

# St Nicholas School Newsletter

## April 2023

Please add [m.lindsay@stns.org.uk](mailto:m.lindsay@stns.org.uk) to your address book.



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our May newsletter, whilst waiting for the sun to decide to make an appearance this month, school life is as busy as ever with plenty to look forwards to in the summer term.

We had a fantastic turnout for the Easter Egg hunt which the PTFA organised prior to the Easter break and thank you to everyone that supported this event. Your contributions into school, alongside the raffle prizes and attendance at the event helped to raise over £1200 for the PTFA to support the school. Mandy and her team did a fantastic job and the weather, whilst looking a little bit iffy in the lead up to the event, was kind to enable us to utilise our outdoor spaces.

At this point I will also re-mention one of our amazing foster carers, who also supports the PTFA, Sarah. Sarah is going to 'brave the shave' as a fundraising exercise for St Nicholas school, this was mentioned in our last newsletter, but the day is coming ever closer now. Sarah is going to shave her head this month to raise money for St Nicholas. Sarah is aiming to raise £1000 and currently is sitting on £740, but I'm sure if we all get behind her, we will be able to smash that target. Please support this exceptionally kind and selfless act by Sarah by clicking on her Just Giving page. <https://www.justgiving.com>

We have received a number of questions regarding the pathway structure that we have implemented at the school, this has been further expanded and embedded since my arrival and has increased to six.

The six pathways now in school are intended to be able to meet the need of our learners, provide suitable peer groups and enable our pupils to maximise their individual potential as they move through the school.

Pathways are not set in stone for a learner as they move through the school. All our young people develop and progress in different ways so there is the ability for pupils to move between pathways as they move through the school.

At the entry point and earliest ages is our Early Years pathway. We have extended this pathway so, for most learners, this will include Reception Year and Year 1. This is based around developing characteristics of effective learning through play and experiential learning, whilst also developing early reading and behaviours for learning.

Once a child reaches Year 2 there are four pathways which each offer a different curriculum model and learning experience for pupils.

## Cedar Pathway



Cedar pathway is a sensory based curriculum committed to enabling students to have opportunities to experience a holistic curriculum (SHINE) focused around developing a functional and purposeful communication system that allows them to make choices, decisions and share their opinions and feelings. Central to this will be ensuring that the individuals health and wellbeing needs of each learner are promoted throughout their day enabling them to develop and maintain their independence as much as possible.

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## Willow Pathway



Willow pathway is a practical skills-based curriculum with a focus on developing functional life skills to enable and prepare our learners to be as independent and confident as possible. Students within the Willow pathway will develop a sense of curiosity and enquiry in the world around them, becoming successful and confident learners. Learning environments on the main school site and others are tailored to individual learners needs to give all the opportunity to be emotionally resilient, engaged and valued. Willow pathway will

prepare our learners for accessing their local communities and participating within society.

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## Cedar Pathway



Beech pathway is a structured curriculum that aims to deliver a unique and personalised curriculum for students to develop their independence, social communication and emotional regulation skills. Activities are tailored to encourage students to develop the pre-requisites for learning including joint attention, engagement and participation, developing communication, mutual and self-regulation. The curriculum is delivered in a total communication and highly structured environment with room for personalised flexibility with routines to meet the needs of these students. The nature of the curriculum content is taught holistically through meaningful activities.

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## Cedar Pathway



Oak pathway experience a broad and exciting curriculum that motivates and inspires them in their learning. Students take responsibility for their learning and are actively involved in planning and reviewing their individual targets. Learning is organized in accordance with national curriculum subject areas, which are delivered in ways that are engaging and relevant for students' needs and interests. Pupils are provided with a safe learning environment where confidence, self-esteem and emotional well-being are nurtured. Pupils are taught to care, respect and value each other.

Classroom teaching is supplemented with community learning and social experiences, so that pupils can apply their learning in ways that will be useful and functional for

them. We aim for pupils to be given skills to enter the world of work, pursue their own interests and be part of the wider community at the end of their St Nicholas journey.

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## 6th Form

Our final pathway is sixth form. Our sixth form strives to provide a wide range of learning opportunities for our young people that prepare them for their future aspirations. Sixth form run a timetable that covers the core subjects, as well as offering a wide range of choices that suit individual need and interests. The aim is to provide our young people and their families with a clear understanding of future options, and we work alongside a wide range of professionals to ensure this.

Each of the pathways is led by a strategic lead and a pathway lead teacher supported by the teaching teams in each pathway. Meetings are now being held regularly in these pathway groups which will drive our development of our curriculums in the coming months and years.

If hope this does provide some clarity over the pathway model that we have in place at St Nicholas. If you would like further information relating to the pathway structure, please ask and we can answer any questions that you have.

All the best.

Rich

Pathway	EYFS	Cedar	Willow	Beech	Oak	Sixth form
Classes	Rainbowfish Caterpillar Butterfly Bumblebee Ladybird (Parkside)	Orangutan Tiger Knox Packham Wonder	Owl Toucan Keller Kahlo Bayley Temple Storey Puffins	Bear Lion Meerkat Webster	Apple (Chartham) Cherry (Chartham) Mercury (CA Primary) Hawking (CA Primary) S1A (CA Secondary) S3A (CA Secondary) S4A (CA Secondary) KS4A (CA Secondary) S2A (Spire) S5A (Spire)	Form 1 Form 2 Form 3 Form 4 (Canterbury college)
Strategic Lead	Gillian	Richard	Lorna	Lee	Dave	Carrie
Pathway Lead teacher	Charlotte	Tina	Amy	Jasmine	Millie/Caroline	Gary

# St Nicholas at Spires Academy

It has been a very busy few terms for our St Nicholas at Spires students!

Students continue to work very hard in their core subjects and on their functional skills. They are also lucky enough to access a wide variety of community visits and enrichment activities, some of which are detailed below.

The coming terms will be similarly busy. For our S5A students, they are in their last few months of their St Nicholas journey. We will be working hard to make sure they are ready for the transition to their next provisions and that they are able to celebrate all they have achieved in their time with us. Details of the Prizegiving Assembly and Prom to follow - it will be emotional!

## The Marlowe



As part of the RSC 37 Plays Project, S5A have devised, written, rehearsed and now performed their own play, *Hybrid*. This saw them perform the play in the Marlowe Studio in front of an appreciative audience in April. It was such an achievement and experience for them all and we are all so proud. Thank you so much for the support of Anita and her team as well as parents and carers for their support in making this happen!

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## Margate Station



In March, S5A participated in Travel Information & Safety workshop at Margate Train Station. The students learned about planning a journey, getting help, travel safety and railway hazards. Some of our students have started to travel independently...for some, it is something they are preparing for. But each and every student participated well and got a huge amount out of the workshop. The organisers said that our students are welcome there any time and

## Boxall



As part of their Boxall project, S2A have created a set of wings displaying positive messages and what represents them.

They worked in a mixture of teams and demonstrated excellent teamwork, creativity and problem-solving.

In total there are over 150 individual feathers!

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that they are a credit to the school. Well done!

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## Hybrid – a new play by S5A at St Nicholas at Spires Academy

William Shakespeare lived 400 years ago and the 37 plays he wrote are still performed today.

37 Plays is a national playwriting competition to find the untold histories, tragedies, and comedies of our time, run by the Royal Shakespeare Company and its partner theatres, one of which is The Marlowe in Canterbury.

As an RSC Associate School, we were invited to submit our own entry and S5A devised their own play through drama improvisation. They were invited to perform their play, Hybrid, at The Marlowe Theatre on 19 April 2023.

The play follows the experiences of a 15 year old foundling boy, Jake, who is an outsider at school because of his friendship with an elf, who is invisible to everyone else. He becomes the victim of school bullies. The drama comes to a climax when they gate-crash his 16 birthday party.

Jake gradually discovers that he is a werewolf and that he is being tracked by vampires who want to infect him with the deadly Noxeternal virus so that he can become a vampire/werewolf hybrid. The play explored issues around puberty, friendship, parent-child conflict and featured a puppet sequence with a virus and blood cells.



15 to 21 May 2023

# Mental Health Awareness Week



#ToHelpMyAnxiety

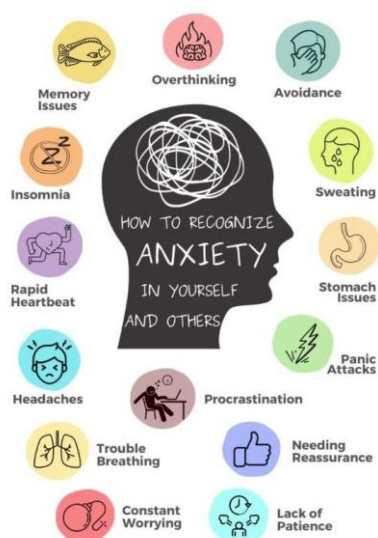
We've chosen anxiety as the Mental Health Awareness Week theme this year to kickstart a nationwide conversation, encouraging people to share their own experiences and any helpful ideas on how they manage anxiety.

Alexa Knight - Director of England at the Mental Health Foundation

## What is anxiety?

Anxiety can affect us physically and mentally. If you are feeling anxious, you might notice your heart rate increasing, headaches, loss of appetite, breathlessness or chest pain. (If you are experiencing these symptoms, you should see a healthcare professional to rule out another physical cause).

Anxiety might make you feel tense or nervous, find it hard to relax, feel tearful or have problems sleeping and concentrating. Friends or family might notice you are more irritable than usual, or more withdrawn. Or perhaps you seem fine on the outside but feel panicky inside.



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## Wellbeing Team

As part of Mental Health Awareness Week; the Wellbeing Team has organised **Plants 4 you** which offers people the opportunity to have a plant, or swap for an item of food. The food will be taken to the food bank at the end of the week. We will also be encouraging people to share their plants progress.

The reason we've chosen to support the food bank is that food poverty can cause great anxiety, alongside the impact of the current cost of living crisis. the plants have been grown from waste:



- 19 lemon trees from three discarded lemons
- Over 100 tomato plants from four **mooshy** tomatoes
- Over 200 pepper plants from a discarded yellow and orange peppers
- Flowers grown from 30p packets of seeds from the B&Q bargain bin
- Seeds taken from last years seed heads

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# We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Arbor App

## We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Arbor App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Arbor App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

## How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday

The Sunnyville School of Magic  
W10 5BN, London, GBR

Enter your password

Log in

Forgotten password?

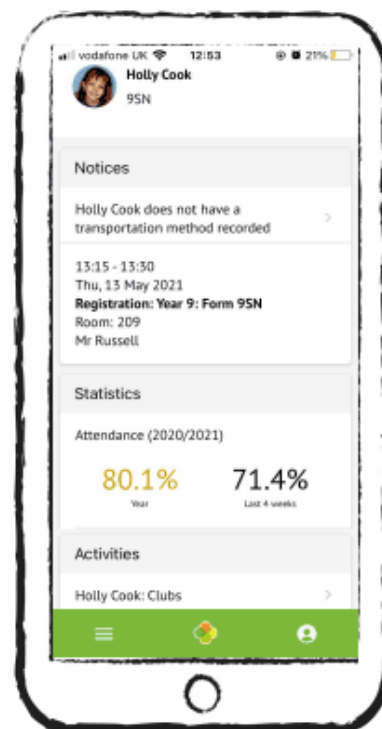
## Need help using Arbor?

**Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal.** Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

### Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the **password link will have expired**. Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. **Enter the birthday** of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.



**St Nicholas School PTFA**



## Easter Egg Hunt

Despite the weather; the St Nicholas School Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success. The event was moved indoors and the children, who took part, thoroughly enjoyed hunting for eggs and taking part arts and crafts on the day. There was a tombola, raffle and cake stall which managed to raise £1203.57.

I would like to thank the numerous people involved and those who donated:

- A huge thanks to everyone who helped - especially Tanya, her mum Lynn, Mason, Sarah and her husband, Fiona and Danny, Andrea and Millie, Charlotte and her daughter, Sam, Alex, her husband and parents, Lou-Lou, David, Max and Sophie
- Our thanks for raffle donations go to; Rachel Brunger and Tesco, Canterbury Cathedral, Dover Museum, Wahl, Saltrock, Longacres Garden Centre, Gulbenkian Theatre, My Lockdown Bakery, Samantha Haines, Tanya Cousens, Alex Bagnell, Sarah King and EVERYONE else who gave raffle donations.
- Another huge thank-you to Mr and Mrs Cheeseman for their generous donation of £1 000 to the minibus fund
- And, last but not least, a huge thank-you to the grandparents, who wishes to remain anonymous, for their generous donation of another £1 000 towards the minibus fund.

## Lend Your Support

As parents/guardians, you are automatically members of the PTFA (together with all the staff). You do not have to become a member of the committee to help raise funds for our school. There are many ways to get involved without committing a huge amount of time.

- Do you have any fundraising ideas? - We'd love to hear them. The more the better!
- Do you have skills or connections that might help us raise funds or make events run more smoothly? – Maybe you're a baker or have artistic skills? Maybe you're able to help with our social media groups or can pursue businesses to sponsor events etc.
- Do you work for a company that does fund matching? - Often bigger companies like supermarkets or banks etc can do this.
- Could you spare some time to help at an event? - Even if it's only to help set up or tidy away or sell raffle tickets - any help is always greatly appreciated.

- Or maybe collect a raffle prize or two? - Raffles are always a popular and lucrative way to raise funds.
- Have you always wanted to run a marathon, or swim the channel, or some other crazy hair-brained challenge but didn't have a charity to do it for? - St Nick's is a registered charity and I'm sure the children would lend all their support to get you over the line!

We desperately need your help to raise much needed funds to make our children's time at school the enjoyable, fulfilling and exciting experience they deserve.

Please contact me, [Mandy Stratton](#) or [Kellie Barker](#). Thanking you in anticipation

Mandy Stratton (Chair)

[Raise funds for free!](#) From the comfort of your own home by logging into easyfundraising and choosing St Nicholas school as your charity.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Event	Date	Time/Location
Social Work Clinic	Wednesday 17 May	12 – 3 pm
Mental Health Awareness Week	15 – 21 May	
New parent and Yr 6 Coffee Mornings:		
St Nicholas at Spires Academy	Wednesday 17 May	11.15 am
St Nicholas at Canterbury Academy	Thursday 18 May	10 am
St Nicholas Main Site	Wednesday 24 May	10 am
Immersive Show – Alice in Wonderland	12 – 16 June	Pupils only
Primary Sports Day	Tuesday 20 June	St Nicholas School
Cedar Pathway Sports Week	3 – 7 July	St Nicholas School
Secondary Sports Day	Wednesday 5 July	Simon Langton Boys
Leaver's Prom	Friday 14 July	6 – 8 pm



## ACADEMIC YEAR 2022 - 23

### Term 4

Start: Monday 20 February 2023

Finish: Friday 31 March 2023

### Term 5

Staff Development Day: Monday 17 April 2023

Start: Tuesday 18 April 2023

Bank Holiday - Monday 1 May 2023

Bank Holiday - Monday 8 May 2023

Finish: Friday 26 May 2023

### **Term 6**

Start: Monday 5 June 2023

Finish: Friday 21 July 2023 at 2 pm

## **ACADEMIC YEAR 2023 - 24**

### **Term 1**

Staff Development Days:

Friday 1 September and Monday 4 September

Start: Tuesday 5 September 2023

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