



St Nicholas' CE Primary School

"Let all you do be done with Love." 1 COR 16:14

Term 3 Christian Value is: Perseverance Big Idea is: Resilience

Friday 2nd February 2024

Issue 10

Feeling Aspirational!

On Tuesday, Maz Evans (author of many books including *Who Let the Gods Out*) visited Fox and Owl classes. Hare Class were also able to join Maz for her talk with us explaining the important messages behind her stories and her inspiration to write. Then, Fox and Owl had their own time with Maz to ask her lots of questions about being an author and writing books - she explained that the writing of her books is the shortest part (1 month!) but the editing takes her the longest (sometimes up to a year!) Maz kindly spent the end of her visit signing all of her books and many Post-It's with personalised messages. All of the children had an incredibly enjoyable morning with 'the funniest person they have ever met' and went away truly inspired. Many thanks to Miss Pistell for arranging this amazing experience.



Social Media- I am currently working on a project to boost our social media presence so that you can better access school news and events more frequently and share them with your friends and neighbours. Watch this space!! We will be coming to Facebook and Instagram soon! I am also working on newsletters so that they can be accessed direct from our website and so be easier to read on phones. If you have any ideas about how we can better advertise our school and communicate more effectively with parents and the wider community I would be interested to hear your opinions. Feel free to email me on head@stnicholas.dsat.org.uk or pop in and see me.



Staff News

Mrs Hedges has made the decision to retire at the end of this year. Mrs Hedges has worked at the school as a class teacher in Badgers and then Fox for many years. She is looking forward to spending time with her Grandchildren which we completely understand and we are thrilled that she would love to keep coming back to St Nicholas as a supply teacher if we ever need her to. We will be starting recruitment for September next term.

Dress to Express Day-

Next Friday we will be holding **Dress to Express Day** again as part of children's mental health week. This is a non school uniform day with a difference. What makes you happy or what makes you unique? Who do you want to be? Or what would you wear if there were no rules at school. Hair and clothing can be accessorised. Face paints or makeup are also allowed. No jewellery of any kind please. Only sensible shoes and clothing appropriate for a day of learning and being outside on the playground in February. Think, fun, bright and funky! :)



Parent Surveys

It was fantastic to see so many of our parents at consultations last week. In the next few weeks a new parents survey will be coming out. I haven't done one in a while as I really wanted to go digital and ensure that we were able to reach all of our parents and also ensure your confidentiality and anonymity. I knew this was going to be a service that DSAT would support us with providing and so have waited until now to launch it. You will get access to a link which will take you straight to the survey. We will then be able to see the results from the questions from our school which we will use to better inform school policies and systems. All results will also be analysed by the Trust to inform trust wide policies. It is always great to hear feedback on what you think we do well so we can keep doing it and which areas we can improve on to ensure the best learning experiences for our children and families.

Reminder: On the last day of term—Friday 9th February the Eco Warriors in year 6 are organising a Teddy sale to raise money to adopt a red panda from Marwell Zoo.

From Monday 4th February children can bring in teddies or soft toys that they no longer require (only clean and good condition please) to donate to the sale. All teddies will then be sold for 50p each. This will also be the same day as Express Yourself Day.

Always Club— This was created last year to recognise those children who were being under recognised, but were nearly always making good choices, working hard and demonstrating the school rules and values. It started with just a small number from each class and each term has grown bigger and bigger. At this point pretty much the whole school would be in the 'Always club' and we are so proud of our children and how hard they have worked on their individual behaviour and attitudes to learning. At this point I have made the decision to discontinue the Always Club in its current format as it is now unmanageable. However, we will have a whole school treat next term to celebrate the individual progress and collective efforts that have been made to improve behaviour at St Nicholas. We are so proud of our children for being Ready, Respectful and Safe. Do children use this language at home? It would be great to hear stories of children being Ready, Respectful and safe beyond the school gates :)

AIM HIGHER WRITING DAY

On Monday 15th January 2024 we went to meet the author and illustrator Kev Payne at Winterslow School. We completed a writing workshop where we received our own poem books and then completed lots of fun activities. Our favourite part of the day was when we switched around words, such as 'pineapple' which became 'shineapple' and then we had to draw our new words. We also looked at some Greek myths including one about a minotaur which was really great as we are learning about Ancient Greece in class at the moment. The whole day was really inspiring as I (Poppy) really want to be an author when I grow up.



Upcoming Diary Dates:

February

5th-9th Children's Mental Health Week
9th Open Afternoon+ Teddy Sale+ Express yourself day
9th Last Day of Term
19th Return to School Term 4

March

13th Year 3/4 Tag Rugby (teams to be selected)
21st March Year 4/5 Orienteering (teams to be selected)
26th Creative Day
27th Last day of Term 4 Year 5/6 tag rugby (teams to be selected)
28th TD day school closed

April

15th Return to School Term 5

Important Reminders: