online and it is harder to cope with if you are a child.' **Rajan**

'YouTube is useful for tutorials and learning.' **Matthew**

'On the internet, people look like they have 'perfect lives and it is dangerous to compare ourselves.' **Elsie**

'We all used our own words, but it seemed we agreed on a lot of points.' **Matilda**

Mrs Flynn and Mrs Warrington hope many of the Year 6 children will join debating clubs at secondary school.

Safeguarding update: social media age restrictions

You may have seen that the UK government has announced new social media age restrictions for children under 16. As you know, at St Nic's, we prioritise our children's safety and wellbeing. Like many schools we have been increasingly concerned about the effects of social media on young people.

We welcome this change, but we know parents and students will have questions.

Smartphone Free Childhood has published a clear guide for parents explaining what the changes mean for your child. As always, we are committed to working in partnership with our whole school community, and we look forward to doing so as we navigate these changes, and the positive opportunities they bring for young people.

Parent guide to the announcement and FAQs:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/resource/uk-social-media-under-16-faq>

Drowning Prevention Week

RLSS UK's Drowning Prevention Week is an annual, nationwide water safety campaign designed to educate children and young adults in water safety and lifesaving skills.

Did you know that the UK sees approximately 400 accidental drownings each year, many of which can be prevented. Plus as you may have seen in the press over half-term, there have sadly been a number of tragic drowning incidents.

Drowning Prevention Week educates children each June with crucial water safety advice just before the summer holidays, when young people are outdoors more and need these skills and knowledge most, so everyone can enjoy water safely. We're calling on all carers, schools, lifesaving clubs, leisure operators and water-related businesses to participate.

To access the free resources, please follow this link: [Royal Life Saving Society UK's Drowning Prevention Week](#)

Year 3 Swimming

It's Drowning Prevention Week so the children were asked to bring in a long sleeved top and trousers to experience the water in clothing at their weekly swimming lesson.

Annabel - Yes, I enjoyed that. We were in pairs. I was with Bobby and we had to jump in the water and shout 'Help!', then catch the ball which Bobby threw in and swim to the shore. I'm happy that I have learnt some water safety.

Ines - It was fun. We learnt to be safe in the water. We practised grabbing noodles, pretending they were logs floating and we were allowed to shout HELP! at the top of our voices.

Hugo - It was a good session. It wasn't actually that difficult. At first the instructor pushed us in sideways, then we practiced rescue activities.

Year 5 PSHE



Year 5 enjoyed discussing how to keep safe around water for drowning prevention week this week. They did an assembly and assessed some risks in images of water-based locations. They discussed real-world scenarios and learnt how to stay afloat if you find yourself in water.

'Follow the water safety code: *Stop and think; float like a starfish; shout 'Help!'; throw in a float.* **Amos and Arnav**



'We do pole dancing at school' - a year 3 child told their parent.

Year 4 Geography

Pine Class were out and about this week, looking at land use around our local area as part of their geography topic.

'We found residential areas, farmland with crops and horses grazing, and transport including railway and roads.

We noticed some commercial land use too- Tesco, a steak house and a petrol station.'



Jacob, Daya, Sophie and Maia.



And finally...

We hope you enjoyed this morning's sports as much as we did and that everyone sleeps well tonight!

Thank you PTA for all your hard work to prepare for and run this afternoon's summer fair - it was such an enjoyable, fun event that the children will remember!

Ms Holmes and the staff