

# St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

*'Love one another as I have loved you'*

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**Newsletter Number: 10**

**30<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Dates**

Dear Parents

### Partial school closure reminder:

The **ONLY CLASSES THAT SCHOOL IS OPEN FOR** on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February are Reception A, Mrs Doherty's class, Year 2, Mrs Fox /Mrs Naylor class and Year 5, Miss Hills class. Breakfast club will be open as usual for the children in these classes if they normally attend. There will be no after school clubs that day, so all children must be collected by 3:30pm.

If your child is in Reception B, Miss Musgrave, Year 1, Miss Chatt, Year 1/2, Miss Webster, Year 3 Miss Bennett, Year 3/4, Miss Pearson, Year 4 Mrs Smith-Cottle, Year 5/6, Miss McBride and Year 6 Miss McAndrew **school is CLOSED** for your children on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February.

While there will be much debate in the press about why these strikes are taking place, the simple reason that staff have chosen to strike is due to the underfunding of schools. Teacher pay is one symptom of this underfunding, but there are many others.

Some in the press may argue that these strikes will damage the education of our children. However, the majority of teachers feel that if strike action is not taken and schools continue to be underfunded, then the quality of the education we offer will diminish overtime - damaging children's education in a way that strike action could never do.

We hold out hope that talks between the teacher unions and the government will be fruitful and that schools closing due to the strikes will not occur. As well as Wednesday there is the possibility of three other strike dates – 28<sup>th</sup> February, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March. We recommend that you start to make alternative childcare arrangements for these dates just in case.

I'm sorry about potential disruption to you in your child's education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating, but I assure you that our school remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high quality education in teaching. I will endeavour to keep you up to date with the situation.

Date	Event
30-31 Jan	Y4 Herd Farm Residential
1/2/23	Partial closure
2/2/23	Football match
7 & 8/2/23	Cathedral visits
8 Feb	School Nurse Reception & Year 6
8-10Feb	Y5 Nell Bank Residential
10/2/23	School closes for half term at 3:30pm
20/2/23	Training Day- School closed to children
21/2/23	School Reopens for children
22/2/23	Ash Wednesday

**Herd Farm:** Our Year 4 children are heading off on their one night residential to Herd Farm today and Year 5 will be heading to Nell Bank the week after. We wish them safe and enjoyable trips.

### Why do we offer residential trips?

Going on a residential trip encourages the children to step out of their comfort zone and embrace the world without their parents. For many children, a school trip will be the first time that they are away from their family, which aids social development through creating bonds with their peers and use initiative to problem solve. Whilst on an adventure trip, children will overcome challenges and achieve things that they did not think possible. This gives them a large confidence boost that they can take into other areas of their life and learning.

**Virtue to Live by is: Faith**

**Cathedral Visit:** As part of their RE topic the children in Years 3 and 4 will be visiting St Annes Cathedral in Leeds next week. As well as seeing and learning about the Cathedral they will visit the Little Bits of God Mosaic, created for the God Who Speaks campaign who are visiting Leeds Cathedral!

It's an amazing piece of artwork with much for visitors of all ages to learn about the Bible, art and history. Resources can be seen below through the link.

<https://youtu.be/reUOn17OfVI> Little Bits Of God – A smalti-mosaic created by artist, Pete Codling, for 'The God who Speaks' initiative.



**Youth Summit:** Local councillors from the Inner East Community Committee, have invited local young people to the next Inner East Youth Summit for the first time since the pandemic.

Following previous events, this consultation event has been organised for young people from across the Inner East area. Six of our pupils will be representatives at the event to share their views about youth activities and their communities. There will be lots of learning activities centred around democracy and even a voting box for the children to have their say on how the Youth Activity Fund is spent in the next financial year. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Robert Gettings, has also confirmed he will be attending to do a Q&A with the children.

**After School Club/Childcare Provider:**

I am aware that several of you have expressed an interest in the paid after school club who were present at parents evening in October. I spoke to Hollie recently to see what the hold-up was - she said that the process is moving much slower than anticipated due to staffing and OFSTED for the provider. The plan is to still go ahead but unfortunately there is still no opening date. I will let you know as things change/update. Thank you for your patience.



**School closes for half term on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 3:30pm and reopens to children on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February.**

Have a lovely week,  
God Bless  
Mrs Burns  
Head Teacher



A busy few weeks in school.....