



St Nicolas' CE Combined School Newsletter

Living and learning together with God

Friday 9th January 2026

We are delighted to share that Halle and her handlers in school have successfully completed the PAWS Therapy Dog Certification Programme.



Halle attends school 2-3 days a week and welcomes children on the gate, encourages reading and supports attendance and wellbeing. She keeps children active on the daily mile and loves to play fetch with a tennis ball at playtime! We have discovered that Halle's presence in the classroom improves children's ability to connect with their learning, and to sustain the deep concentration they need for writing.



We are already seeing more benefits to having a school therapy dog than we had ever anticipated, and are looking forward to continuing to build on this over the coming year as part of the PAWS graduate programme.

Y4 Upton Court Residential—parent information meeting

Thursday 22nd January 3.40 – 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.



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Elm Class – winter walk

Year 1 went on a winter walk this week to look for signs of the season and the children loved spotting snow and ice!

'We went to the green to look for signs of winter. The sun was low and it was really cold'.

'The leaves were brown and there was snow on them'.

'We saw lots of snow all over the tree trunks on the ground'.

'I saw snow, a tree with no leaves on and it was cold and icy'.

'I saw snow on the logs, all the leaves had fallen off the tree'.



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 good 96.3% and the children have really enjoyed getting stuck into their new topics across the curriculum.



Teachers are preparing their curriculum newsletters - please look out for these next week.



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House Points

Jaguars	Pumas	Lions	Tigers
308	192	240	234

Congratulations to the Jaguars

Year 3 Assembly

We are excited to invite Oak class parents and carers to join us on

Tues 27th January at 9.00am

Willow Class

Willow class are learning about Tudor portraits and coats of arms.



Sustainability

2026 ... filled with optimism and hope - how will the story of this year unfold? The world runs on energy - and clean energy is unstoppable!

Renewables: In 2025, nearly 30% of our UK electricity was generated from wind power, and 8% from solar power (with a peak of 40% at times in July!). Globally, for the first time, renewables produced more electricity than coal in the first half of 2025.

Sasol: a South African company is producing sustainable biofuel (for marine and aviation transport) using algae cultivated in ponds - watch this space!

2026 ... the great 'unfolding'

A new year ... how would YOU choose for your 2026 story to unfold?

Have you ever done any origami?

Join us making a 2026 'fortune-teller' or 'chatterbox' - on the theme of 'protecting our natural world'.

Launch the 'great unfolding' by playing the game with a member of your family. Ask them to join you as part of your 2026 story - and help you take action this year.

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

YOUNG CLIMATE WARRIORS



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Headteacher Awards



Chestnut: Annabel for always listening carefully and confidently selecting learning activities. **Scarlett** for speaking confidently and using lots of detail to tell us about her holiday.

Elm: Livia for wonderful effort with her writing this week. **Eleanor** For going out of her way to be helpful and kind and a fantastic effort in maths this week.

Ash: Amelia for her wonderful ideas on what she would pack if she were an explorer, and presenting her work of this beautifully in her history book. **Sebby** for being able to confidently name and describe the faces and edges of 3D shaped in our maths lessons.

Oak: Tristan for excellent recall of all the information learned in our science unit last term on nutrition and skeletons. **Hakeem** for showing great participation in all lessons, asking questions and sharing his ideas.

Pine: Daya for her ideas when discussing stories from different cultures in English. **Hari** for being kind and helpful to other members of his group during badminton.

Willow: Humza for starting the spring term with positivity, considered questioning and great focus. **Evie** for working hard to learn the common exception words by heart.

Fir: Evelyn for her great commitment to learning and for consistently going the extra mile. **Kieran** for success in developing solid arithmetic skills, due to his effort and focus.

And finally... for a while it looked like a snow day, and then it didn't - sorry children! If we do need to close the school due to severe weather, your child will need their email login to access lessons on Teams. This can be found in their planner. Please check that you have a note of this at home, just in case!



Have a warm weekend,

Ms Holmes and the team



PTA and Community News

Happy School Bags

Happy School Bags is back on Wednesday 14th January !

Declutter time! This is the perfect time after Christmas to fill as many black bags as you can with all old clothes, shoes, plus items on their list....including any non-branded uniform and school shoes! Children will come home with bags for you to fill in their book bags this week but you can also fill black bags. Please see attached information on what they accept.

We are paid by the kilo, so the heavier the better!

happy school bag

Friendly Reminder

Hoppy wants to remind you, your school's clothing collection is soon! Get your bags ready. Bring as much as you can, even use extra bags if needed. More donations mean more funds for the school's reinvestment! Let's make it count!

Your Collection Date is:

14th January

Gift Amnesty

If you received any gifts at Christmas that aren't quite to your taste (or got two the same), please recycle as a kind donation to the PTA. All we ask is that items are NEW & UNUSED and would make a good prize!

Please drop any gift donations into the school office or drop off with your happy bag donations on Wednesday 14th January. Please don't buy anything to donate; this is simply a request for anything you already have but don't want!



PTA and Community News



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Your Collection Date is:

14th January

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





PTA and Community News

ST NICOLAS LUNCHTIME & AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

UNITED AS ONE



DAY	LUNCHTIME	AFTER SCHOOL	AFTER SCHOOL
Monday 12th Jan - 23rd March	CHESS YR 3-6	FOOTBALL YRS R, 1 & 2	
Thursday 15th Jan - 26th Mar	LEGO YRS R, 1 & 2	NETBALL YR 3-6	FOOTBALL YR 3-6
Friday 16th Jan - 27th Mar	GIRLS FOOTBALL YR 3-6	BASKETBALL YRS R-6	

**BOOK
HERE!**



**BOOK ONLINE THROUGH OUR WEBSITE
WWW.MAIDENHEADUNITEDFC.ORG OR THE QR
CODES AND TYPE ST NICOLAS FOR FURTHER
DETAILS CONTACT: MARK NISBET -
MARK.NISBET@MAIDENHEADUNITEDFC.ORG**

**BOOK
HERE!**





PTA and Community News

Quiz Night is back!

After such a brilliant night last time, we're doing it all again — expect laughs, friendly competition, and a great excuse for a fun night out with friends. No quiz expertise required, just come along and enjoy!

Book your place here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/quiz-night-2026-tickets-1977607221435>



St Nics' Quiz Night

**Friday
27th February**

at St Nicolas' School Hall

Doors open at: 7pm

Quiz starts at: 7:30pm

Drinks bar available

Quiz Host - Danny O'Reilly

For tickets & further
information scan the QR code!



Over 18s only

£5 per person

6 people per team. If you have a
set team please book 6 at 1 time.

Why not order yourself a pizza?

Our amazing friends over at
PAPA JOHNS®
will be available to deliver you
a tasty pizza whilst you quiz
the night away!

Pizzas need to be pre ordered via our eventbrite link



PTA and Community News



We are opening a new playgroup at Dorney Village Hall for children aged 9 months to 2 years.

If you have a child of this age and are interested in seeing the setting, please come along to our open morning on Tuesday 13th January 2026, 10-11am.

Come and have a look at the facility and ask your questions to the manager.

We look forward to seeing you.
