



Dream big, shine bright

St NICHOLAS
C of E Primary School, Alcester

Weekly What's On

w/c 17th March 2025

Whole school Reminders

Platinum Award Winning	We Did It! We've achieved Platinum OPAL Award. We are absolutely thrilled to announce that our school has been awarded the Platinum OPAL Award for outstanding play opportunities! 🏆✨ Putting us in the top 2% of the country! This incredible achievement is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and passion of our staff, children and wider school community. Through teamwork and commitment, we have transformed playtimes, ensuring our children enjoy high-quality, inclusive, and imaginative play every day. A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to this journey. 🎉💙 Also a special thank you to AV interactive for their amazing drone video. Check out our little celebratory video https://www.alcesterstnicholas.co.uk/opal-play/ We are also in the Stratford Herald!! See below.
Drop off and collection time	We kindly ask that you remain with your child, making sure they do not wander off, at both drop-off and collection times. This helps us to maintain a safe environment and ensures that children are supervised until they enter the school premises or leave safely. The school grounds can be busy during these times, and it's crucial to keep an eye on your child to prevent any accidents. We also ask that children refrain from using the play equipment during drop-off and collection times. This equipment is only to be used under the supervision of our staff during school hours to ensure safe play. Please can you ensure scooters and bikes are not ridden on both playgrounds at these times.
Football kit funding	We are looking for any local companies who would be interested in sponsoring some new kit for our Girls Football team. If you would be willing to contribute towards this, please do get in touch with the school office via email: admin3595@welearn365.com
Red Nose Day 21/03/2025	We are excited to announce that our school will be participating in Comic Relief this year, and we're aiming to make it a fun and meaningful event for everyone involved.



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<u>Advanced notice</u>	Children are required to wear their school uniform but they are encouraged to add a splash of red to their outfits. They can wear: • A red nose • A red dot on their nose • Red accessories (such as hair bobbles, scarves, badges, hats etc) If you wish to donate, please do so by clicking the link below to our just giving page. Unfortunately, we cannot accept cash. https://www.justgiving.com/page/laura-newell-2?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL
Spring Disco 21/03/2025	Tickets are on sale! 3-4PM - Reception, YR1 + YR2 (Reception, YR1 + YR2 will be required to take disco clothes with them to change into at school. All children attending will be taken directly to the disco at the end of school, to be picked up at 4pm.) 4-5PM - YR3 + YR4 5-6PM - YR5 + YR6 Live DJ, Tattoo Station, Snack Bag Cost £5.00 - Tickets to be purchased prior to the event. Sales end 7pm on the 19th March 2025. QR code will be emailed to be scanned on arrival. Drop off at main school office, pick up on normal end of day playgrounds. If you have children in multiple years, please drop off first, then pick up. Please note this disco is only open to pupils who attend the school. Any outer clothing needs to go home with those dropping off as we are unable to store them. If you are able to help out at this event please contact us via messenger through our Facebook page, Friends of Alcester St. Nicholas CofE Primary. Tickets can be purchase below: https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friends-of-stnicholas/index.cfm
Head lice and nits	Head lice and nits are very common in young children. Please ensure you check your child's hair regularly. The NHS website is full of advice, should you need it.



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	https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/
Assembly	This week is for KS1
Coming up next week	
Reception	Stay and Play. All Reception families welcome. 9.00 am to 10.00 am on Thursday 20th March 2025 Tempest Photographers will be in school on the morning of Monday 31st March to take photos of the children in Reception and Year 6. Please can children come to school on that day in smart school uniform.
Year 1	Wednesday 19 th March 2025 – Motor Museum Trip – please refer to letter for further details.
Year 2	Big Camp – a polite reminder that the 2 nd instalment for Big Camp is due by Monday 31st March please. If you have yet to sign your child up for this exciting event, please give consent and pay the £10 deposit on ParentPay as soon as possible to reserve their place, thank you.
Year 3	Heart of England Forest Visits – please see letter of 10 th March and give consent for your child on ParentPay by Friday 21st March 2025.
Year 4	Edgmond Hall – please complete the ' Edgmond Hall Visit 2025 – Consents & Emergency Contacts ' form by Friday 21st March , thank you. See letter of 10 th March for further information.
Year 6	Mock SATS all week. Boreatton Park – a reminder that the due date for the final payment for Boreatton Park is Monday 31st March. If you have an outstanding amount we would be grateful if the trip could be paid for in full on ParentPay by this date, thank you. Any concerns please contact us via Studybugs or email. Tempest Photographers will be in school on the morning of Monday 31st March to take photos of the children in Reception and Year 6. Please can children come to school on that day in smart school uniform. Don't forget to consent to your child's Year 6 Leavers Book and Hoody https://forms.office.com/e/Qj96Y1111r All details are on the letter dated 7th March 2025.



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Other news

Useful Links

Our Facebook page

https://www.facebook.com/AlcesterStNics/?locale=en_GB

Our calendar <https://www.alcesterstnicholas.co.uk/diary/grid/2024/11/>

News <https://www.alcesterstnicholas.co.uk/topic/news-and-events>



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FRIENDS OF ST. NICHOLAS' PRIMARY
SCHOOL PRESENTS

THE SCHOOL DISCO

FRIDAY
MARCH 21ST

TICKETS £5 VIA PTA EVENTS

3-4 PM | R. Y1 + Y2

4-5 PM | Y3 + Y4

5-6 PM | Y5 + Y6

DROP OFF AT MAIN SCHOOL OFFICE, PICK UP FROM USUAL PLAYGROUND



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EASTER MULTI SPORTS CLUB

VENUE: ST NICHOLAS C of E PRIMARY

DATES: TUES 22nd WED 23rd THURS 24th Fri 25th April

TIME: **DROP OFF** 8.45am – 9 am

PICK UP 3pm – 3.15pm

COST: £19 per day

£9 for half a day 9am-12pm or 12pm-3pm

Limited spaces

Payment can be made by cash or bank transfer, please ask for details.

Contact Dave Geden 07990972762 or davidgeden@hotmail.co.uk



Children are required to wear suitable clothing for a wide range of sports. Children may bring football boots and shin pads as football will be one of the sports played. Children are required to bring packed lunch and drinks to the course. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY FOOD CONTAINING NUTS.**

Aims are to introduce, adapt and improve skills in a wide range of Sports e.g. Football, Tennis, Basketball, Cricket, Hockey, Tag rugby, Netball, Archery, Kan Jam and many more. With the emphasis on fun and participation.



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NEWS



■ Children at St Nicholas CofE Primary School, in Alcester, celebrating the Opal Platinum Award with head of school Laura Newell, outdoor play and learning lead Anita Hartley and play lead Emma Price.

Photo: Mark Williamson

School where play is at platinum level

By PATRICK HOLLIS

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PLAYTIME has been given a bigger focus at one Alcester school... and brought national recognition.

A change in culture has led to St Nicholas' CofE Primary School being given the Opal (Outdoor Play and Learning) Platinum award, recognition that puts the school in the top two per cent in the country.

Over the last two years the school has placed increased importance on playtime, with equipment going from a flat football to the likes of go-karts and den building.

Anita Hartley, the outdoor play and learning mental health lead at St Nicholas, said the school was ahead of potential moves for Ofsted to inspect play in schools.

"Ofsted are now saying they need to start inspecting play in school, because many schools aren't advocating play or don't see play as being a priority in school," she said.

"We took it on board even before Ofsted had made this announcement. We decided we want to improve the quality of play. Maths,

English and science are obviously always key. Play doesn't get the same sort of recognition or status, but it does here now. It's on our school improvement plan.

"We've had to change the culture of our school, which is quite hard, and show how we value play. They say now play is 20 per cent of the school day, but it's not given that priority in school because it's normally [supervised by] unqualified staff.

"We've trained all our staff to be play work members.

"When [OPAL] first came and assessed us our play was just a skipping rope and a flat football, there wasn't much going on. Now, we do parkour, which is in our den building area, we've got go-karts and scooter zones and plenty of role play and imagination."

Anita added: "I had two children interviewing the lady who was doing the accreditation. They had wooden blocks as microphones and one had a big spring as a cameraman, so that was just them doing it themselves.

"There's social areas, water plays. We've got so much going on across the site, and the

children are free to roam wherever they want to. It's all free choice. It's driven by them.

"We have dancing, we've got music on every day, so they dance and sing. We have a crossing of genders, so boys are dressing up in fancy dress costumes, even princess dresses, it's all just being really creative with any resources they can find around the site."

To get the platinum accreditation the school needed to receive 90 per cent when marked by OPAL, and they achieved 97 per cent.

The recognition comes following calls from the Raise the Nation Play Commission for Ofsted to assess schools on how much time is given to children for play, helping to keep children healthy both mentally and physically.

According to the latest figures from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, as of November 2024 nine per cent of Reception students in the Henley, Studley, and Alcester area were obese. This rises to 17 per cent for Year 6 pupils.