



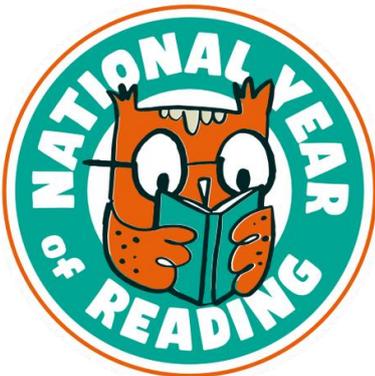
ENGLISH NEWS AT ST NICOLAS AND ST MARYS...

Newsletter for pupils, carers and parents...

January 2026



Hello everybody, and a very Happy New Year to you all from the English Team here at St Nics! We hope you enjoy reading our latest Newsletter!



This year is the National Year of Reading, so what a great opportunity to read a little bit more, share some fantastic books with each other and enjoy writing and telling stories!

Read Write Inc.
Phonics

At St Nics, we follow the Read Write Inc programme which is a comprehensive scheme for teaching reading. The lessons are taught daily to Reception up to Year 2 classes (with some KS2 children taking part if needed) and is a proven way of developing the basic reading skills, building general confidence and helping to

install the love of reading into our pupils. Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our workshop last term; it was a great chance to find out what the children get up to and also to ask the teachers any questions about the scheme.

Reader Help...

A continued HUGE thanks to all our wonderful adult helpers who come into help with reading – YOU MAKE SUCH A BIG DIFFERENCE!

If you have 15 minutes to spare in the week, why not come in and listen to some of our fantastic pupils reading? It doesn't just have to be parents/carers, grandparents are very welcome too!

Please contact your class teacher or the office for more information!



Competition time...

Our English Competition this half term is to draw, make or create a model of your favourite book character. It can be as creative as you like! You could also write a description of your character. Please send any entries into Mr de Waal (in Year 6) or pop them into the Office for his attention. There will be some great prizes on offer (for each year group). The deadline is Friday 6th February.

Reading:

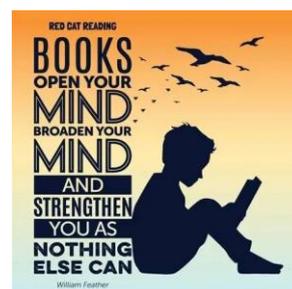
Please encourage your children to read a little EVERYDAY. If you don't have appropriate books at home, please borrow one from our library, the Book Trolley or class book corners!

Check out the following websites for some great ideas for reading:

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/>

<https://booksalive.co.uk/>

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/>



The Reading Trolley...

Please keep an eye out for the Reading Trolley in the Cherry Tree playground before and after school. We would be most grateful if you sign any books out and bring them back once you have finished with them. If it is raining, the trolley should be in the Main Hall - please just ask a member of staff if you need to change a book.



Library Club and Story Telling Club.

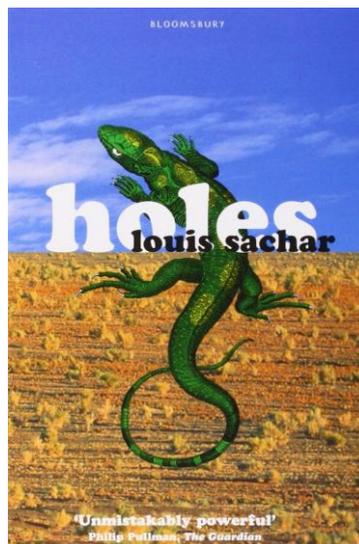
Library Club is on a Monday at 12.30. All pupils are welcome!

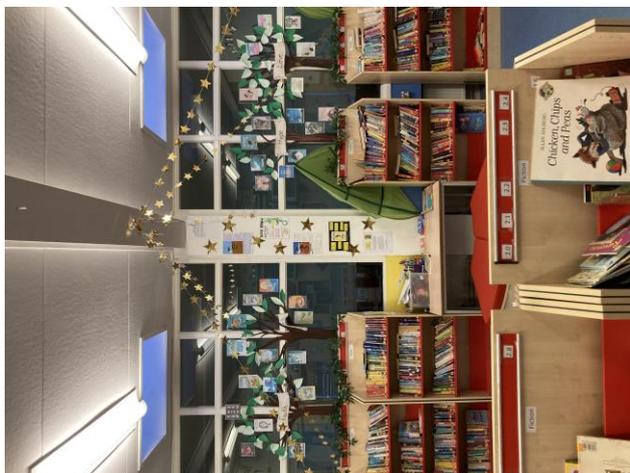
Story Telling Club is on a Thursday (12.30 in the library area) and again everyone is welcome!



Reading Challenge:

Well done to all the Year 6 pupils who completed the Reading Challenge last term. We had a great cinema afternoon just before Christmas watching the film Holes - after reading the book of course!





The children have been enjoying our new Library area this year and we hope you like our new display! Well done to all our Library Monitors who have been keeping it tidy - keep up the good work!

A big thank you goes out to all of you who have brought back in schoolbooks recently - we still have quite a few missing so please continue to bring them back.

Coming soon...

Amazon Wish List Drive...

In the very near future, we will be sending out an optional 'Book Wish List' for parents to buy a book for their child's year group. As you know, budgets are extremely tight these days, so any support you can give us would be most welcome. Watch this space for more information!

AR AT HOME...

Exciting news! After recently trialling Accelerated Reader at home with a group of Year 2 children, we are now opening this chance up for ALL pupils in years 3 to 6 to do the same. So, after you have finished reading your AR book, you can simply log on (as you normally do) and do your quizzes at home. We will speak to the children at school about this and please remember to try and let the children be as independent as possible when completing the quizzes. The children can still do quizzes at school when convenient and the normal rewards will be in place, Happy quizzing!





Here at St Nics, we love First News and it's a great way to find out about what's going on around the world, a chance to debate and question topical issues and to do some fun puzzles. If you would like to have a copy for home - it's a nice distraction from screens - then please just ask at the Office, take one from the Reading Trolley or ask Mr de Waal (on the gate) after school.

BEING GOOD READING ROLE MODELS...

As a staff, we recently reflected on ourselves as readers and how this can influence our pupils.

We posed the following questions so we thought it might be a good idea for you as parents and carers to have a think yourselves about your own personal reading habits.

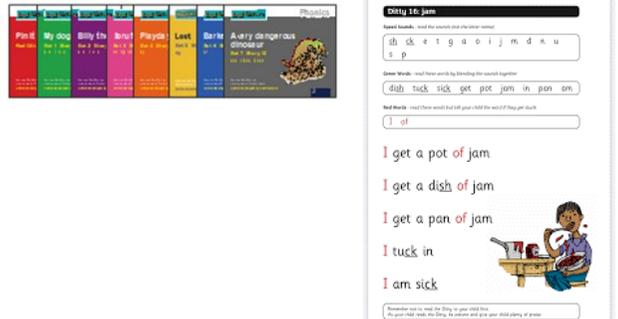
Do you read? Do you read with your child or listen to them? Do you have a set time (when screens are off completely) and read as a family? Do you talk about books or the characters within those books? Are you members of the local Library?



Key Stage 1 books to bring home.

<p>A Read, Write Inc. book bag book that links to the colour of your child's phonics group. Children's reading levels are assessed each half term so colours will change as they progress.</p>	
<p>A reading for pleasure book of their choice from the classroom. These can be any level and can be a book you enjoy reading together if it's tricky. If they are off the phonics scheme this will be linked to their Accelerated Reader level.</p>	
<p>A Read Write Inc phonics book that the children should be able to read independently. This supports their fluency and confidence with reading! Your child should read this 2-3 times before returning it to their phonics teacher.</p>	

Reception: books to bring home.

<p>A Read, Write Inc. book bag book or ditty book that links to the level of your child's phonics group. Children's reading levels are assessed each half term so colours will change as they progress.</p>	
<p>A reading for pleasure book of their choice from the classroom. These can be any level and can be a book you enjoy reading together if it's tricky. If they are off the phonics scheme this will be linked to their Accelerated Reader level.</p>	
<p>A Read Write Inc phonics book or sheet that the children should be able to read independently. This supports their fluency and confidence with reading! Your child should read this 2-3 times before returning it to their phonics teacher.</p>	

Thank you for reading our newsletter and for your continued support.

The English Team.

