



Dream big, shine bright

St NICHOLAS
C of E Primary School, Alcester

These newsletters are published monthly and highlight upcoming events, celebrate success and relay important messages. Copies can always be found on our website.

Issue 141

St Nicholas C of E Primary School – Newsletter

November 2023

Dear families,

The run up to Christmas is always a particularly busy and exciting time. Nativity and Christmas rehearsals will get under way soon, we are excited to be utilising the Greig Hall this year and heading St Nicholas church for our Christmas service too. A reminder that St Nicholas night takes place in the High Street on 6th December.



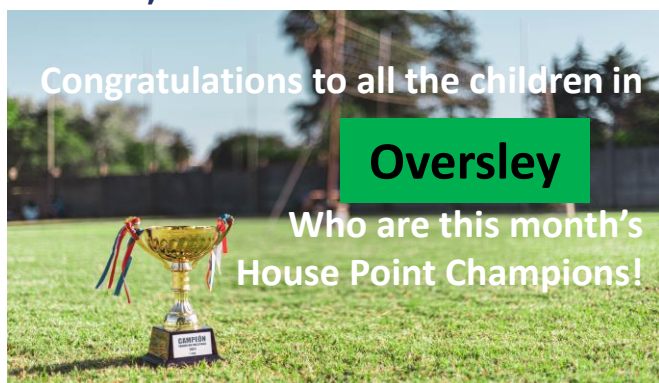
The Friends will appreciate lots of visits to their stall - perhaps you will come away with a chocolate treat! Our pupils will represent the Bishop and attendants in the parade too.

Our next project for the foyer is underway, thank you to those who have dropped off material so far. If you have any Cotton/poly cotton type fabric- e.g bedding and clothing, pieces of material that are Christmassy colours please drop them in the box in the foyer.

Works to the roof are complete (for now), the pool building has a new ceiling, walls and a floor going in too, the next part of the project is replacement cladding on all cladded sections of the school. It will look spick and span once complete! Thank you to everyone for their patience whilst these projects are on going.

A warm welcome to two new members of our team, Mrs Kell joins us in the office and Mrs Davies joins our OPAL team at lunchtime.

Mrs Laura Newell, Head of School



DIARY DATES AUTUMN TERM

Tuesday 28th November

Reception stay and play session 9-10am

Friday 1st December

Christmas Jumper day (bring chocolates for St Nics night stall)

Wednesday 6th December

St Nicholas night on the High Street

Thursday 14th and Friday 15th December

Friends Grotto at school for children to purchase gifts

Monday 18th December

Shakespeare Hospice Santa Run (at school) - more info to follow - from 2.30pm onwards

Tuesday 19th December

Pantomime performance for children (in school)
Reception Nativity performance
(evening in school hall)

Wednesday 20th December

Children's Christmas dinner
Year 1 and 2 Christmas performance
(evening, at Greig Hall)

Thursday 21st December

Years 3-6 Advent service at St Nicholas Church

Friday 22nd December

Children's Christmas Party day

St Nicholas C of E Primary School

St Faiths Road,
Alcester,
Warwickshire,
B49 6AG

01789 762578

admin3595@welearn365.com



Dream big, shine bright

St NICHOLAS
C of E Primary School, Alcester



St Nicholas C of E Primary School – Newsletter

ready

It's a great place to be. Is your child ready to start at our school in September 2024?

steady

Book your tour of our school on Thursday 11th January

go!

Apply for a place at our school before the deadline of Monday 15th January

admin3595@welearn365.com

01789 762578

General reminders for our families

Jewellery and hair styles

Over the last couple of weeks we have noticed quite a few children wearing large earrings or sleepers, rather than studs. Please can we remind all families that children can only wear small studs to school.

This minimises the risk of them getting their earrings caught in clothing and equipment particularly at break and lunchtime.

A reminder that there is an expectation for children's hair to be smart and that extreme styles are not permitted. There are a number of children who have had 'lines' shaved into their hair recently.

READ TO SUCCEED

Exciting new project loading!
Book of the month incoming...
27.11.23

<https://st-nicholas-cofe-primary.secure-primarysite.net/book-of-the-month/>



Remember to follow our page on Facebook



Dream big, shine bright

St NICHOLAS

C of E Primary School, Alcester



Christmas Lumper Day

Friday 1st December 2023

*Everyone can wear their best Christmas outfits in
exchange for chocolate for The Friends of St
Nicholas.*



*Children are welcome to wear their own clothes, we kindly ask
that children wear age appropriate clothes. No football shirts
please. Chocolates should be handed to the class teacher in the
morning.*

easyfundraising is the UK's biggest charity shopping site

Launched in 2005, our community of over 2 million supporters have raised over £42 million for thousands of causes across the U.K.



HOW IT WORKS

We turn your daily shopping into every day magic!

easyfundraising partners with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand.

Brands pay us a commission because when you start your shop from the easyfundraising website or app, they can see we sent you to them. If you make a purchase, a commission is generated, and we turn that into a donation - magic!

For more information...

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works/#hiwfaq>

Our school link...

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stnicholascofeprimalc/>



Please sign up and
support fundraising
for our school



Introducing OPAL Bingo!

Each class in Years 1 to 6 have been given a bingo board with lots of items to collect – anything from a wooden spoon to a scooter.

When a class collects all the 'loose parts' on their board and calls 'Bingo!' they will get 15 minutes extra OPAL playtime! If a class calls bingo including their starred item, they will win 30 MINUTES extra play!!

Please see Studybugs for your child's bingo board.

Tube 	Silicone cake mould 	Whisk 
Toy dinosaur 	Water trough 	Bath toy 
Plastic jug 	Dressing up clothes 	Toy digger 

Online Safety Newsletter

Autumn 2023

Parental Controls

Does your child have a games console? If yes, have you set up age-appropriate parental controls? The controls vary across the different consoles, but all will allow you to restrict spending and communication for example.

PlayStation

Set up your account as a family manager and create a separate child account so you can tailor their activities. Find out more here:

<https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/psn-safety-parents-guide/>

Xbox

You can download an app to manage your child's gaming experience. Find out more here:

<https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/apps/family-settings-app>

Nintendo Switch

Nintendo also offer a free app to monitor what and how your children are playing. Find out more here:

<https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Nintendo-Switch-Family/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html>

Does your child watch livestreams?

What is livestreaming?

Livestreaming is when an individual broadcasts video live over the internet. People can watch livestreams from any device that is connected to the internet.

Who is watching livestreaming?

Research from Ofcom reported that 57% of 3 – 17 year olds have watched live streams and the most used platforms to watch live streams were YouTube and TikTok. The research also showed that the percentage watching content on livestreaming app/sites increased by age. A third of 3-4 year olds were watching live content with this number growing to eight in ten of 16-17 year olds. This is reported in Children and parents: media use and attitudes report 2022 (ofcom.org.uk).



What are the risks?

There are risks associated with watching livestreams that you should be aware of. The main risk being that your child may see or hear something inappropriate as your child may come across themes or content that is not suitable for them. It is difficult to moderate live content as it is happening in real time.

How can I help my child?

- All online platforms have an age rating, ensure your child only accesses platforms that are appropriate to their age. For example, TikTok has an age rating of 13.
- For any platforms that your child uses, ensure appropriate parental controls and privacy settings are applied.
- Take an interest in what your child is doing online and on a regular basis, ask your child to show you what they are accessing.
- Ensure your child knows how to use any reporting/blocking tools on the app that they are using and as always please ensure that your child knows to talk to a trusted adult if they see anything that concerns them online.

Further information

- <https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/livestreaming-parents/>
- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-live-streaming/>



Playing games online

Does your child play games online? We have outlined some points that you may wish to consider to try and create a safer experience for your child.

Have you set up parental controls?

As well as setting up appropriate parental controls through the game's setting, ensure you have set them up on the console/device your child is playing on. For example, many consoles allow you to restrict the games accessed by age.



Chatting to strangers

Some games will allow communication, for example (FIFA and Fortnite). Depending on the game, this may be via the in-game text chat, direct messages or talking through headphones. Some games do offer the ability to switch communication off or restrict bad language so make sure settings appropriate to your child are set up for each of the games they play.

It can be difficult to moderate online chat so ensure your child knows how to block and report other players who make them feel uncomfortable and that they know to talk to you or a trusted adult if they have any concerns. It can also be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they would not if they were face to face with each other. Talk to your child about how they are speaking to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect, like they would if they were face-to-face.

Is the game age appropriate?

Before buying the game, check that your child is old enough to play it. All games will either have a PEGI rating or be rated by the App Store /Google Play. UK Safer Internet Centre have published a blog, which shares tips on what to do if your child asks about playing a new game:

- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/help-my-child-wants-to-play-games-that-are-too-old-for-them-2>

In app purchases

In addition to the above, you should be aware of in app purchases as lots of games include the option to purchase additional items/subscriptions so ensure you do not have payment cards saved or set up restrictions/pin code to approve.

Further information

The NSPCC provide further guidance and support regarding this topic:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>

Skill-building app suggestions from Internet Matters

Internet Matters have curated a list of apps that will help your child to develop skills and new interests in different areas, for example Game Builder Garage (7+), which helps children to create their own games and Tayasui Sketches to develop art skills. You can find the full list here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/skill-building-apps-guide-for-kids/>

Scary Teacher 3D

Scary Teacher 3D is a game rated as 12+ by the App store (due to Mild Realistic Violence) or as 'Teen' on Google Play (due to violence). The game does include in-app purchases as well. Players must scare their teacher by completing different activities. There are lots of videos of this game on YouTube as well.

As with all games your child is asking to play, please take note of the age rating and play the game first to see if you think it is appropriate for your child.

Teaching children about money

Lloyds bank have published information and resources to help us help our children develop good financial habits. The information is split into age groups so you can find support tailored to your child's age. You can find out more here:

<https://www.lloydsbank.com/help-guidance/family-finances/teaching-children-about-money.html>

FREE ONLINE SAFETY WORKSHOP

FOR PARENTS OF SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

Get practical hints and tips to support your children and keep them safe online, and learn how to keep up to date in the ever changing online world.



Wed 29th
NOVEMBER
7.30pm-8.30pm



Speaker

KAT HOWARD

Head of Education & Wellbeing (UK)
Smoothwall



Register for the Zoom link and parent flyer here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/vNF5rqn3xi>

Kat has been working with schools for over 18 years to develop their understanding of online safety. She is passionate about the importance of online safety in schools and the wider community.

For more information on online safety, visit <https://warwickshire.onlinesafety.smoothwall.co.uk/>

Warwickshire Support For Families

FREE programmes and workshops for parents and carers in Warwickshire

The Warwickshire Parent Support team offer a range of online courses, workshops and programmes to suit your needs from free online programmes you do in your own time, to bookable two-hour workshops on a specific theme, right through to ten-week parenting programmes.

Course, workshop, and programme topics include:



- Sleep
- Boundaries
- Rules
- Routine
- Behaviour
- Nurture
- Teenagers.



The Community Autism Support Service (CASS) offers support to people of all ages living in Coventry and Warwickshire, whether they are waiting for a neurodevelopmental assessment or already have a diagnosis of autism.

One of the ways CASS is able to offer support to parents, carers and family members of autistic children is through their accessible '**Toolboxes**'. These are free bite-sized, one-hour sessions covering topics such as routines, meltdowns and communication. [Find out more about Toolboxes here.](#)

You can find more information about the support available on the [CASS website](#), by calling the dedicated phone line on **02476 012333** (available five days a week Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm) or by emailing navigation@casspartnership.org.uk.

Mental Health and Wellbeing



Parent and Carer Information sessions for Warwickshire Families. Places on the workshops are subject to availability. To book your place on once the course please email:

risecommunityoffer@covwarkpt.nhs.uk

Understanding and Supporting School Aged Children Who Self-harm Tuesday 5 December, 10.00am to 12.00pm
Understanding Sensory Needs in School Aged Children Tuesday 19 December, 12.30pm to 2.30pm
Understanding Low Mood in Children and Young People Wednesday 29 January, 12.30pm to 2.30pm

For any parent with a child who has a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND), Warwickshire County Council encourages you to apply for a wellbeing assessment as part of the **Parent Carer Support Pathway**.

The wellbeing conversation is part of the assessment – a practitioner from the Children with Disabilities Team will carry this out with you. This conversation allows us to identify your needs and tailor available support to help you, your child and your wider family members.

The wellbeing conversation may result in signposting to an appropriate local provider. For instance, if you are experiencing physical or mental health needs, a referral can be made to adult services for support in your own right.

For more information [click here](#).





Mental Health in Schools Team (MHST)

Parent/Carer Tips for Wellness:

STARTING CONVERSATIONS AROUND MENTAL HEALTH

It can be difficult to speak with your young person about their mental health and wellbeing. It is important to try different methods and see what works for you.

Useful conversation starters:

"How are you feeling?"

"What was the best and worst bit of your day?"

"How can I help you?"

"I can see that you are feeling _____. Do you want to talk about it?"

"Today I felt _____. How did you feel today?"



More conversation
starters!

Some young people find it easier to have these conversations when they do not need to make eye contact. Try having these conversations whilst doing a normal activity, such as cooking dinner, washing up or even in the car!

Top Tip: Try to avoid starting these conversations around bedtime.

Discussing and expressing feelings:

- Try using emojis, coloured stickers or pictures to show how you are feeling.
- If your young person finds it hard to have these conversations, they could try sending you text messages to let you know how they feel or using a shared feelings diary.

Statements of encouragement can help a young person share their feelings:

"I love you, nothing can ever change that"

"Even if I don't understand, know that I want to"

"If you need to talk to someone else, that's ok too"

"It is ok to feel this way"



REMINDERS...

Here is a reminder of support for families:



Service	Contact Details
Family Support Worker 9am-4pm (apart from Bank Holidays)	Duty Line 01926 412 412
Family Support Drop in Sessions	Click here for the website
Family Information Service	Duty Line 01926 742 274
Parenting Programmes	Click here for the website
HAF Program Queries	Email: hafprogramme@warwickshire.gov.uk
Childline	0800 1111
RISE CRISIS Team	08081 966798
RISE Navigation Hub	0300 200 2021
Adult Mental Health CRISIS	08081 966798
National Centre for Domestic Violence	0800 970 2070
REFUGE	0800 408 1552

If you have an immediate safeguarding concern please contact:

Children & Families Front Door: **01926 414144** or the emergency services as appropriate.

Dream Big Shine Bright



Rayna's family are so proud of her swimming achievements, she has been working very hard towards her stage 7 swim award. She has also completed her 800m – what an achievement Rayna, well done!

Dream Big Shine Bright



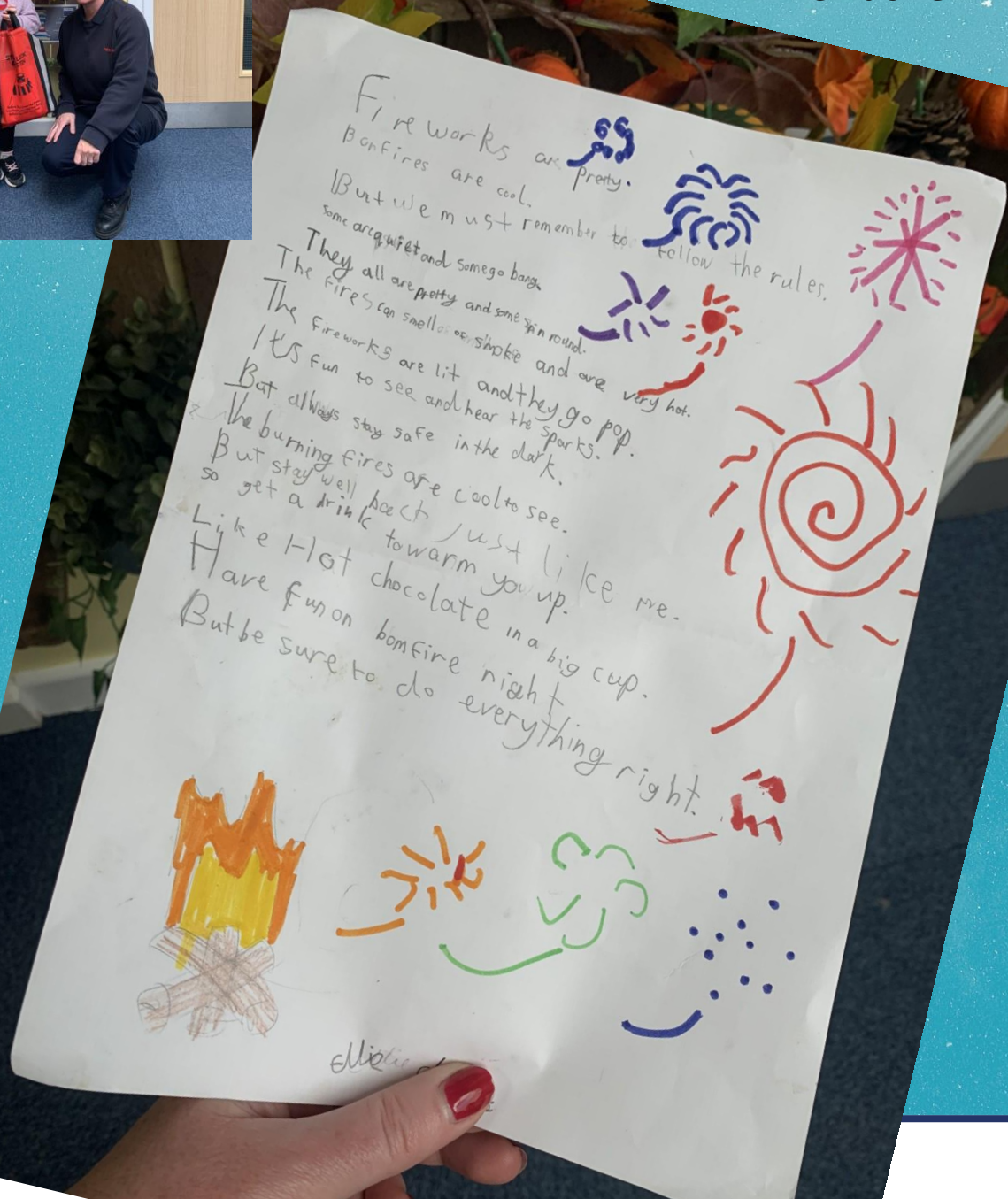
Ella the super scientist was so inspired by the circuits lesson, in science, that she continued her learning at home! Ella has been working on circuits at home and has made ones which turn on light bulbs, dim switches, play music, can tap into the radio and she even made a lie detector! Fantastic Ella, what a role model!

Dream Big Shine Bright



Congratulations to Ellie! She was the very proud winner of Warwickshire Fire and Rescue's competition, having created a wonderful poem about bonfire and firework safety.

Well done Ellie!



Dream Big Shine Bright



What fabulous role models – thank you Samuel, Isabel, Mabel, Ida, Theo, Oscar and Reuben

St. Matthew's Church in Salford Priors held its annual harvest service - however this year things were a little different. The children and youth members of the church were challenged to take over the running of the whole service, instead of the grown-ups. They did absolutely everything, from welcoming people as they arrived to singing and playing in the worship group, being puppeteers for one of the songs, delivering the talk, leading prayers and running the sound desk. They did a really amazing job and we are so proud of them. They took on the challenge, worked as a team and used the gifts they have each been given.



Being busy in Reception



Reception have been learning all about Celebrations. We have been focusing on Diwali and Weddings. The children enjoyed making their own Diva lamps out of playdough and clay. They have also been role playing their own weddings and we were very lucky to have a visit from Rev Katie Cross.



Thank you to Jacob for sharing some wonderful writing linked to their current text.

year
6



Tuesday 21st November 2023




W. Describe a bombed street scene at night:

Try to use:

- Quality vocabulary
- Show, not tell: focus on the senses and reactions to convey the atmosphere

Noise? Smell? What you can/ can't see?

- Metaphor, simile, personification...
- Focus in on detail

One dark night in 1942 a rainy day our town was chaos full of destruction. Every where you looked destruction, ~~chaos~~ chaos, debris it felt like it didn't end. The sky like someone dyed it a bright yellow. Everything you loved just disappeared in front of your eyes we were all heartbroken. The sound of the bombing was deafening like someone blew a whistle right down your ear. All of the houses were ~~disintegrated~~ not one building left in ruins it felt like your worst nightmares. All of our reactions were like all of our favorite people just because of us we couldn't have it. The blitz was the worst thing ever. Just hope they end soon.

✓ (ST)



In History year 6 have been plotting Hitler's invasion of Europe in the run up to The Battle of Britain in 1940



Wednesday 22nd November 2023

ch. 1 - To describe settings, characters and atmosphere in our writing

A fox hopped over the fence and sprinted into the dark. It ~~please~~ inhaled the billowing, acrid smoke which made me wonder what hasn't done. I had just ran into an air raid how stupid ~~was~~ I was. While ~~the~~ everyone is safe in a shelter I was looking for a stupid day but if it had been now I would face the wrath of Mrs. F. I had to do this. I was here I come.

I start to sprint faster than ever, I will find that dog it could this crisis in the distance he wasn't in pain though he seemed happy. How could he be happy? In an air raid! That day was crazy unless he had found Mrs. F. I had to see.

It wasn't Mrs. F. because I would hear her talking at least I hope it isn't Mrs. F. I get closer and closer but I freeze but why I couldn't move. It felt something or someone grabbing my leg. It was Tuesday she dragged me down. ~~relessly~~ There was a plane in every place. I could hear the cries of innocent souls in despair they were close too close. We heard whistling close, cutting nowhere. Boom! "Help me someone!" cried a man I rushed to try help him but Tuesday stopped me and looked to the sky. She knew there were more coming and they were coming now.

We needed to get back to the shelter but if I did it I face the wrath of Mrs. F. so I grabbed Tuesday and started to sprint back into the dark after night. "Come on legs don't give up now," I said to myself. I look up into the sky to see amber. Then all of a sudden, I hear a whistle close to close. I jump back and protect Tuesday. BOOM! "No!" I shout at the top of my lungs "This...e... sh...atter it's gone," I say crying. I have to find Mrs. F. soon. Now!

A brilliant effort, you put me there in your story 2HP ST

Hands on learning in year 6



Science - measuring light using lux meters on Ipad



Maths - practical measuring of mass, capacity & length

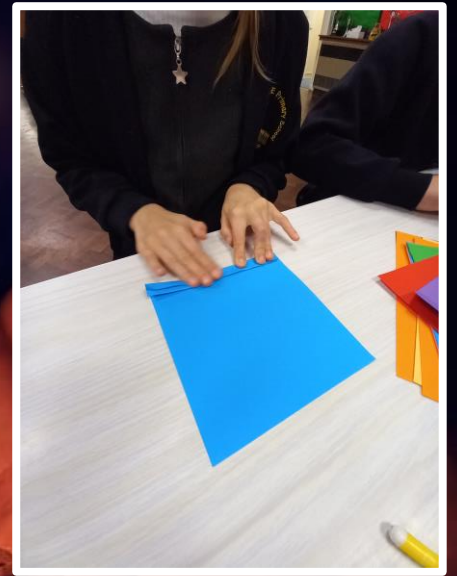


Such eye catching art in our
after school club delivered by
the wonderful Georg from
ArtBase





Celebrating Diwali in wraparound





Thank you to our families and staff for all their generous donations

Please help local people in crisis by buying items from the list below and giving them to the **ARDEN FOODBANK** collection point
Thank You

- ❖ CEREALS
- ❖ BAKED BEANS
- ❖ TINNED VEGETABLES
- POTATOES
- POTATOES
- POWDERED

Thank you!

Arden Food Bank Thanks
St Nicholas Primary School
For collecting food, to help us support those in need in our community.

108.1 kg Autumn 2023
Weight collected Date

ARDEN FOODBANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

The Arden Foodbank is run by local churches in Alcester and Studley. It is designed to help local people in crisis. Clients are referred by professional care workers, with food vouchers, to the local foodbank centre where they receive 3 days supply of food, a cup of coffee and help in finding other organisations that can help them out of their crisis.

The foodbank offers a short-term measure allowing a breathing space at a time of great need

For more information please contact us at ardenfoodbank@gmail.com
or visit our website <http://www.arden.foodbank.org.uk/>

Arden Foodbank, C/O Globe House, Priory Road, Alcester, B49 5DZ



Community involvement... can you create a poppy for our Remembrance display?

Mrs Howl is organising a display for the Foyer which will consist of knitted poppies from lots of members of the school community. The idea being that we can use them this year and then keep adding to them every year. Poppies can be knitted, crocheted, felted or any other way to showcase your creative talents. Ideally, they need to be bigger than the palm of your hand. If using thread, please leave a long thread on the back to enable them to be tied together.

You are welcome to create them in red with a black button in the centre for those who have served and continue to serve in the armed forces, or in other colours to represent the animals that have fallen in conflict.

Below is a knitting pattern for those who wish to create one.



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our project – do take a moment to have a look at the wonderful remembrance display in the main entrance. Thank you to Mrs Howl for creating it!

...needles and

...P2) to end.

...9 (K2tog) to end. [30 sts]

Row 10 (S2kpo) to end. [10 sts]

Break off yarn, leaving a long tail.
Thread tail through remaining 10 sts
and pull tight, then fasten off yarn.

Join the edges of the poppy together
and sew the black button in the centre
of the poppy.

...for this project

...REVIATIONS

...see www.gathered.how





Come and join us for some Festive Fun!

There will be:

Entertainment throughout the day

Artisan Christmas Craft Stalls for that unique perfect gift

Christmas Crafting for the kids in The Learning Bus

Visit our Café for hot and cold drinks, homemade cakes and savouries.



Elf school is back again!

After the success of elf school last year we are running it again this year with new crafts!

You can book tickets by following the link below. We are running the event on Friday 1st, Friday 8th and Friday 15th December, between 4.15 and 6pm.

Tickets are £5 each and only need to be brought for each child attending (parents must accompany them though!)

What's included in the ticket is participation in 3 lessons (craft making and cooking) and a visit to the big man in red himself where they will receive a gift!

All money raised is going to a charity yet to be confirmed.

Please note parking is not available at the school, you will need to park elsewhere.

Book now and enjoy some festive cheer with us!

Feel free to ask any questions by joining our Facebook page by search SBE elf school. <https://sbeelfschool.eventbrite.co.uk>