

Let
everything
you do

(1 COR 16:14)



be done
with love

St
Nicholas

09.01.26



Welcome Back!

What a wonderful start to 2026!

I am delighted to be back among the St Nicholas family and what a warm welcome I received on Monday morning!!

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere **thanks for the support of our amazing community** which was a comfort to myself and my family during a tricky few months. I would also like to express appreciation for the **strong and effective leadership of Sarah Waddington** during this time, supported by the wider team and DSAT. It is evident that the school has continued to flourish in my absence and the **Christian Vision "Let everything you do be done with love,"** has been truly lived out during this time.

As I continue my recovery, I will be gradually building up my working hours over the course of this term. **Sarah Waddington will therefore continue in her role as Acting Headteacher** during my absence until the end of January, ensuring continuity and stability for the school.

I am thrilled to be back in school and hope to see many of you over the coming weeks.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Lucy Hill

Headteacher



This term our Christian Value is **Perseverance** and we will be developing our ability to pursue goals and not give up even when we find things tricky.

Our Big Idea is **Resourceful**, acting along side our Christian Value, these two themes develop our children's learning behaviours ensuring that they develop the skills of teamwork, independence and resilience which we know that children need in order to be successful life long learners.

Resourceful Challenge- There will be no Resourceful 'day' this term but rather we would like to set the children a Resourceful challenge. This runs throughout this term and also includes half term so plenty of time to have a think and plan a challenge together. Children should set themselves at least one goal and work towards completing their goal- it could be big or small but should be something that requires resilience and perseverance. They may decide to do several small challenges across the term.

Resilience is about how you *cope* when something goes wrong.

You can explain it as:

“Resilience is bouncing back when things feel hard or when something doesn’t work the first time.”

Examples children understand:

- You feel upset because you made a mistake, but you calm yourself and try again.
- You lose a game but manage your feelings and still enjoy playing.
- You don’t give up just because something feels tricky or frustrating.

Key idea for children:

Resilience helps you *handle feelings and setbacks*.

Perseverance is about how you *keep going*.

You can explain it as:

“Perseverance means keeping on trying, even when something is difficult.”

Examples:

- You practise a tricky word again and again until you can read it.
- You keep working on a puzzle even though it takes a long time.
- You don’t stop just because the task is hard.

Key idea for children:

Perseverance helps you *stick with the task*.

Example challenges:

- completing a challenging puzzle
- going on a long walk, or to the top of a big hill
- learning to tie shoe laces or to change your bedsheets
- set a new swimming goal
- building a den that 4 people can sit in
- Sudoku or a crossword puzzle

The world is your oyster. You can make this challenge as big or as simple as you like. All children should come back to school ready to talk about their challenge and have a photo to prompt discussion. In order to celebrate their achievement they will receive a 'You are Awesome' card with a special new Resourceful stamp. We will then select a variety of challenges to show in celebration worship.

Teachers will be introducing this over the next week in lesson time to begin to generate ideas and discussion and excitement.

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Singing Success- 1st Place!

The Salisbury Radio's Song for Christmas winners have been crowned for 2025, with St Nicholas Primary School in Porton being named as this year's champions.

Their song, That First Christmas Day, was selected by a panel of judges, all former local headteachers, as this year's Song for Christmas on Salisbury Radio.



It's the first time a whole school has performed together as one and won the competition.

Acting headteacher at St Nicholas Primary School, Sarah Waddington, said, *"We love music in our school. It's part of our identity we love to sing together as a school, it's part of our culture. Every day we come together, we sing in our worship, and it's just an absolute joy."*

When asked what it would mean to the school, Hare Class teacher, Mrs Fraser said, *"I don't think they will be at all expecting it, they sing because they love singing. For them, it's just going to be an incredible joy and for their parents to hear that they've actually won."*

The judging panel, made up of Jan Paterson, Joy Wagstaff, Sandra Crook, Jenny Vokes and head judge Anne Munns, listened to the songs whilst judging without knowing which school had performed each track. They scored each song out of 10, and the scores were combined to produce the final leaderboard.

The standard again this year has been very high, with judges separating the top 5 schools by just one point, and four schools finishing in joint second place.

The result was revealed on Salisbury Radio by Ian Burrage on Christmas Day with the winners, St Nicholas Primary School, picking up this year's title, the Song for Christmas Trophy and £250 to spend on musical education in the school.

If you missed it, here is the moment they were announced as winners, and we hear from Mrs Waddington and Mrs Fraser, too: [Listen to Mrs Waddington and Mrs Frazer being interviewed](#)

We are so proud of our children and this amazing achievement!

Supervision of Children before/after school

Before School

For the safety of all children, we kindly remind families that children must not be left unsupervised at the school gates and should wait with a responsible adult, outside of the school gate until the school opens at **8:30am**. Our priority is always the safety of our pupils, and we are concerned about the number of occasions where children have been left near the busy road outside the school. We appreciate your support and will continue to monitor this situation closely.

After School

From **3:10pm**, once children have been collected from their class teacher, responsibility for their safety and behaviour transfers to the parent or adult who has collected them. We value the sense of community at our school and love that families choose to stay, play, and socialise at the end of the day, and we are keen for this to continue.

Children are familiar with the school rules, and these apply at all times, including after school. Recently, there have been some injuries and behaviour incidents which have affected children's safety and enjoyment. We therefore ask that parents and carers actively supervise their children while on the school site, ensuring they are within sight and that play remains safe and positive.

Parking

Please be mindful of where you are parking at the beginning and end of the day to ensure that driveways and access roads are kept completely clear- particularly around the entrance to Pragnell Court.

Also we ask that all parents co-operate with the one way system in the morning and at the end of the day. While we understand that it may be frustrating and cause a couple of additional minutes, turning and coming back past the school can cause the road to be blocked and slows the flow of traffic. Turning should never be done in the school drive. Thank you for your co-operation.

Donations



Aumala 2008

Donations Welcome – Help Us Create and Play!

With Christmas bringing new toys into our homes, you may be having a **clear-out or wishing to donate** some of your children's old favourites. We are always on the lookout for donations of **small world toys**, particularly:

- Animals
- Dinosaurs
- People figures
- Cars, larger trucks, or diggers
- Sand toys for our digging area

In addition, we are planning a **fun mural in Owls Class' reading book corner** and would be thrilled to receive any **donations of coloured emulsion paint** to help us bring our masterpiece to life!

If you have anything you would like to donate, please bring it into school. Your generosity helps us **enrich play, learning, and creativity** across the school community.

School Uniform Reminders

Hair- Girls hair should be tied back neatly - plaits are ideal. Boys haircuts should be neat and appropriate for school and should be tied back if long. Hairstyles that are closely shaved, extreme in style, or include patterns or designs are not permitted.

Smart watches- are not permitted in school and are classed in the same way as a mobile phone.

Earrings- Girls can wear one set of small and flat studs to school. On PE days no earrings should be worn.

Snow



We had our first taste of the chaos that snow and ice can bring to the school day this week. Staff and family safety is always of the highest importance when making decisions to keep the school open or to close.

1. If conditions are dangerous on the roads please seek alternative routes eg bus routes which are gritted.
2. If the decision to close school is made then a message will be sent to parents via the Arbor app by 07:30 in the morning.
3. If the decision is to delay the start of the school day to allow conditions to improve and sufficient numbers of staff to get to site then this message will also be sent to parents via the Arbor app by 07:30 in the morning.

Arbor App



Can all parents please ensure that they have the Arbor app downloaded and set up on their phones. We want to be able to move to in app messages rather than emails so that parents can get quicker and more efficient access to messages from school. We will be moving to this over the next few weeks so this is your final warning to make sure you are set up and ready to go!! Any issues, please contact the school office for support.

Important Dates

The the best place to find important dates in school is on the school website which has a summary of the upcoming dates on the Home Page. We will no longer add key dates to the newsletters.

Contact Details and Learn More About St Nicholas School

We love to hear from our parents with any feedback you have for us, what you feel we are doing well and what you would like to hear more about. Please direct any questions or feedback to Office@stnicholas.dsat.org.uk

If you have any queries about finance or after school club then please email Mrs Bairstow on finance@stnicholas.dsat.org.uk

How else can I learn more about my child's school and their learning? Take a look at our website and social media!

St Nicholas Primary School

[St Nicholas Website](#)

[St Nicholas Primary Facebook page](#)

[St Nicholas Instagram](#)

We have an open door policy at St Nicholas and welcome parents to come and talk to either the teachers, Ms Glover, Mrs Waddington or myself if you ever have any questions, queries or

concerns. It really is the best way for us to work together for your child and we really value the opportunity to hear from you and to work with you. Feel free to call or email to arrange a meeting or for smaller issues just grab us at the start of the day when you see us.

