



Dream big, shine bright

St NICHOLAS

C of E Primary School, Alcester

Weekly What's On

w/c 5th January 2026

Whole school Reminders	
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!	As we come to the end of another busy and memorable term, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, kindness and generosity. Our staff have been truly touched by the many kind words, thoughtful cards, gifts and festive wishes shared at this time of year. As we wrap up the term, we hope the Christmas break provides time for rest, joy and precious moments together. On behalf of all our staff, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year and continuing our work together. With warmest wishes, The St Nics Staff Team
TED Day 5th January 2026	Monday 5th January is a teacher training day at school, we look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday 6th January.
The real nativity came to school for the last day of term.....see our Facebook page. Children had a wonderful time.....it was definitely an unforgettable experience.	  



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Caregiver Helpline – Letter and guidance messaged separately on StudyBugs	Inspiring Educational Excellence for Everyone ARDENforest C of E Multi Academy Trust Postal address: St Nicholas C of E Primary School, St Faith's Road, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6AG Telephone 01789 713233 Email: info@ardenforestmat.org CEO: Mr Adam Walsh CFO: Mrs Sophie Carthy COO: Dr Amanda Dale Dear Parents and Carers, Thank you to everyone who took part in the Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust Parent Experience Survey earlier this year. We were delighted that 609 parents and carers across our 10 schools contributed their views, helping us to better understand what is working well and where we can further strengthen our partnership with you. Your responses highlighted positive relationships built on mutual trust and respect and strong confidence in our staff's ability to support and safeguard pupils. However, you also told us that there are areas where we can do more—particularly in improving how the MAT supports families and how we respond to concerns or questions relating to wellbeing. One theme that emerged strongly across the survey was the need for timely, accessible and high-quality support for parents and carers, especially when children are experiencing emotional or wellbeing challenges. In response to this feedback, and as part of our ongoing commitment to support every child and every family, we are pleased to announce the launch of a new Parent and Caregiver Helpline through Howdens Insurance and Health Assured. From today, all parents and carers across the MAT will have free, confidential access to a dedicated 24/7 helpline, designed to offer guidance, reassurance and expert advice whenever you need it. This service is available 365 days a year, including evenings, weekends and school holidays. Trained counsellors are on hand to provide you with immediate advice on a wide range of concerns affecting children or young people, including: • Anxiety and worries about school or friendships • Social phobias or low confidence • Depression or persistent sadness • Eating disorders • Risk-taking behaviours, including substance use • Suicidal thoughts or self-harm • ADHD or behavioural concerns They support you as the caregiver, recognising the emotional challenges that can come with supporting a child. Counsellors can also advise on: • How to speak to your child about difficult topics • How to identify triggers or stressors affecting your child • Sourcing counselling or medical support • When to involve your GP • Signposting to support available in school and beyond Parents also have access to the free Wisdom, health and mental wellbeing app. The app is designed to help you track your wellness and support your mental health and resilience. All of the information you need is included in the attached flyer. We wish all of our parents and carers across the MAT a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Mr Adam Walsh CEO The Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 01228852 Registered Office: St Nicholas Primary School, St Faith's Road, Alcester, B49 6AG
PPA Arrangement – Spring One	Make sure you check out your child's class page for PPA arrangements for Spring One. https://www.alcesterstnicholas.co.uk/class-pages/
Admission Arrangements 2027-28	CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2027 As required by the Admissions Code, we are seeking your views on the proposed admissions policy for 2027-28 as part of the requirement to consult every seven years. A period of consultation will run from 12th December 2025 until 23rd January 2026.



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	A copy of the proposed admissions policy is available on the school's website: https://www.alcesterstnicholas.co.uk/ for your information. Alternatively, if you require a hard copy please contact the school office. Comments should be received no later than 4pm on 23rd January 2026.
Reminder – Do not park on the zig-zag markings outside school.	
Panda Club Competition	PANDA COMPETITION!! CAN YOU IMPRESS US?  Write a fact file with pictures and facts about pandas (not red pandas) to get an awesome prize. Feel free to add anything you want. The time you've got to bring it in for it to be entered is the first week after Christmas term. If you've got an entry hand it in to Mrs Newell. Good luck!! The children in Panda Club have created a competition which is open to all children. The closing date is Friday 9th January 2026. Good luck!
Don't forget to apply for your child's Reception '26 place	You need to apply for September 2026 if your child: • was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 (for a place in Reception). The applications process is open and the deadline for applying for a Reception place is 15 January 2026. If you apply by this date, you will receive your child's school offer on National Offer Day (16 April 2026). Applications made after this date will be classified as late and not considered until after 16 April 2026, by which time many schools will be full and you are much less likely to be offered a place at your preferred school.



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Activity Clubs and Wraparound	We still have availability on the majority of our activity clubs for Spring term 26. Please log on to your Childcare Online Booking account, to reserve and pay for your child to attend the club of their choice. Details regarding our offerings with SJ Academy are attached below. Bookings for our Spring term Wraparound care at St Nicholas CofE Primary are now live! We're excited to offer you the chance to secure your child's place and take advantage of our early booking discount. <i>Please note:</i> • If full payment has not cleared by the end of January, your booking will unfortunately be cancelled on our system and the early booking discount will no longer apply.
Message from Jen Hopkins – Children & Families Worker	As Christmas approaches, we'd love to invite you and your family to join us for some special gatherings this season. There are lots of opportunities to come together and celebrate all that Christmas means. Below you will find details of our family Christmas Eve services across the Minster. 📍 St Nick's @9 📅 Sunday 21st December ⌚ 9:00am - 📍 St Nicholas Church Theme: David - The Unlikely King! At St Nick's @9, we'll be focusing on David, the king who points us to the King of Kings. We'll discover how God chose an unlikely shepherd boy and kept His promises, leading us forward to Christmas and to Jesus, the Son of David, the promised King who brings lasting peace. The service includes short retellings of David's story and time for everyone - children, teens and adults - to explore what they've heard through hands-on prayer activities around the church. It's a warm, informal and accessible space to reflect and respond together as a family. As always, we would love to welcome you all, so why not set the alarm, get up a little earlier this Sunday, and join us for pastries at breakfast time as we share more of the Good News together? If you're feeling nervous about coming for the first time, please be assured that we're warm, friendly, and we are always delighted to welcome new faces!



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Our Christmas Eve Services:

This Christmas Eve, there are a variety of Christmas services for you and your family to enjoy.

From our Crib Service at St Nicholas Church, where children are warmly invited to take part (fancy dress is always welcome and we can never have too many Marys, angels, or wise young people!), to Family Carols at Great Alne and the Christingle Service at St Peter's Church in Coughton, there really is something for every family to enjoy on Christmas Eve.

And, for anyone who may be longing for a few quiet moments of peace and reflection amid the busyness of the season, you would be very welcome at our 11.15 pm Christmas Eve Communion at St Nicholas Church. It is a calm and prayerful way to begin Christmas, filled with the presence of the Spirit.

I wish you and your family a peaceful, joy-filled Christmas season, full of moments to cherish and a deep sense of God's love and hope and look forward to celebrating with you soon!

Please do follow my Facebook profile - Alcester Minster Jen - and the Alcester Minster Children & Families page for regular updates and information posts.

Every blessing.

Jen Hopkins
Children & Families Worker"

Coming up next week

Reception	
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	Final Payment Due Friday 9th January 2026 – Edmond Hall A polite reminder that the final payment of £70 is due on ParentPay by Friday 9 th January please. If you have an outstanding balance from previous



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	instalments we would be grateful if the total amount is paid please. Any problems please let us know on admin3595@welearn365.com . Thank you.
Year 5	Young Voices Concert – Wednesday 7th January 2026 We are looking forward to the concert! Please see our email of 17 th December 2025 for important information regarding the event. If you purchased audience tickets you must download these on the AXS app prior to the concert, as the venue will not allow entry to the event without them.
Year 6	Next Instalment Due Friday 9th January 2026 – Boreatton Park A polite reminder that the next instalment of £90 is due on ParentPay by Friday 9 th January please. This will bring the amount paid so far to £280, if you have an outstanding balance from previous instalments we would be grateful if it could be brought up to date please. Any problems please let us know on admin3595@welearn365.com . Thank you.
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
Vacancies	Arden Forest MAT have a job vacancy for a Community Ambassador. This can be viewed on their website. Link below. https://arden-forest-c-of-e-multi-academy-trust.secure-primariesite.net/vacancies/ We are looking for a KS2 Teaching Assistant. This can be view on our website. https://www.alcesterstnicholas.co.uk/vacancies/



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Diary Dates

We thought it would be helpful to share the diary dates for the whole year. Please note: they are subject to change

Spring

Date	Time	info
05.01.2026	All day	Inset day
06.01.2026	All day	Children return to school
07.01.2026	PM	Year 5 – young voices
12.01.2026	2 – 3 pm	Year 4 MTC parent workshop
20.01.2026	All day	Year 2 trip to Coventry cathedral
03.02.2026	AM	Reception church visit – mock wedding
13.02.2026		Break up for half term
Half term 16.02.2026 to 20.02.2026		
23.02.2026		Children return to school
02.03.2026	All day	Height and weight (Rec pm/year 6 am)
10.03.2026	TBC	Year 5 experience Easter at church
18.03.2026	4-7pm	Parents consultations
19.03.2026	4-7pm	Parents consultations
19.03.2026	Am	Easter service at church (year 5) with year 5 families
25.03.2026	All day	Year 4 Edgmond hall
26.03.2026	All day	Year 4 Edgmond hall
27.03.2026	All day	Year 4 Edgmond hall
27.03.2026		Children break up from school
Easter break – 30.03.2026 -10.04.2026		

Summer

Date	Time	info
13.04.2026	All day	Return to school
04.05.2026		Bank holiday – May Day
05.05.2026	Am	Year 1 church visit – Creation
06.05.2026	All day	Reception School Trip
11.05.2026	All week	SATs week
22.05.2026		Children break up
Half term break – 25.05.2026 to 29.05.2026		
01.06.2026	All day	Teacher Training day
08.06.2026	All week	Year 4 MTC all week



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	All week	Phonics screening year 1 and year 2 retakes
09.06.2026	Am	Year 2 Church visit – world views
24.06.2026	All day	Year 6 PGL
25.06.2026	All day	Year 6 PGL
02.07.2026	Pm	Big Camp – year 2
03.07.2026	All day	Big Camp – year 2
07.07.2026	Am	Year 6 Church visit – worldviews/truth
10.07.2026	All day	Reports out to families Leavers festival (provisional date)
15.07.2026	4pm	Optional parents' consultations (families call office to book)
17.07.2026	Pm	Leavers performance/awards (TBC)
17.07.2026		Last Day of term
Break up for summer		
20.07.2026	All day	INSET day



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WILL YOU BE ALONE THIS
CHRISTMAS DAY?
NEW TO THE AREA AND WANT TO MEET
NEW FRIENDS?
IF SO, JOIN US FOR THE
**ALCESTER COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER**

**ERIC PAYNE COMMUNITY CENTRE
OFF ST. FAITHS ROAD
ALCESTER
B49 6AG**

THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER 2025

CALL US OR EMAIL FOR YOUR INVITATION
07414 851644 ALCESTERCHRISTMASDINNER@GMAIL.COM

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Can you spare an hour or two on Christmas Day,
or a few hours prior to the big day?

call
07414
851644

email
alcesterchristmasdinner@gmail.com



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JOY

Crib Service

St Nicholas Church, Alcester

*Good News of Great Joy
Come and Celebrate with Us This Christmas*

**Wednesday 24th December
5pm**



 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**



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CHRISTMAS MULTI SPORTS CLUB



DQ SPORTS

VENUE: ST NICHOLAS C of E PRIMARY

DATES: **MON 22nd, TUES 23rd DECEMBER**

AGES: Reception Years – 12 Years

TIME: **DROP OFF** 8.45am – 9 am

PICK UP 3pm – 3.15pm

COST: £19 per day

£10 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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SPRING TERM WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMMES 2025 - 2026

Workshop/ Programme	Date and Time	Venue
Working it Out 4 week programme	12th January 9:30 - 11:30	Virtual
Solihull Approach 10 week programme	13th January 9:00 - 11:00	Whitnash Primary School
Understanding Your Teenager	13th January 13:00 - 15:00	North Leamington Secondary School
Sleep	14th January 9:30 - 11:30	Virtual
Solihull Approach 10 week programme	16th January 09:30 - 11:30	Virtual
Parenting Together	19th January 17:30 - 19:30	Virtual
Understanding Children's Behaviour	21st January 9:30 - 11:30	St Paul's C of E Primary School
Understanding Children's Behaviour	26th January 13:15 - 15:00	Barford St Peter's C of E Primary School
Boundaries and Rules	27th January 13:00 - 15:00	North Leamington Secondary School
Sleep and Routines	4th February 09:30 - 11:30	St Paul's C of E Primary School
Parenting Together	6th February 12:30 - 14:30	Virtual



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Workshop/ Programme	Date and Time	Venue
Understanding Children's Behaviour	9th February 09:30 - 11:30	St Joseph's Primary School
Boundaries and Rules	11th February 9:30 - 11:30	St Paul's Primary School
Sleep and Routines	17th February 10:00 - 12:00	Virtual
Understanding Children's Behaviour	18th February 09:30 - 11:30	Virtual
Understanding Your Teenager	19th February 13:30 - 15:30	Virtual



**Book your
free place**

For Warwickshire
parents only.

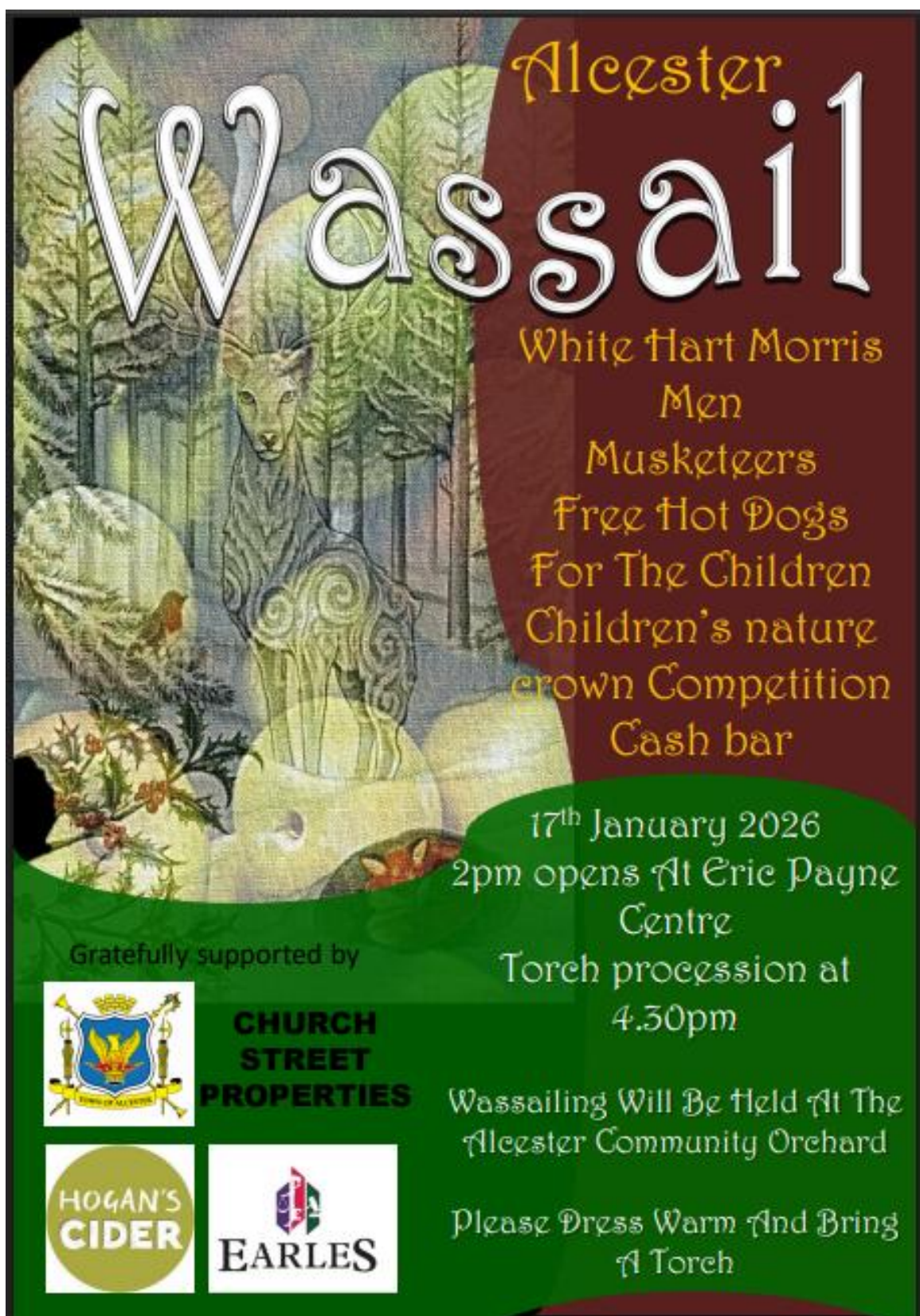
For further information about this
programme please email
ehparenttrainers@warwickshire.gov.uk



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Alcester Wassail

White Hart Morris
Men
Musketiers
Free Hot Dogs
For The Children
Children's nature
crown Competition
Cash bar

17th January 2026
2pm opens At Eric Payne
Centre
Torch procession at
4.30pm

Gratefully supported by



**CHURCH
STREET
PROPERTIES**



**HOGAN'S
CIDER**



EARLES

Wassailing Will Be Held At The
Alcester Community Orchard

Please Dress Warm And Bring
A Torch



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DANCE AND CHEERLEADING
CLASSES

At St Nicholas C of E
Primary School

SPRING
TERM
2026

EVERY WEDNESDAY
STARTING 14TH JANUARY - 3:20-4:20PM
YEAR 1-6 WELCOME

*Come and join us for some dance and cheerleading with our
pom poms and gymnastic equipment. As well as performances,
games and routines!*
We also bring our inflatable air track

Certificates of recognition given out weekly

SIGN UP NOW OPEN TO JOIN

 07790765567
 sjacademy@outlook.com
 sjacademyofexcellence.co.uk





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GYMNASTIC BEFORE SCHOOL
CLUB!

At St Nicholas C of E
Primary School

SPRING
TERM
2026

EVERY MONDAY MORNING STARTING 12TH
JANUARY - 8-8:45AM
YEAR 1-6 WELCOME

*Come and join us for some gymnastics learning tricks and flips
with our inflatable bouncy air track and gym equipment! As
well as performances, games and routines!*

Certificates of recognition given out weekly

SIGN UP NOW OPEN TO JOIN

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JOY

Great Alne Family Carols

St Mary Magdalen Church, Great Alne

Good News of Great Joy
Come and Celebrate with Us This Christmas

Wednesday 24th December
3pm

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

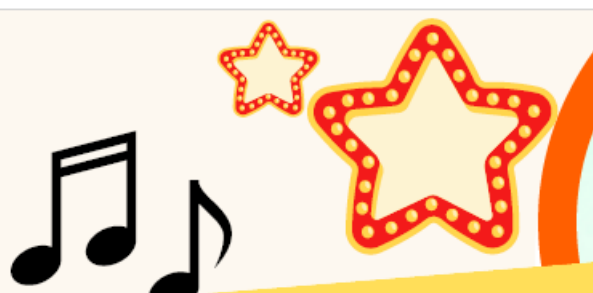




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MUSICAL THEATRE CLASSES

At St Nicholas C of E
Primary School



JOIN US IN
JANUARY!

**EVERY FRIDAY STARTING 16TH JANUARY -
3:20-4:20PM**

YEAR 1-6 WELCOME

*Come and join us for some acting, singing and dancing. As
well as performances, games and routines!*

Certificates of recognition given out weekly

EMAIL US FOR MORE DETAILS!

SIGN UP NOW OPEN TO JOIN

