

Dear Parents

NEWS

What a busy first fortnight it has been at St Nicholas! Pupils new and old have settled in extremely well and there seems to be a very harmonious and industrious feel in the school which is credit to the children! Many friendships have been blossoming or re-kindling and we have been very impressed with all pupils so far this term.

Pupils in Year 5&6 have had their first Science lesson with Mrs Blatt over in the Hubert Jones Science Centre and all pupils have enjoyed their first visit to Chapel and a service led by Reverend Allen and Mr Tim Trumper. We were especially grateful to four Y5/6 pupils - Kit, Ruby, Harri and Maisie - who performed a short drama at the service.

All pupils have now enjoyed their first swimming lesson with Lawrie Jones and some have had a taste of rugby and hockey for the very first time in Games sessions.

Year 3&4 have experienced cello and violin playing in our 'strings' session and Year 5&6 have been trained up as 'Dementia Friends' after training from Joan Brown of Dementia Friends Brecon.



20

We are delighted that all 10 of our new pupils have now completed their 'Starter for 20' induction programme. The **Starter for 20** is a wellbeing and induction programme designed to ensure that all new pupils settle into St Nicholas House socially, academically and with confidence. Over the first fortnight, children have experienced 20 activities and events, supported by their class teacher and staff at St Nicholas House, ticking them off in their own booklet as they've achieved them. The new children have visited the San, the chapel, got to know key members of staff, taken a risk and nearly all have had a cuddle with Audrey the snake!

CONTACTS

Please ensure that the school has up to date emergency contacts and mobile numbers in case of emergency. **Please note that for safeguarding, we must have two emergency contact numbers for each child.**

If you have moved house or changed contact details, do get in touch.

The main school number (reception) is 01874 615440 (for all queries from 8.30-5.00pm)

The St Nicholas House mobile is 07798 823827 (for all urgent messages after 5.00pm, please note that this number should only be used after 5.00pm)

SOCKS, GUM SHIELD AND SHIN PADS

Please ensure that your child has a gum-shield and shin-pads for hockey. These items are both compulsory and essential for pupil safety. Already we have had gum shields forgotten or lost so please label clearly. We advocate buying two sets of gum shields and to keep them in school. We do have a supply of gum shields in school to sell should pupils forget. The cost of these will be added to the school bill.

For Michaelmas cross country events, children will need white PE shirts, shorts/skorts, white short sports socks and trainers.

COATS

As the weather starts to get colder, wetter and darker, please could you ensure that your child has their CCB waterproof jacket in school every day. Please note that all school coats must be the school regulation navy storm-proof coats. Thank you.

WINTER DRESS

September has allowed many of the children to take advantage of the summer dress code with some mild temperatures. Just a note to remind parents that winter dress code begins on Monday 1 October.

TWITTER

You can follow us on Twitter at @CCBStNicks. You can see some of the exciting and interesting things that we are getting up to in the juniors. This is often a favourite way for us to pass on information or reminders so it would be fantastic if you could embrace this platform as a means of communication. For all those 'techno-phobes', we are all too happy to help if you need Twitter advice or support.

Our Twitter feed can also be accessed by typing the above details into a google search.



EXEAT

For those new to the Christ College community, we occasionally have Exeat weekends where boarders and senior pupils/staff get to have a weekend off and a much needed rest. For St Nicholas pupils, this means simply a 3.30pm finish as opposed to a 6.00pm finish on the Friday of Exeat weekend. There is no prep, tea or activities on this day and buses run as normal but at the earlier time of 3.30pm. The next Exeat weekend is Friday 28 September.

CROSS COUNTRY

A reminder that the first fixture of the primary schools cross-country league will take place on Thursday 27 September, here at Christ College. The first race will start at 10.00am.

There will be 8 races:

Year 3 boys

Year 3 girls

Year 4 boys

Year 4 girls

Year 5 boys

Year 5 girls

Year 6 boys

Year 6 girls

Please ensure children have their white PE shirt in school for all upcoming cross country races. Thank you.



Parents, friends and families very welcome to come and spectate and cheer on the athletes! Please make a note of the next two fixtures of 4 and 15 October. We have now been asked to host all three events which is very exciting!

SUNFLOWER COMPETITION



Last call for sunflowers! Please take photos and record your sunflower's height and email them to school. The competition will be judged on Friday 28 September and there will be a prize for the tallest bloom!

ASSEMBLIES AND CHAPEL SERVICES

Once a month, parents will be invited to attend the chapel service. The first opportunity for this will be Thursday 27 September at 8.25am which we very much hope you can attend.

Refreshments will be available afterwards with myself and the school's Chaplain. Parents may wish to stay on to watch the cross country which will take place shortly afterwards on this morning at 10.00am.

PICK UPS

Please complete pick up information a Monday morning to enable duty staff to monitor pupil pick up times on a daily basis. This is especially important as numbers must be submitted to the kitchen on a Monday morning for Supper Club.

Please complete slips regardless of whether your child has the same routine each week, this enables us to note any changes of plan and account for all pupils at pick up.

To comply with our Safe Collection Policy, we require parents/carers to give either written or verbal consent, in advance, should anyone other than the named authorised persons be collecting their child from school. This includes situations where children are going home with friends and consequently being collected by someone else's parent, carer or grandparent.

ACTIVE LEARN

From time to time, your child's teacher will allocate homework using our online maths scheme called Active Learn. Pupils log in using the first four letters of their first and surname.

Eg hannjone = Hannah Jones

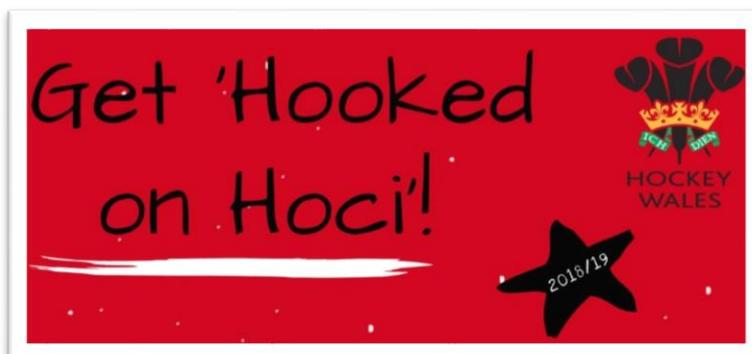
The children will know their own passwords and the school code is yhnr. If you have any questions, do get in touch. It is important to enable pop ups for the full content to work on home computers or ipads.

www.activelearnprimary.co.uk

HOCKEY

We are very pleased to announce that pupils in Year 5&6 will be participating in the new 'Hooked on Hoci' programme launched by Hockey Wales.

The programme will consist of 6 weeks of expert coaching (1 hour per week) and access to a 7s festival in which St Nicholas came 2nd last year. Sessions will commence in October.



MESSAGE FROM THE SAN

You will have received an email from the San with regards to the nasal spray flu vaccine. The school nursing team will be visiting school shortly to offer the vaccine to all children at St Nicholas House. We would be very grateful if you could complete the consent forms and return as soon as possible.

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO...

OPEN DAY-TOMORROW!

On Saturday 22 September, Christ College will be opening its doors to visitors and prospective pupils and their families. Visitors are warmly invited to visit Christ College and see our junior section, so do pass the information to anyone you think might be interested in visiting the school.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING-FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER



It's Macmillan's biggest fundraising event, where people across the UK hold a coffee morning and raise money for people living with cancer. In 2017, the charity raised a record £29.5 million. We like to do our bit at St Nicholas and ask that pupils bring some cakes

or biscuits to school on **Friday 28 September** in order to sell them to their classmates....and teachers! Pupils do not have to bring cakes, but we ask that they bring in a little money to purchase a cake or biscuit to enjoy with their morning milk. Please could we ask that all items are **nut-free** and where items are home-made, a list of ingredients provided.

If like last year, we are overwhelmed by the amount of cakes that pupils bring to school, we will have an extended Macmillan bake sale for parents at 3.00pm under the canopy before pupils break for the Exeat weekend at 3.30pm. A very worthwhile cause, I am sure you will agree and we very much hope to beat the £171.55 amount raised last year.



CHILDREN IN NEED COUNTRYFILE RAMBLE-FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER

We are delighted to announce that once again we intend on supporting Children in Need and organising our own fund raising ramble for junior pupils, pooches and parents!

On Friday 12 October at 10.00am we will set off on an hour long ramble through the lanes and paths behind Christ College. We request that pupils and parents donate £1 to take part and don their wellies and waterproofs for charity!

We would love for parents and families to join us for this event and hope that we can have fun, get healthy and raise money all at the same time for this wonderful cause. Parents can access special Children in Need ramble information and associated paraphernalia via the official website by following this link: <https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/fundraisinghub/articles/lets-get-ready-to-ramble>

Just like Matt Baker above, pupils will take it in turns to carry our own version of Pudsey bear, the St Nicholas mascot who is called Nicholas! We won't be requesting fancy dress but welcome the idea of wearing something 'Pudsey'.

There is a vast range of official merchandise online which all helps raise more money for the charity.



We look forward to seeing you and hope that you will join us for a well-deserved cup of coffee or hot chocolate afterwards. As a reward for all our efforts, we hope to sell some cakes too, so if you are a baker and want to send in a suitable cake(s) for us to sell, you are most welcome to do so.

The well-known route is just over 3 miles and is muddy and steep in places. Please ensure that you wear suitable footwear and clothing for such an event. This was a huge success last year raising £141 for the charity. We hope to do even better this year!

Families can bring their four-legged friends, providing they are well behaved and kept on a lead.

HARVEST SERVICE

We are very much looking forward to our Harvest service on Thursday 18 October at 8.25am. Our Harvest collection will be focused once more on charities close to home. We have again decided to support the highly worthwhile



charity of Brecon Food Bank which is the same charity we supported in previous years. We have also chosen to support Brecon Mountain Rescue which relies entirely on voluntary donations. We will be asking pupils to make either a donation of food which will be delivered to Brecon Food Bank in the



week following half term or a cash donation if preferred. All cash will be donated to Brecon Mountain Rescue. For more information see <http://breconmrt.co.uk/>

Brecon Food Bank provides food for other local people who are in need. Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. Food banks provide a minimum of three days' emergency food and support to people experiencing crisis.

Below is a suggested list of suitable items for donation and these can be brought in as soon as convenient; we will display them in our reception area in the run up to Harvest. We are delighted to support this local charity and thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information see <https://brecon.foodbank.org.uk>

This year, we have been asked to collect the following items:



Cash donations can be made via special envelopes which will be sent home in the next few weeks.

In the meantime we very much look forward to seeing you at the Service, and do hope that you will join us for a tea and coffee reception directly afterwards.

Costume letters will be sent out next week.

If you have any queries with regards to the above, do get in touch. I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Yours
Mrs Julie Lewis (Head of Juniors)

Dates for your diary....

September

- Monday 24-Settling in meetings from 3.30pm onwards*
- Wednesday 26-Eco-Council election*
- Thursday 27-Chapel service for pupils and parents 8.25am*
- Thursday 27- Cluster Cross Country event at CCB 10.00am Y3-6*
- Friday 28-Judge sunflower competition*
- Friday 28-Macmillan bake sale am*
- Friday 28-CCB Exeat weekend-please note 3.30pm finish for all pupils*

October

- Monday 1-Holroyd Howe (school caterers) taster session for parents 5.00pm-dining hall*
- Thursday 4-National Poetry Day*
- Thursday 4- Cluster Cross Country event at CCB 10.00am Y3-6*
- Friday 5-Y3-6 History trip to Llancaiach Fawr*
- Thursday 11-Canal outreach STEM workshop*
- Friday 12-Children in Need ramble 10.00pm*
- Friday 12-Hockey Wales coaching session 1 Y5&6 1.00pm*
- Thursday 15- Cluster Cross Country event at CCB 10.00am Y3-6*
- Thursday 18-SNH Harvest Service chapel 8.25am (parents invited)*
- Monday 22-Tudor Workshop at Brecon Cathedral's Heritage Centre 10am*

- Wednesday 24-break up for half term please note 1.30pm finish for all pupils*

November

- Monday 5-Term re-starts*
- Friday 23-Zimbe! Performance Y3-6 at 7.00pm in the Cathedral*
- Monday 26-Parent consultation evening Y3-6*
- Thursday 29-Y6 parent consultation evening part2*