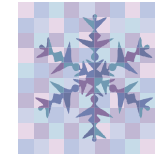




ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

JANUARY 2010



"St Nicholas is an outstanding Church of England School with a very distinctive Christian ethos." (Diocesan Inspection 2008)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A Huge Thank-You!

A big thank you to everyone for their patience with the late opening of school and with the arrangements since. So many of the children at our school arrive by car that we had to make sure that it was safe to be able to drop the children off and then safe to get them into school. Not being able to use the playground, we also had to be sure that we could then return the children to parents safely. Although using the hall has been a little crowded it has meant that we can at least get the children into school again.

The website and blog got a fair amount of use during this period as did the parental email contact list that I keep. This list allowed me to contact parents very quickly with news and if you would like to join this list, please send your email address into school.

Mrs Boyce

After 28 years at St Nicholas Mrs Boyce has decided she deserves a well earned rest and will be retiring from school at February half term. The school will not be the same again and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Mrs Boyce for her dedication over such a long time.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Keeping Your Children Safe Online

We recently ran a session for parents about how to ensure your child is safe online at home, and it has received rave reviews, with parents who attended, shocked at how easily undesirables on the net can access your children. I even received a letter from one parent which advised all parents to book a place on the course. The session lasts about 40 minutes but until you have attended this course your child may be at risk.

The next session is on 20th January 2010 from 2:30pm-3:30pm.

Blogging!

We now have a school blog set up from our school website and I would encourage parents to use it to share their thoughts about all sorts of issues. A couple of ground rules though!

- 1) Keep the issues generic and don't specify individuals names as this could lead to all sorts of legal things!
- 2) All items are moderated by the school but we are not averse to constructive criticism or good ideas!
- 3) Any specific issues should be addressed directly to Mr Mellor via the school email address.

Give it a go at: <http://stnicholas14.wordpress.com/>

Healthy School Standard

We have been working towards this national standard for a couple of years now and I am delighted to say that just before Christmas we were told that we have met the standard. A huge thank you to everyone who has helped and especially Mrs Pollard who has led this work.

Attendance

Attendance for the school is still a concern and if we were inspected tomorrow we would be deemed to have an unsatisfactory attendance rate. We will therefore be pinpointing persistent absentees with a view to taking further measures to improve attendance.

Opportunities to work in school and get paid!

We currently have three posts being advertised:

- Foundation Stage Leader (TLR 2a)

This is a teaching post in Reception which also carries with it responsibility for leading, developing and building upon our "Outstanding" OFSTED grade.

- Teaching Assistant for the Early Years

This teaching assistant post is to work in Reception supporting the work of Foundation Stage.

- Business Manager

This post is a new post for school and requires the successful candidate to understand the running of a school as well as how to run a business to maximise the effectiveness of the school.

All of these posts are advertised on the Jobs Go Public website and can also be accessed via the school website.

Schools Alive

Year 6 will again be representing the school at Schools Alive performed at the Grand Theatre. The date we have been allocated is Tuesday 9th February.

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you so much to everyone who responded and completed questionnaires. The return was very good and the results astounding. We have created a "to do" list based on your responses and will feed this into the School Improvement Plan. The results of the survey are posted on the school website.

Parents Evening

One of the things which parents asked for was more information on how their child was doing. We are working with the Local Authority at a form of online reporting to parents but for the time being we have planned an additional Parents Evening which spans 1:30—6:30. We have planned this for Tuesday 9th March. More details of how to book will follow later.

A message from the office....

A lot of dinner money is now arriving into school late which makes accounting very difficult. Please could all dinner money arrive on Monday morning as the children arrive in school.

Collective Worship Theme

Our collective worship theme for this first fortnight back at school is Epiphany, which tells the story of the three wise men who visited Jesus. The children should be able to tell you why they brought Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh!

Dates for the term ahead.....

- 21st January - Year 1 trip to Penwortham Life Education Centre
- 22nd January - Year 6 Trip to the Charter Theatre (Preston) for production of Macbeth.
 - Also 2JS class assembly (parents welcome)
- 9th February - Schools Alive at the Grand Theatre.
- 12th February - 2JR class assembly