



St Nicolas' CE Combined School Newsletter

Living and learning together with God

Friday 3rd October 2025



Well done to Year 4 for leading a fabulous Harvest festival in the church on Tuesday. We were so impressed with your speaking and drumming, and amazed at how many words you made from the letters H-A-R-V-E-S-T so quickly without any spelling mistakes or collisions! Well done to the choirs which both sang beautifully and our recorder group. Thank you to the Eco-Council and whole school community for your very generous donations of food and toiletries for Burnham Care and Share, and to everyone that donated money in the collection: we raised a fantastic **£348** for Beautiful Gate.

Happy Bags Reminder – Thursday 9th October

We Are Fundraising For Your Local School!

Hey, I'm Happy!



THURSDAY 9TH OCTOBER!!!!

Our Brand Mascot

Hi Pupils & Parents,
Your school is participating in our Happy School Bag Fundraising Scheme!

Through your kind donations of unwanted & pre-loved clothing to your school, we will pay the school 40p per KG collected!

If your school has scheduled more than one collection in advance, the rate becomes 45p per KG.

Meaning the more you bring the more your school raises for investments!

What we collect



We accept:

- ✓ Adults and children's clothing
- ✓ Paired shoes
- ✓ Handbags, belts, hats, jewellery
- ✓ Toiletries, perfumes,
- ✓ Souvenirs, unwanted gifts

Please ensure that all items placed in the bags are in good REUSABLE condition. Please ensure that the bags remain dry on rainy days. Thank you!

If unsure about anything, please call us on 0170 868 5071.

We do not accept:

- ✗ Uniforms, underclothing
- ✗ Bric-a-brac, toys, DVD'S, CD's
- ✗ Rugs, blankets, curtains, books
- ✗ Household linen, pillows, duvets
- ✗ DIRTY, DAMAGED, or WET clothes



Please note that the current price may change based on factory outside of the business's control, such as sanctions and conflicts which may affect global trade and the economy!

0170 868 5071

Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram icons and Happy School Bag logo

info@happyschoolbag.co.uk

www.happyschoolbag.co.uk



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Elm Class

This afternoon Mrs Dobson led a procession up to the playground with two groups of year 1 children. They were learning the samba. We finished the afternoon learning to samba dance... It was a lot of fun.



Trip payments

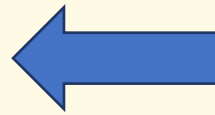
The office can no longer accept cash for trips.

Please use ParentPay to make all future payments .

Thank you

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 **97.8%**

Pupil quote of the week

“Playing the recorder made me feel really happy because I played it in front of everyone”

A year 4 pupil at the harvest festival

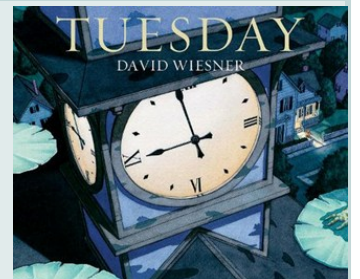
Reading at St Nic's

‘Tuesday,’ by David Wiesner

Tuesday is a very funny book. The book allows children to use their own imagination to create a story from the pictures.

Ava, Fir Class

Suitable for all ages





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House Points

Jaguars	Pumas	Lions	Tigers
338	317	339	258

Congratulations to the Lions

Busy Bunch

This week at Busy Bunch we have been painting by numbers.



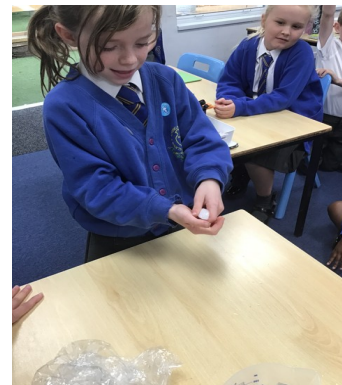
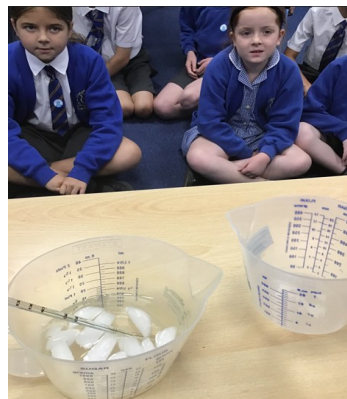
Coming up:

Next week's theme is Bugs.



Pine Class

In science last week, Year 4 were investigating the temperature at which chocolate changes state.



Sustainability

Worldwide there are 7,000 varieties of apple, however most UK supermarkets sell only 10-12 varieties. Astoundingly the UK actually imports 55% of its apples!! Check out these ['British' apples](#).

The UK 'start of the harvest' is now almost a whole month earlier than it was 60 years ago ...

Climate change is having devastating impacts on the harvests of many African countries. Learn how this World Food Programme project is bringing degraded land back to life - [Greening the Sahel: Healthy eco-systems for healthy diets](#)



Oaken pip, core blimey, pearmain, orange pippin...

Can you guess what this week's challenge is about? ... choosing local fruits - apples or pears - instead of imported fruits.

How many different varieties of British-grown apples can you try? Be brave try something different?

Eating local, seasonal produce reduces carbon emissions related to growing out of season - such as heated greenhouses, cold storage units, or transportation.



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



**Apples or pears ...
Eat local, seasonal fruit this week.**



www.youngclimatewarriors.org



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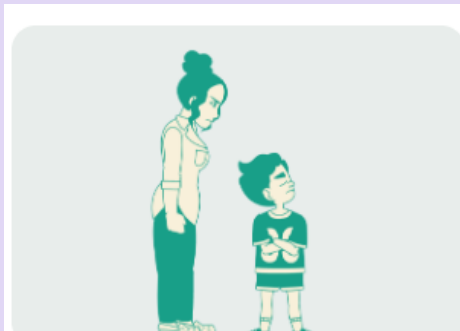
Living and learning together with God

The Parenting Smart Team, Place2be – September newsletter

Back-to-school season can bring a mix of emotions and a return of those familiar daily struggles.

Whether it's getting out the door in the morning, tackling homework, or managing screen time, it can feel like you're stuck in the same loop.

If this sounds familiar, you're not alone - we're here to help. Parenting Smart has simple, practical tips to help you break the cycle and bring more calm to your family life.



My child and I keep getting into arguments

Tips to help you handle arguments in ways that preserve your relationship with your child and model healthy disagreement.

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/my-child-and-i-keep-getting-into-arguments>

The power of parental self-awareness

Our latest Parenting Smart topic explores how understanding your own reactions can be a parenting superpower, especially in challenging moments.



<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/the-power-of-parental-self-awareness>

Problem solving with your children

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/problem-solving-with-children>



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Headteacher Awards



Chestnut: Sienna for being a good friend and walking beautifully to church. **Amelie** for being so enthusiastic when singing the harvest songs in class.

Elm: Figgy for her enthusiasm this week in art with her bread sculpture and stepping up to become a temporary member of the Eco Council. **Connie** for being a superb, hard working, sensible member of Elm Class.

Ash: Rudi for independently using a number line when finding more than and less than in his number work. **Evie H** for her focus and attention she put into her line drawings of different London landmarks.

Oak: Bobby for presenting all work to a high standard and asking questions to deepen his understanding of our learning. **James** for enthusiasm in learning and applying the use of resources and number bond knowledge to be able to add tens across a hundred.

Pine: Jagger for excellent contribution in all lessons. **Sophie** for a super setting description in English

Willow: Jakob C for thoughtful contributions to discussions this week, especially in RE. **Amos** for amazing focus on his times tables and excellent TTRS scores.

Fir: Kareem for demonstrating a thirst for learning, always striving to achieve his potential. **Maia** for enthusiastically contributing to class discussions, demonstrating self-challenge.

And finally... don't forget to book your tickets for the Harvest Fun event in the church and rectory garden from 5.30pm on Saturday 11th. There will be lots to do and see.

Children are invited to bring a decorated vegetable for the competition! Please see community pages for details.



Happy weekend, **Ms Holmes and the team**



PTA and Community News

Happy School Bags

**Great news, the next collection of Happy School Bags is
Thursday 9th October

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





PTA and Community News



IN CHURCH....



**Harvest Crafts, Lego Table
Vegetable Competitions...**

**★ Best decorated ★ Biggest of
its kind ★ Most unusual shape
Jacket-filled Potato Supper**

THEN IN THE RECTORY GARDEN....

**Bonfire, Singing
Hot Chocolate, Ginger Parkin**



Tickets: £10 adults, £5 Children, Family Ticket £25

Available from st-nicolas-taplow.org



PTA and Community News

2025-2026

PRIMARY

ASSESSMENT Dates

EYFS

FIRST 6 WEEKS

Reception Baseline Assessment

To be completed for each child in the first 6 weeks after they enter reception.

EYFS

APRIL & JUNE

Early years foundation stage profile assessment

To be completed between April and June of the academic year in which children turn 5, which is usually the reception year.

KS1

MAY

Year 2 - Optional key stage 1 tests

Recommended time for optional key stage 1 tests to be administered.

KS2

MAY
11th - 14th

Year 6 - Key stage 2 SATs tests

The statutory key stage 2 SATs tests to be administered.

KS2

JUNE
1st

Year 4 - Multiplication tables check

Schools must administer the multiplication tables check within the 2-week period from this date.

KS1

JUNE
8th

Year 1 (Year 2 retakes) - Phonics screening check

Schools must administer the phonics screening check within the 1-week period from this date.

Silly School Education

