



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.

St Nicholas C of E Primary School – Newsletter

9th September 2024



Dear Families,

What a wonderful first week of the Autumn term we have had, albeit a bit wetter than we had hoped!

Welcoming back the children in years 1-6, on Tuesday, was a real pleasure. Our new Reception children have begun to settle in beautifully creating fantastic rainbows and crowns as well as hand print keepsakes. Thank you to the Friends for organising Tea and Tissues boxes for the families after their first 'drop off'

A warm welcome to all our new families and new staff including; Mr Horton, our new Caretaker and Mrs Sultana who is joining our support staff team

Many of you will already know that Miss McKelvie's baby made an appearance (finally) her and baby Rory are doing well and she is so grateful for everyone's well wishes.

It has been wonderful to read postcards from the children over the summer and catch up with lots of our families on the gate, hearing all about your summer.

Best wishes,

Mrs Laura Newell
Headteacher



<https://www.facebook.com/AlcesterStNics>

DIARY DATES AUTUMN TERM

Tuesday 10th September

Year 1 family meeting in hall at 9am

Thursday 19th September

Big camp sleepover (Y3)

Friday 20th September

Big Camp OAA activities on field all day (Y3)

Monday 23rd September

Bell boating (6G)

Monday 23rd September

Cadbury World (Y5)

Tuesday 24th September

Bell boating (6A)

Wednesday 25th September

7pm New Reception parents meeting in hall

Monday 30th September

School photos (portraits & siblings)

Friday 4th October

OPAL family session from 1.30pm

Tuesday 15th October 2024

Prospective families 2025 Open morning (book on website)

Tuesday 22nd October 2024

Heart of England visit (3L)

Wednesday 23rd October 2024

Heart of England visit (3H)

23rd & 24th October 2024

Parents consultations (information to follow on StudyBugs)

Friday 25th October 2024

INSET day – school closed to children
Staff training

St Nicholas C of E Primary School

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Opal Newsletter

We are into our second full year of implementing OPAL play and what a success it has been! More children are loving being outside, no matter what the weather, as there is now so much more to do. Whether it is playing with tyres and planks, digging in the sand pit or enjoying imaginative play in the mud café. OPAL is offering a creative and exciting alternative to the regular activities on the playground.

Through this kind of play not only are children more active, they are also having the opportunity to further develop life skills such as cooperation, team work and problem solving. They are becoming motivated and enthusiastic builders, engineers, explorers and designers.

Thank you for your support with:-

- Sending your child in with appropriate warm/waterproof clothing and wellies.
- Donating small world creatures, cars, pots and pans etc. for the creative play.
- Supporting OPAL by asking your child about their play and accepting that they may get dirty... Some parents have been sending in spare clothes with their child – please feel free to do this.

RESOURCES

We are continually collecting resources for Opal. If you have anything that may be useful, please let us know.



SCOOTERS/GO KARTS - We are always in need of ride on vehicles and scooters for our 'Scooter Zone'.

SEND INCLUSION



WELCOME BACK



For families who are new, my name is Hannah Allen the Assistant Head and SENCo (Inclusion Lead) at St Nicholas Primary School. It is lovely to welcome both familiar and new families into our school community for an exciting new year ahead. Our regular Coffee Mornings continue to be a success. The first meet up of this year is Tuesday 1st October at 9am. Over the coming weeks, please come and say hello and if you have any questions or worries regarding your child/ren, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Tuesday 1st October

Arrive from **9am**
Approx. – 1.5 hours

Our first coffee morning gives us the opportunity to catch-up and come together following the summer holidays. If you're a new family joining our school, a parent/carer of a child with additional needs or member of the school community looking to build their social network, please feel free to pop along.

Focus:

- Discuss what's on offer for support in Warwickshire (recap on what's available)
- Ask questions or advice about something specific
- Meet new people in a relaxed and friendly environment

Dream Big Shine Bright

Fantastic new planner design

A huge CONGRATULATIONS to Alice in year 6! Alice created a wonderful design for the front cover of our school planners, I am sure you will join us in thanking Alice for her creativity.

This year there were some fantastic designs, such a hard choice but Alice's was the chosen one!



Dream Big Shine Bright

What a donation!

During the summer Iris made an incredible donation to the Little Princess Trust. She donated 12 inches of her hair. Iris, we are all so proud of you!



For more information about the work of the trust please click the link below.

<https://www.littleprincesses.org.uk/>

Important updates for Parents and Carers

PPA kit this half term	
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	Reception - sport 5G – Forest school 5W – Swimming and Spanish 6G – Music and Sport 6A – Music and Sport
Thursday	1K – Forest school 1B – Spanish and swimming 2O – Music and Sport 2W – Music and Sport
Thursday	3H – Forest school 3L – Swimming and Spanish 4H – Music and sport 4J – Music and sport

Holiday / Leave of Absence Requests

As per Government guidance, all holiday requests will be unauthorised unless the circumstances are deemed exceptional by the Head Teacher. Please see guidance on Warwickshire website for further information

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/school-attendance-exclusions/school-attendance-guidance-parentscarers>

Should you wish to request leave of absence for your child(ren) please complete our electronic form.

<https://forms.office.com/r/2jbNUFCAda>

From September, Mrs Newell's job title will be changing and will be Headteacher. This is because Mr Walsh will no longer be the Executive Headteacher but will continue to support the school through his role as CEO of the Arden Forest C of E MAT. In September, the Arden Forest MAT will grow to 10 schools when St Nicholas C of E Primary School, Kenilworth join. This change will not have any impact on the day-to-day running of the school.

Important updates for Parents and Carers



Breaktime Snacks years 3-6

Children in Year 3-6 can bring a snack into school for break time. This snack needs to be fruit or veg please.

Suggestions: a piece of fruit, vegetable sticks, dried fruit

We will also continue to provide fresh fruit for the KS2 children to ensure that there is plenty of choice.



Packed lunches

If children are bringing a packed lunch to school please be aware we have several children and staff who have specific food allergies, particularly NUTS. We therefore ask all parents who prepare packed lunches for their children not to include any nut products, e.g. Peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches or nutty snack bars.

Thank you.



Community Pantry

The pantry is up and running again and will be filled most mornings (Tuesday-Friday) open times are 8.30am and 2.30pm

Please take what you need, remember to bring a reusable bag please!

A reminder that children need to arrive at school between 8.40am and 8.45am

Reception, year 1 and 2 finish their school day at 3.10pm

Year 3, 4, 5, and 6 finish at 3.15pm



Online Safety Newsletter

Sept 2024

Need app ideas?

Internet Matters have curated a list of age-appropriate apps depending on what your aim is when your child is spending time online:

Skill Building apps:

If you would like to help your child develop a new skill, then you might find some useful ideas here:

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

Apps to keep your child entertained:

These apps are organised into age groups so you can find an app that is suitable for your child:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/13-great-apps-to-keep-your-kids-amused-in-the-school-holidays/>

Apps to help get your child active:

Again, these apps are organised by age group:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide/apps-to-help-kids-get-active/>

Wellbeing apps:

These apps are organised by topic such as sleep aids or managing anxiety and will help your child develop an understanding of how to look after their own wellbeing:

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

Social Media Algorithms

What is an Algorithm?

Algorithms influence what we see on social media platforms and predicts what type of content we are most likely to interact with, thereby keeping us online for longer. The algorithm uses information such as who you follow, what you have searched for and what you have watched, liked or shared to determine what it thinks most interests you, to then show you this content more, for example, in the explore tab on Instagram.



What do I need to know?

Whilst there are benefits to algorithms, for example it means we tend to see content that does interest us, unfortunately there are negatives as well. They can lead to increased screentime as we continue to see things that interest us. Secondly, it can lead to users being shown large amounts of inappropriate content which can exacerbate negative body image or heighten access to misogyny content. It can also lead to 'echo chambers' where you are only seeing content that relates to your opinion rather than seeing a balanced viewpoint.

The Family Online Safety Institute discuss algorithms in more detail as well as tips for you to help your child, such as how to reset their algorithm:

<https://www.fosi.org/good-digital-parenting/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-social-media-algorithms>

WhatsApp: chat lock/secret code

You must be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp. Did you know that you can lock chats as well as apply a secret code setting? If a user locks a chat, then the chat will appear at the top under locked chats but cannot be viewed without your device password or biometric (face id/fingerprint). Furthermore though, a user can apply an additional setting to hide the locked chat (so it does not appear in their chat list and can only be accessed via the search bar). Whilst this feature adds privacy, it can make it difficult to monitor what your child is doing on WhatsApp, which is why it is important to have regular chats with your child.

Snapchat

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. **You must be 13+ to sign up.** Users can send messages (snaps) to others that can only be seen for a set time e.g., 10 seconds and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

What should I be concerned about?

Risks of using Snapchat include your child viewing content that is not appropriate for them, location sharing and contact from strangers.

NEW safeguarding features

Snapchat have recently announced their newest features to help protect 13-17-year-olds. The features include seeing a warning message if they receive a chat from someone who has been blocked/reported by others. Also, if a teen blocks a user, it will also now block any future friend requests sent from accounts created on the same device (to reduce the potential of bullying). **These two features are available to users aged 13-17-year-olds, this is one of the reasons why it is always important for your child to sign up with their correct date of birth, so they can benefit from such features.** You can find out more as well as about the other new features here: <https://values.snap.com/news/new-features-to-help-protect-our-community?lang=en-GB>

Family Centre

Family Centre is a set of parental controls designed to help you see what your child is doing when using Snapchat. You must have your own Snapchat account to set it up. Family Centre allows you to see who your child is friends with, who they are communicating with (not the contents of conversations though) and who your child has sent messages, photos or videos to in the last week. You will also be able to report any accounts that you are concerned about as well as restrict sensitive content. Snapchat have published a safety checklist to help support conversations about how to use Snapchat safely: <https://parents.snapchat.com/parental-controls>

Safety tips

Please make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up on Snapchat and your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7012343074580-How-do-I-change-my-privacy-settings-on-Snapchat>

More information

Parent Zone have published a short 5-minute guide here: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/snapchat>



Check in on an iPhone

On iOS 17, you can use check in to let others know when you have arrived at a destination. When using check in, it monitors your journey and notifies the other person when you arrive at your destination or if you are not progressing as you should.

You can also use it to specify a period of time so if you are meeting somebody new then you can set a timer and if you don't end the Check In before this time then the other person is notified.

You can find out how to use this feature here: <https://support.apple.com/en-in/guide/iphone/iphc143bb7e9/ios>

Discussing distressing news

Following on from the recent awful events in Southport, INEQUE Safeguarding Group have published an article to help you when discussing distressing news with your child. The article also includes a downloadable resource that children can read when news becomes overwhelming for them.

Find out more here: <https://ineqe.com/2024/08/02/discussing-distressing-news-events-with-children>

Family Quiz for Online Wellbeing Tips

The NSPCC have created a quiz that can be completed as a family to help you have discussions together and find out about the NSPCC's top tips for positive online wellbeing.

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