



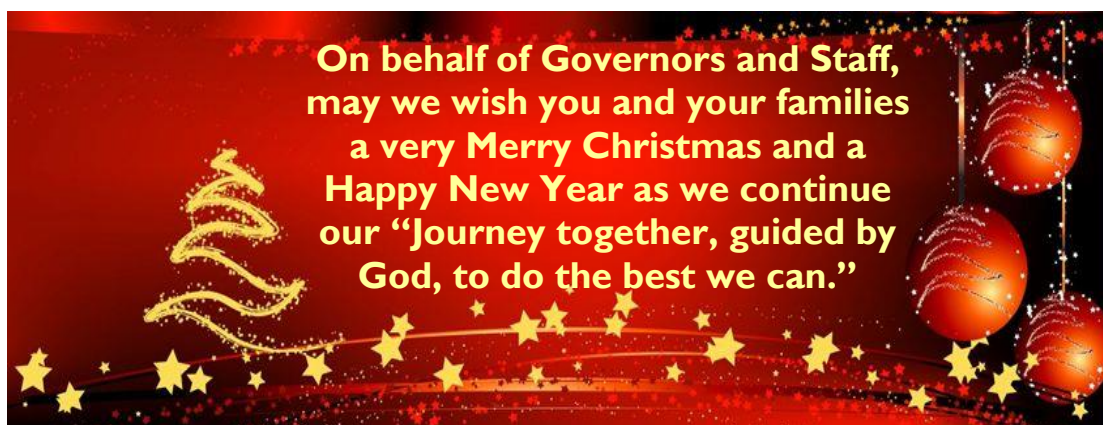
Message from our Headteachers

As we approach the final day of the Autumn term, it allows us to look back not just on this term but all of 2019. Once again the school has continued to be a vibrant, exciting and energetic place of learning. This term has seen another 80+ (Reception, Nursery and new to the school) children join us and it has been a pleasure to see how well they have settled into school life. As you will read later in the newsletter the school continues to excel both on the sports field (and in the swimming pool) alongside classes and individual children making marvellous progress in so many areas.

On a personal note, I have loved being able to back here full time this term and I couldn't agree more than with the quote: 'absence makes the heart stronger'. *Mr Lincoln*

It's been a fantastic year, but there is also so much to look forward to. In January 2020 we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the laying of our foundation stone. It will be a time of thankfulness and celebration! *Mr Etherton*

We want to take this opportunity to thank you as parents/carers for all you do for your children and also in the support and encouragement you give us.



Hope and Compassion

At our INSET day earlier this term, Revd Ann Waizeneker shared her thoughts on one of our Christian values – 'Hope'. Ann acknowledged that although we have *hope* for the new term, new classes, new responsibilities and, for some, a new job, we may also have new *fears*. Children and parents have hopes and fears too. Hopes for a happy and settled year but fears that it wouldn't be.

The Apostle Paul, in his first lesson to the Corinthians in chapter 13 wrote, "Love is patient, love is kind..." He ended the chapter by saying, "Now these three remain: faith, hope and love". Ann said that Paul reminds us of the importance of *hope* in God.

Ann went on to say that our children need *hope* – especially with fears over Brexit, climate change and so on. We need to instil hope. Ann reflected on an assembly she led a few years ago where she explained that, like David who all but gave up hope, we should trust and have faith in God. David knew God was with him and understood the importance of waiting on God and trusting him. As David wrote in Psalms 130 "I wait for the Lord...and hope in his word".



Hope is the bird that sings for the dawns whilst it is still dark. Jesus hoped in God as he hung from the cross. Hope in God, together with faith and love, are integral for us to flourish.

At the end of our INSET day, Father James spoke to us about 'compassion', another of our Christian values. Fr James reminded us about St Nicolas who had great compassion on all those around him: giving gold to the poor and using the churches wealth to fend off pirates. Fr James also shared how St Giles got fed up of people asking him for help and advice so ran away and lived in a cave. However, St Giles then built a monastery to care and show compassion for people.

Fr James said that it is hard to be compassionate to all those around us every day – it can be exhausting! We may feel like running away and hiding in a cave, so we need to have times of rest! Jesus took that step back, to rest and spend time with God. We need to do likewise.

As we approach Christmas, we once again think about compassion and hope. We seek to encourage our school to be compassionate towards those in need which is why we have supported, for example, homelessness charities. The Christmas message is all about hope. Hope in a new born saviour – one who was to die on a cross but defeat death. In him we can put our trust, our faith and our hope.

School Vision and Mission

Vision

Our vision is to be a **beacon of excellence**, working in **collaboration** with others.
Our children enjoy an **inspirational, innovative and inclusive** education,
learning to be **respectful, resourceful, resilient and reflective**
and grow in **compassion and hope** in God.

St Nic's is a brilliant school and we are always working hard to make it even better! Over the last year or so we have been reconsidering our vision, hopes and dreams for the future with governors, staff, parents and children. We have also wanted to take into account the Church of England Vision for Educations and new SIAMs (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) expectations. We are grateful to all those who have contributed to this process. Governors have now approved the above vision statement.

- **'beacon of excellence'** – We want to be exemplary, not only for children in our school and local community but beyond. This links in with the last part of our mission statement **'to do the best we can'**.
- **'working in collaboration with others'** – We recognise the importance of working with others. We work closely with the Sussex Coast Teaching School Alliance and recently had three Brighton headteachers undertake a review of writing in our school. Likewise, we are undertaking reviews for other schools which is a fantastic way for schools to challenge and learn from one another. We have also benefitted from working with, and supporting other local and diocesan schools. We recognise the need and benefit of being part of the Bishop Otter Academy Trust. More information about this will follow in the New Year. Secondments have also been



very positive. This all links in with **'Journey together'**. **'Working in collaboration with others'** is how we want to do what we do.

- **'inspirational, innovative and inclusive education'** – This is far bigger than the 'broad and balanced curriculum' required by Ofsted. We want our teachers to be *inspirational*, our curriculum to be *innovative* (and creative – one of our Christian values) and our offer *inclusive* so that all can achieve irrespective of ability (including SEND), background (including disadvantaged), 'protected characteristic' and so on. 'Inclusive' links into **'Journey together'**. Having an **'inspirational, innovative and inclusive education'** is what we want to offer our children.
- **'respectful, resourceful, resilient and reflective'** – This links to our 'Building Learning Power' learning characteristics (Team Ant, Sensible Squirrel, Tough Tortoise and Wise Owl). Normally 'Team Ant' is described as being about 'relationships' but the foundation for this is 'respect' – one of our Christian values. 'Reflect' links into **'Guided by God'**. **'Learning to be respectful, resourceful, resilient and reflective'** is want we want for our children.
- **'compassion and hope'** – Last but certainly not least, these are arguably the two most important of our Christian values. **Compassion** is about 'loving your neighbour' and **hope** is about learning to love God. 'Hope' is a theme in the Noah's Ark story – as depicted in our....

Mission Statement

Journey together ★ guided by God ★ to do the best we can

Whilst our vision outlines what we are aiming for, our mission statement summarises how we want to live and learn together day by day. Our mission statement has served us very well over the last ten years or so. The children know it and even past pupils tell us they still live by it! However, we have been reflecting on whether to change it or not.

The first two elements, we decided at an early stage we wanted to keep:

- **Journey together** – Governors, staff, parents, pupils, the local community, other professionals and organisations all need to work together. We continue to value our partnerships.
- **Guided by God** – This remains as important as ever! We seek to be guided by God in our collective worship, bible stories, through our Christian values, by good role models and so on.

We have had the most debate about the last section of our mission statement:

- **To do the best we can** – Does this reflect how aspirational we are? Should we talk about flourishing or excelling? Should it be 'to BE the best we can'?

After much discussion we have decided to keep it the same. Whilst we have had many fantastic ideas, there wasn't one that has really struck a chord with us all. So, for the time being we keep it the same!

- **To do the best we can** – We want all children (and adults!) to flourish and fully develop their God given potential.

So, we will continue to **journey together**, be **guided by God** and **do the best we can** as seek to be a **beacon of excellence**, working in **collaboration** with others. Our aspiration is for all children to enjoy an **inspirational, innovative and inclusive** education, learning to be **respectful, resourceful, resilient and reflective** and grow in **compassion and hope** in God.

Prayer Space Week

We held our annual Prayer Week in November, where we all had the opportunity to spend time in the amazing Prayer Space run by the Brighton and Hove City Mission and Off the Fence Charity teams. The art room was transformed into the prayer space and there were many different activities to explore including the Sorry Shredder, Houses for Homeless, Feely Boxes, Our World, the Thankfulness Tree, Big Questions and Story Space. For more information, please read the report put together by the Prayer Space Team on our website: [Prayer Space Report 2019](#)

Feedback from our pupils:

- *The big questions made me feel not worried at moving. Y2*
- *I liked it when we drew things that was bad for our world on a rock and then washed it away. Y5*
- *I really enjoyed the prayer space because it was very calm and I like being calm. It helped me reflect on things even though I don't believe in God. Thank you for giving up your time for us to enjoy ourselves. Y5*
- *I like the sorry shredder, it made saying sorry to God easier. Y5*
- *I really enjoyed the prayer space because it was calming to just sit back and just understand that you don't need to worry about everything because God will always be there for you. Y6*
- *I loved the prayer space because it gave me time to relax and think more deeply about things that are important to me. It gave me a break from the rush and bother of everyday life as well. Y6*
- *The prayer space organisers were very kind. Y6*
- *I liked it because I had time to think and pray. Y6*
- *I loved my prayer space time because it helped me think and how lucky I am and how I could help the world. Thank you. Y6*



Mission statement prayer written by Y6 Oysters – Prayer Week 2019

Dear Heavenly Father,

Help us to travel together as a team even if things are difficult.

Help us to follow the brightness of your light and lead us away from the melancholy of darkness.

Help us to never give up, even if situations are tough, and work hard to achieve our goals.

Amen

Noisy Nativity!



Reception and Year 2 nativity performances – parent comment:

“The nativities that I came to were absolutely amazing. I was bowled over by the quality of them and the performances were testament to the dedication and hard work of the teachers and staff at the school as well as the children. Both our boys have loved being part of this school event and have an enormous sense of pride in having taken part in it. I think the staff at the school are simply fantastic – so committed to each of the children. We could not ask for more – thank you.”

What a busy term....!



Y6 made hats in their *Make do and Mend* topic, recycling old jumpers.

Year 5 learnt all about the Greeks and performed two fantastic showcases. It culminated in a magnificent feast which the children helped prepare and then enjoy!





NEWSLETTER

Journey together ★ guided by God ★ to do the best we can

St Nicolas and St Mary CE Primary School

18th December 2019 – Issue 1



Y4 made torches in science to explore inside a pyramid.



Y2 Puffins made wooden airplane toys in Science in materials topic.



Talent Show Triumph!

Well done to all the children who took part in our talent shows this week – it was extremely entertaining and the talent on display was amazing!



KS1 finalists

KS2 finalists





Sporting News

We have a great depth of sporting talent in school and our teams have done extremely well this term.

Our U9 football team won the Shoreham College Shield in September – they were undefeated, scoring 15 goals and only letting in 1!

The U9 and U11 girls Tag Rugby teams came runners-up in October; our U11 football team won the Shoreham Schools trophy in November and our Swimming team won the Shoreham Schools gala this month.



Swimming Champions!

U11 football team



On an individual note, Josh Henry in year 4 is living the dream. As a Chelsea Academy player, he went on tour to Spain last week. Chelsea beat Real Madrid and Granada in the league, then Seville in the quarter finals, Villa Real in the semis before playing the mighty Barcelona in the final. How exciting! We wish him good luck in the future.



Our Sports Crew is a group of young people who have been elected to lead the planning and delivery of Intra-school competitions and events, thus playing a fundamental role in helping develop School Games in our school. Their duties include:

- Working with teachers and fellow pupils to organise intra-school competitions and school sport opportunities.
 - Organising a survey to find out what young people think of sport in their school.
 - Reporting back to fellow students at the end of the year on what improvements have been or are going to be made.
- Their voice and skills will be used to organise, promote and motivate our children to get involved in PE and school sport. As well as improving the School Games these tasks will also help to develop important life and leadership skills for those involved.

Reducing our Carbon Footprint

Governors constantly challenge us to reduce our carbon footprint and encourage sustainable living. We're delighted that our Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) has moved from C to B. This has been helped by using energy wisely, two sets of solar panels and a new energy efficient building. We recently looked into getting a wind turbine but standalone turbines are too costly to maintain and a couple of schools have had to decommission theirs. We are thrilled with pupils and parents who are helping us to recycle more and the on-going work of our Eco-council to help us think eco-friendly. More staff are sharing lifts to school and we are looking into a cycle to work scheme.

Governors would like to encourage more staff and parents to walk or cycle to school. It's not the best time to ditch the car but a bit of fresh air and exercise will do you, and our environment a world of good.

Luke (Gray Whales) had been collecting rubbish as we walked to school for over a year and he was very excited when he discovered lots of the packaging could be recycled using Terra cycle. He became more involved in sorting packaging that can be recycled at St Giles Church. Sarah Ringshaw had been collecting packaging and





sorting recycling for Lancing Recycling for a while at St Giles Church. Gigi and Sarah wanted to introduce some large collection bins for recycling at school to expand the recycling and make some money for the school, so they contacted the council to ask for some bins. The council responded saying it would cost us £150 for the bins.



Meanwhile Luke bumped into MP Tim Loughton at one of his street surgeries. He told Tim that he wanted to do more to increase recycling to help our planet. Tim Loughton said he would help and within 24 hours the council called to arrange free delivery of 5 wheelie bins! They are now in the playground already being used.

“No presents for us please!”

We would like to congratulate Robyn & Edie who have raised £355 for Turning Tides Homelessness. The girls are passionate about this charity because they care very much about homeless people. Instead of receiving presents at their birthday party this year, they asked everyone to make a small donation to Turning Tides.



They would like to thank everyone who has donated to the charity, especially those in Sea Otters and Penguins – they would not have been able to raise so much without your generosity! The girls are a true inspiration to us all and their selflessness will help others who have so little. Well done girls!

Summit Special!

A former St Nic’s pupil has become the youngest female to reach the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa at the age of 6. Ashleen amazed experienced mountaineers and guides after she refused offers of being carried or helped as she scaled the 19,341ft mountain entirely unaided. She enjoyed her climb so much that two weeks later she climbed the Tanzanian peak again, this time in freezing temperatures and high winds! Ashleen said: ‘It was amazing to make two climbs. It was the best thing I have ever done. We enjoyed the first climb so much we immediately wanted to go up again.’ To put her achievement into perspective, only two-thirds of climbers ever reach the top. Ashleen was accompanied by her mother Victoria and 11-year-old brother Nicolas on part of the climb. Well done Ashleen and Nicolas on such an amazing achievement!



Congratulations!



Well done to Holly from Little Fishes who raised £110.35 for St Mary de Haura church in a 'Nappychangeathon' where she changed 14 nappies in a row!

Congratulations to Anna (former Y6 pupil) who won the Christmas Card competition at her new school, King’s, with her creative rendition of the school logo depicting the nativity scene.





Thank you!



POPPY APPEAL

Thank you very much for helping with our Appeal.

£ 315.10
was collected by you.

Without your help, we would be unable to continue our vital welfare and benevolent work.

Yours sincerely
Local Honorary Organiser

District Total (if available) £

Registered Charity No. 219279

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Poppy Appeal, the school raised £315.10.

Local Church Services

Local Church Services: Where do you want to go this Christmas? Look up local services and special events!

- St Mary de Haura <http://www.stmarydehaura.org.uk/>
- St Nicolas <https://www.saintnicolas.org.uk/events.htm>
- St Giles <https://parishofkingstonbuci.wordpress.com/services/>
- St Julian's <https://parishofkingstonbuci.wordpress.com/st-julians-church/>
- Church of the Good Shepherd <http://www.goodshepherdshorehambeach.org.uk/>
- Emmanuel <http://weareemmanuel.com/>
- Shoreham Baptist Church <http://www.shorehambaptist.co.uk/index.php/main/events>
- Shoreham Methodist <https://shoreham.adursectormethodist.org.uk/index.html>
- Southwick Methodist <https://southwickmethodistchurch.co.uk/wordpress/this-month/>

If you are away over Christmas search for a 'church near you' at: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

And finally...

