

Mrs Thorpe  
Headteacher



## St Nicolas C of E Academy

Part of the Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust

*Together we flourish*

**Summer Term1— Wednesday 26th April 2023**  
**This term's Christian Value is Respect**



### London Marathon

We are extremely proud to share the wonderful news that Laura Bentley, Teaching Assistant in Year 6, has completed the London Marathon on Sunday. This journey was made even more amazing because she has been suffering from Colitis for years and has recently had a stoma fitted and is currently awaiting further extensive surgery. We are thrilled that she managed to complete the course in 4 hours 55 minutes in aid of Breast Cancer Research. If you would like to make a donation to this worthwhile cause please do so on:

[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/laura-bentley05?  
utm\\_source=copyLink&utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=laura-  
bentley05&utm\\_campaign=pfp-share&utm\\_term=3c797b0191184bf5b59a5554b77bea6d](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/laura-bentley05?utm_source=copyLink&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=laura-bentley05&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=3c797b0191184bf5b59a5554b77bea6d)

Well done Laura! You are truly amazing!



### Staff

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Graur has joined our team as a Teaching Assistant in Year 2.

Contact us: St Nicolas C of E Academy, Windermere  
Avenue, Nuneaton CV11 6HJ Tel: 02476382583  
Email: school.Office@stnicolas.covmat.org

## Foundation Stage

Reception have been very busy exploring their new topic, 'How Does Your Garden Grow?' They have been learning about lifecycles, including those of a frog and a butterfly. To help with this they have been taking care of their very own tadpoles and caterpillars in the classroom! The tadpoles began as frogspawn. They have learnt lots by observing them as they have grown and changed into tadpoles. The caterpillars have grown already and have been eating lots of food!

This week Reception have been busy planting beans, carrots, onions, and potatoes at the allotment patch. They have also planted lots of seeds in their garden. The children are looking forward to watching the seeds grow and change.

If you would like to come and help with looking after their allotment and garden areas, we would be always happy to welcome parent or grandparent helpers! Please let a member of staff know if you have any time to spare.



## Lego Club

Last term our Lego Club won this fantastic Lego trophy. The club entered us into a local school's competition and we won! We are very proud of our children!

Well done!



### Friends of St Nicolas - PTA

Our PTA and Friends of St Nicolas Team are looking for new members to join to assist them in organising and running events to raise money to offer our pupils more resources and experiences. They would really appreciate more support from the school community so that they can organise a Summer Fair.

Parents/Carers/Grandparents please contact [stnicolasacademypta@gmail.com](mailto:stnicolasacademypta@gmail.com) if you can help.

**We are holding a PTA meeting on 3rd May 2023 at 19:00** to start making plans for the upcoming summer fair and to check the viability of it taking place.

If you are able to attend, you would be most welcome and it will really help to ensure that the event can go ahead.

If you are unable to attend but are able to offer any support at all please get in touch.

Ways to help include, securing raffle prizes or other donations, helping on the day to set up or to run a stall. Any contribution large or small is much appreciated.

### PE Timetable

Please can your child come to school wearing their PE kit on their designated days.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reception	PE		PE		
Year 1	PE			PE	
Year 2			PE		PE
Year 3		PE			PE
Year 4		PE			PE
Year 5		PE		PE	
Year 6	PE		PE		

### Book Fair - 18th and 19th May

We will be holding a school book fair in school on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th May. This will be in our school hall from 3:15pm—4:15pm.

### School photos

Thanks to all those who completed the survey. The majority have said they would like to go back to the traditional class photo and so this will be the case on Monday 19th June with KO photography.

### Maths— Supporting your child

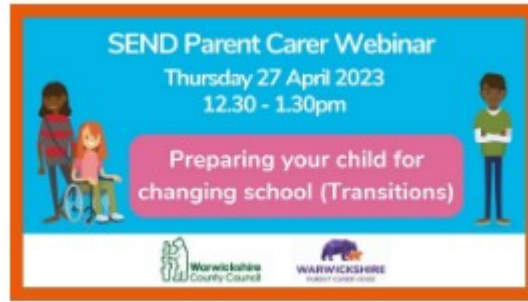
We will be holding a parent workshop for you to attend to see how you can support your child at home with their maths. Tuesday 6th June - Parents only for children in Year Reception, Year 1, Year 2 at 6pm in School Hall Wednesday 7th June - Parents only for children in Years 3,4,5 at 6pm in School Hall

### Health & Safety

- Parents/Carers of Year 5&6 have been sent a ParentMail to give formal permission for their child to walk home independently without an adult. We do not allow younger children to leave school without an adult or to go home with a sibling in year 5/6. If another adult is collecting your child, please inform the class teacher and the School office as we are unable to let your child go home with an unfamiliar adult without your permission.
- Please can your child stay with their adult who is collecting them after school. Children should not be on the play equipment or on the field as this is utilized by Koala Club. It is for your child's safety.

Thank you for your support.

## Preparing your child for changing school - SEND



### **Free webinar to support parents and carers to prepare their child for changing schools**

Parents and carers with a child or young person moving to a new school are invited to join a free webinar to learn about advice and guidance available to support them. Taking place on Thursday 27 April 2023 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm and hosted by Warwickshire County Council, the webinar will provide parents and carers with a better understanding of how to support their child or young person when starting a new school, with a focus on moving from early years to reception and primary to secondary school.

The session will be beneficial to all parents and carers, although it will focus primarily on how to prepare children and young people who, for a variety of reasons, may require additional support to help with a smooth transition to a new school. If your child or young person is in receipt of special educational needs (SEN) support or struggles with increased levels of anxiety, this webinar will help you to understand the steps you can take to support them through this big change.

More information found here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4120/free-webinar-to-support-parents-and-carers-to-prepare-their-child-for-changing-schools>

## VR

Pupils of the school council were very lucky to have the first go with our new VR headsets. During the meeting, they travelled around a moon, visited an active volcano and found out how Anglo-Saxons lived. They enjoyed spending time exploring each of the environments and discussing these with their partner. They spoke about how these could really help their learning and the incredible potential that they have to enhance their learning opportunities. Their behaviour was impeccable, they were patient and considerate with the goggles and had so much fun.

Here are some of the comments they said about the experience:

"We officially go to the best school ever; everything was so realistic"

"I felt excited and scared because it was like I was not in the real world"

"It is amazing how you get to explore things that happened a very long time ago"

"These would make learning even more fun, I could be more descriptive and have a deeper understanding of so many things"

"It makes us feel curious about the world. It is fun but educational all at the same time."

Thank you to the PTA for this wonderful opportunity. The headsets will be used by the children in the near future.



## Coronation Day - Friday 5 May—Change of plan!

We have had some feedback from staff and children and we have now decided to allow children to come into school **wearing red, white and blue clothes on Friday 5th May** to mark this special occasion. Please do not go to any expense.

We will be learning about the event and celebrating in class throughout the day. It will end with a KS1 crown parade (which the children will make in class) and an outside Coronation Party.

The children will be able to order a Coronation lunch on this day. Therefore, pre ordering is not required.

*You are formally invited to celebrate...*



*King Charles III's*  
**Coronation**  
May 6<sup>th</sup> 2023  
*Served on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May*  
Traditional British Fish & Chips  
Or  
Quorn Sausage with Chips  
~  
Baked Beans  
~  
Decorative Iced Sponge  
Jacket potato options and Gluten Free options will be available as normal.



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## CHURCH SERVICES

Years 1-5 group will be singing songs and saying a prayer at St Nicolas Church. Children will walk to the church in time for the service at 1:45pm. You are able to take your children after the service if you so wish to. We will be sending out forms on ParentMail for you to advise staff of the arrangements. Foundation Stage will have their service in school.



Date	PM 1:45 – 2:30
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	EYFS In School
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 - At St Nicolas Church
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 4 - At St Nicolas Church
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 - At St Nicolas Church
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 1 - At St Nicolas Church
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 2 - At St Nicolas Church

## After school clubs

Our after school clubs will start next week, **w/c 24th April**. All forms have been sent out to parents/carers, if your child has received a place. Please complete for permission form ASAP and complete the payment on ParentMail. Science Club will start w/c 15th May.

Mr Thomson will not be able to run any of the clubs on 2 & 3 May.

Rounders—2 May

Multi Sport 3 May

Thank you.

Day	Club	Date	Year Group
<b>Monday</b>	Science Club	15th May -	3,4,5,6
<b>Monday</b>	Football Club	24 April - 10	3 & 4
<b>Tuesday</b>	Environmental	25 April - 11	3 & 4
<b>Tuesday</b>	Netball	25 April - 11	4 & 5
<b>Tuesday</b>	Rounders	25 April - 11	5 & 6
<b>Wednesday</b>	Multi Sport	26 April - 12	1 & 2
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lego Club	26 April - 12	
<b>Thursday</b>	Art Club	27 April - 13	R, 1, 2 3
<b>Thursday</b>	Relax	27 April - 13	3,4,5,6
<b>Friday</b>	Choir	28 April - 14	3,4,5,6

## Pre Loved School Uniform

Mrs Edge will be selling Pre Loved School Uniform on the Reception/Year 1 playground from **3pm onwards this week**. Please pop along to see her if you would like to purchase any items.

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

## Tamworth Castle - Year 4

On Monday 24th April, Year 4 visited Tamworth castle, the ancient capital of Mercia. Whilst we were there, we found out what Anglo-Saxon and Viking soldiers wore. We compared which type of armour would be more protective and who would have a better chance at living. In another workshop, we got to be archaeologists. We got to hold actual artefacts, hunt for artefacts in sand using tools and we had to decide what era each artefact was from. In the afternoon, we had a tour of the castle and spent most of our time upstairs in the 'Battle and Tribute' exhibition dedicated to the area's rich Anglo-Saxon history. We watched a film about the making of an Anglo-Saxon sword, found out about Queen Aethelflaed, The Lady of The Mercians and got to try on Anglo-Saxon clothes. We visited the mead hall and imagined Anglo-Saxons being in the hall around the fire having their dinner. We were also very lucky to see pieces of the Staffordshire Hoard. The children said:

'It was fun because it had a lot of facts but it allowed us to learn these in a fun way and was very enjoyable.'

'I liked being up in the tower because it was good to see everyone from so high.'

'It was interesting because we got to learn new things'

'This was the best trip ever!'

'I loved pretending to be a warrior and making the noises of the war cries'

'It was nice to learn history out of the classroom'



## Forest School

In our first session for Years 3 and 4, the children began by litter picking. They then went into the conservation area to work in groups to make nests for our birds. Whilst we were building we could hear a couple of robins singing in the trees around us. The children had a wonderful time.



## Summer 2023 Menu

SPRING/SUMMER MENU		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>WEEK ONE</b> 17 April 8 May 5 June 26 June 17 July 28 August 18 September 9 October	Option one	French Bread Pizza with Potato Wedges	Beef Burger served in a Bun	Roast Turkey, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Quiky Bird BBQ Chicken	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option two	Crunchy Topped Vegetable Bake with New Potatoes	Vegetable Burger served in a bun	Quorn Roast with Roast Potatoes	BBQ Vegan Quorn with Jollof Rice & Salads	Cheese & Bean Puff with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Vegetables	Mixed Salad Coleslaw	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Peas Baked Beans
	Dessert	NEW Syrup Snap Biscuit	Fruit Jelly with Mandarins	Freshly Chopped Fruit Salad	Iced Vanilla Sponge	Oaty Cookie
<b>WEEK TWO</b> 24 April 15 May 12 June 3 July 24 July 4 September 25 September 16 October	Option one	<b>Mac and Cheese Concept</b>	Pork Sausage, Hot Dog with Potato Wedges	Minced Beef Omelette Pie with Roast Potatoes	Chef's Special Chicken Karma with Rice	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option two	Macaroni Cheese with Ham and sweetcorn Or Macaroni Cheese	Vegan Sausage Hot Dog with Potato Wedges	Vegetable Pie served with Roast Potatoes	Vegetable Wellington with New Potatoes & Gravy	NEW BEEF Burger with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Vegetables	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Peas Baked Beans
	Dessert	Summer Lemon Cake	Apple Rappjack	Fruit medley	Peach Crumble with cream	Vanilla Shortbread
<b>WEEK THREE</b> 1 May 22 May 19 June 10 July 11 September 2 October	Option one	French Bread Pizza	Spaghetti Bolognaise	Roast Chicken, Roast Potatoes, Stuffing & Gravy	<b>Yamas!</b> NEW Greek Chicken Pita with Seasoned Wedges	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option two	Lentil & Sweet Potato Curry with Rice	Vegan Spaghetti Bolognaise	Vegan Quorn with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	or Vegetable Wrap with Seasoned Wedges	Cheese & Red Pepper Frittata with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Vegetables	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Fresh Salad Rainbow Slaw	Peas Baked Beans
	Dessert	Peaches with cream	Carrot & Courgette cake	Fruit platter	Chocolate Shortbread	NEW Cornflake Tart
<b>MENU KEY</b>		Added plant power	Wholemeal	Vegan	Chef's Special	
		<b>Available Daily:</b> - Freshly cooked jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings (where advertised) - Bread freshly baked on site daily - Daily salad selection				
						<b>ALLERGY INFORMATION:</b> If you would like to know about particular allergens in foods please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We use a large variety of ingredients in the preparation of our meals and due to the nature of our kitchens it is not possible to completely remove the risk of cross contamination.
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## The reason we teach Spanish



I would like to allay any worries that children may be learning a different language to the one they may be learning at secondary school. Before Easter, I had a very good conversation about transition with Mrs Natacha Finley, the Head of Modern Foreign Languages at Higham Lane Secondary School. I am hoping to also have a similar conversation with the Head of Modern Foreign Languages at Etone. Mrs Finley was very reassuring about us teaching Spanish and particularly positive that Key Stage 2 have an hour a week's quality teaching of a modern foreign language, which many primary schools are not lucky enough to have. She expressed that her main priority is that children have good language skills which they can then apply to learning another language; the best linguists are those that have been exposed to more than one foreign language.

At St Nicolas, we have chosen Spanish for a few key reasons:-More children in our school go on holiday to Spain than any other country where a different language is spoken. What better way than to start them with a language that they can relate to and hopefully enjoy!Spanish is an easier language for primary children to learn as it is very phonetic and, apart from a few exceptions, letters are always pronounced in the same way.It is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. Spanish is very similar in nature to French, and indeed several other languages, and there are lots of transferrable key skills. As part of their learning, children will cover gender of nouns, adjectival agreement and positioning, conjugation of verbs and they will be taught to look for cognates to decode the language. All of these are an excellent basis for learning a new language. Language uptake has been poor at GCSE level and it has been said that one of the reasons is that some children can be bored if they learn a language only having to repeat previous learning at secondary school.

Furthermore, Higham Lane are now using a new language scheme where all children will be starting off at the same base line learning the most popular vocabulary rather than set topics. St Nicolas pupils will not be at a disadvantage in French lessons at Higham Lane and, in fact, with the level of language they have been taught, they should be at a distinct advantage. It was also interesting to know that all children will be expected to learn French throughout their time at Higham Lane as it is now compulsory, even more reason for us to start them off on their love of learning a new language here.

During the final half term at St Nicolas, all Year 6 pupils will complete a French unit which has been planned in collaboration with Higham Lane. We hope that this will give our pupils a head-start and the confidence to continue their language studies in the future.

**Diary Dates—2022-2023 Dates are inclusive - September**

**May**

Monday 1st May - Bank Holiday - School Closed

Wednesday 3 May 19:00 - PTA meeting in school re Summer Fair

Friday 5th May—Coronation Celebration Day—Wear red, white and blue

Monday 8th May - Bank Holiday - School Closed

Tuesday 9th May—Friday 12th May—Year 6 SATS

Wednesday 17th May - Year 1 Warwick Castle

Thursday 18th May - School book fair

Friday 19th May - School book fair

Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June - Whitsun Half Term

**June**

Monday 5th June - Children back to school

Tuesday 6th June - Maths workshop for parents in Years—Reception, Year 1&2

Wednesday 7th June - Maths workshop for parents in Years 3,4,5&6

Sunday 11th June—Wednesday 14th June - Conover Hall - Year 6

Thursday 15th June - 'Alive 2023' Stoneleigh Park - Years 3,4&5

Monday 19th June - Class photos

Tuesday 20th June - Year 1 Conkers

Saturday 24th June 12pm—3pm—Summer Fayre

**July**

Thursday 6th July - Year 4 Kingsbury Water Park

Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th July - Year 6 Show at Abbey Theatre PM

Thursday 13th July - Sports day

Friday 14th July - School reports go out

Tuesday 25th July - Children break up for Summer Holidays