

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

'Love one another as I have loved you'



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Head Teacher Newsletter 2

15 September 2025

Virtue to Live By: Respect & Courtesy

Gospel Reflection of the Week *"How often must I forgive? Not seven times, but seventy-seven times."*

18:21-22 Let us try to show kindness, forgiveness and mercy to one another each day, just as God shows to us.

Looking Ahead with Joy and Purpose: It has been wonderful to see the school settling into a calm and focused rhythm as the new term gets underway. Classrooms are alive with learning, curiosity, and creativity, and children are already showing great determination and pride in their work. Staff have been so impressed with the way pupils are living out our school values each day — loving one another as part of our St Nicholas family. We look forward to all the exciting opportunities this term will bring, both in learning and in growing together in faith.

Rooted in the Gospel: Yesterday's Gospel reading, reminded us of the importance of forgiveness and mercy in our daily lives — "How often must I forgive? Not seven times, but seventy-seven times." This powerful message is at the heart of our mission as a Catholic school. As we begin this new year together, let us remember that we are called to show kindness and compassion to one another, even when it is difficult. We encourage you to speak with your children about how they can live out this Gospel message at home and at school, helping us to build a community rooted in love and respect.

A Wonderful Start-of-Year Mass: We began our school year with a beautiful Mass celebrated by Father Saji. It was a truly special way to gather as a whole school family and ask for God's blessing upon the year ahead. The children participated reverently and joyfully, setting a wonderful tone for our worship this year. It was particularly special that the day of our Mass coincided with the birthday of Blessed Virgin Mary a perfect opportunity to entrust our school, our work, and our families to her loving care. We were also delighted to see our new trainee altar servers assisting Father Saji for the first time. They carried out their roles with confidence and respect, and we are very proud of them for taking on this important ministry of service.

Year 4's Fantastic Residential at Herd Farm: Our Year 4 children have made a fantastic start to the year with their first ever residential trip to Herd Farm. Despite some heavy downpours, the children threw themselves into every activity with determination, enthusiasm, and big smiles! From team-building challenges to adventurous outdoor pursuits, they showed real courage and kindness in supporting one another. Staff were especially impressed with the way they developed their independence and grew in confidence over the course of the visit. A big thank you to the staff who gave their time to make this special experience possible.

Supporting Our Families- MindMate: This morning we held our first parent session of the year, focusing on strategies for managing anxiety in children. It was wonderful to see so many parents attending and engaging with the discussion. Supporting children's mental health and emotional wellbeing is such an important part of our work as a school, and we are grateful for the partnership we have with you as parents. We will let you know about future sessions soon, and we warmly encourage you to attend if you can.

We're Now on Instagram! We are excited to share that St Nicholas is now using Instagram to celebrate the life of our school. Our first posts are already live, and we would love for you to follow us at **@stnicholasleeds**. Instagram is a fantastic way for us to share snapshots of learning, achievements, trips, events and everyday school life, helping you feel more connected to what your children are experiencing each day. (Please note: the photograph permissions you have already given to school will apply to Instagram. If you wish to change these permissions, please contact the school office)

Updating Our School Website: We are currently in the process of updating our school website to make it more user-friendly and reflective of our vibrant community. While this work is taking place, a temporary website is in place which contains all essential information. If there is anything you are unable to find, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help. We will let you know as soon as our new and improved website goes live — watch this space!

A Love of Reading: Last year we carried out a thorough revamp of how we teach and promote reading across the school. This morning, children had the chance to take part in our first Reading Café of the year, where they explored the new topic book boxes for this term. It was lovely to see the excitement as they discovered new titles and shared their recommendations with friends. Developing a deep love of reading is central to everything we do, and we are delighted to see the children's enthusiasm growing every day.

Healthy Packed Lunches: A reminder about our packed lunch expectations:

- **Water only** should be included as a drink — we are seeing a number of Fruit Shoot-type drinks coming into school, which are not allowed.
- **No items containing nuts** please, as we have children with severe allergies.
- **Grapes should be cut in half** lengthways to avoid choking hazards.
- We encourage a **balanced, healthy selection** of food to help children stay focused and energised for learning throughout the day.

Thank you for supporting us in promoting healthy habits.

Bringing Learning to Life with VR: Last week our KS2 children had the opportunity to use VR headsets as part of their history learning. They were able to step back in time to the and explore the sights and sounds of World War II and the Stone Age. The children were completely immersed and full of questions afterwards — a wonderful way to spark curiosity and deepen understanding of the past.

Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

- **Year 6 PGL Meeting** – A reminder that there is a meeting for parents of children going to **tomorrow straight after school**. This is an important opportunity to find out key details about the trip and ask any questions you may have.
- **KS2 Meet the Teacher Evening** – On **Thursday 18th September**, there will be a general information meeting for KS2 parents. This is a chance to meet your child's class teacher and learn more about the curriculum for the year ahead. Please note that this is not for discussing individual children's progress — there will be parents' evenings later in the term for that.

As we move further into this first term, we continue to place our trust in God's loving care and ask Him to bless our whole school family — pupils, staff, parents, and parish — as we work together in faith and love.

With every blessing

Mrs Burns
Headteacher