



Friday 15 July 2022

Thank you to everyone for the support and encouragement you have shown to our St Nicholas pupils over the last academic year. The children are the heart and soul of our school community and as governors we always strive to have their best interests at the core of everything we do. I know the staff feel the same.

As we reach the end of the 2021-2022 academic year it is an opportunity to share our governors' perspective on the highlights from the year and the impact we have achieved as a whole school community. I will try to be brief in sharing my top ten. You are welcome to have a family debate about which order you would put them in as all are equally important and could fairly be number one!

**1. Our children** - "Pupils are polite, friendly, and enthusiastic about learning." "Pupils appreciate the safe and caring community that leaders create." "Behaviour is calm. In lessons there is a purposeful atmosphere." (Ofsted, March 2022). We were pleased to read Ofsted's comments about our children after their inspection in March and the good behaviour and positive attitude to learning aligns with our experience from the many governor visits we make throughout the school year. Visits to see the children in action are a highlight of our role as governors as we monitor the impact of the school's planned curriculum and development priorities. The excitement of the visiting hedgehog in the eco afternoon last October is still a fond personal memory.

The excellent year 6 SATs results are to be celebrated and they reflect the positive impact of the children's learning from reception through to year 6.

2022	Pupils achieving expected standard or above: St Nicholas	Pupils achieving expected standard or above: Nationally	Pupils achieving greater depth: St Nicholas	Pupils achieving greater depth: Nationally
Reading	95%	73%	68%	27%
English grammar, punctuation and spelling	89%	78%	74%	36%
Mathematics	95%	79%	58%	27%
English writing	74%	78%	16%	20%

**2. Our staff** - We continue to be blessed to have an experienced and dedicated staff team, led by our talented Mrs Crouch, who work closely together to deliver high quality education to each of our children on a daily basis. A huge thank you to each member of staff for all your hard work through the year.

During the year Mrs Broekhuis joined us as the new Inclusive Education Coordinator ('INCO') and we value the support she is giving to children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and to their parents. We say farewell to Ms Mortimer from Garnet class and thank her for all she has brought to St Nics. We wish her well in her new chapter as a mindfulness coach and look forward to her continued regular visits to see us. We also look forward to welcoming Miss Robertson who joins Mrs Hammerson as a Garnet teacher in September.



**3. Safeguarding** - Our priority is to keep children safe in their education. We take our safeguarding responsibilities seriously through regular staff training, governor monitoring and acting quickly on any matters we could improve. An area where we require your ongoing support is in not bringing / sending into school food items which contain peanuts or other nuts as some of our children have serious allergies. We also see internet safety as an ongoing safeguarding risk for all of our children, and with the summer holidays approaching, please continue to monitor your child's internet presence and regularly discuss online safety with them. Useful materials, which would be worth reading again, were shared after the parent internet safety workshop earlier this year.

**4. Making the school run effectively** - I am sure you can imagine that the school office is a busy place and the hub for most communications. We said farewell to Mrs Brazier in May after 21 years at St Nicholas. Mrs Meader is now joined by Miss Webb, and we are delighted they bring their combined experience to our office team.

Mr Higley continues to be a wonderful caretaker, taking pride and care in looking after our playground and school building and with an amazing talent of popping up repatriating lost property to its owner!

**5. Enriching our curriculum** - What a relief that we haven't been impacted by a lockdown school closure this year. The tail of Covid however continues and the staff have been caring and diligent in supporting the children through the after effects of disrupted learning and missed social interactions. Plays, assemblies, in-school visits, sporting fixtures, day trips and residential, which are a real joy in enriching the curriculum, have resumed. What a treat to also celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a series of activities, kindly supported by the PTA. Thank you for all your engagement as parents and carers in helping with the children's daily reading and learning, and regular homework as well as supporting the many extra curricular activities.

**6. Collective worship** - We have greatly cherished resuming in person assemblies and weekly church services which celebrate and deepen our faith. Reverend Stamps, Mrs Richards and the clergy team at St Nicholas Church have provided wisdom and care in their sustained church leadership.

**7. Sports** - We have had a successful year of sports with all teams showing the school values in abundance; kindness, responsibility, hope and perseverance. The football teams performed well and our first ever girls football team took to the pitch this year. Some girls have never played before and all made great progress with dribbling, passing and working together. An emerging year 3/4 football team practised their team skills and the year 5/6 team won the small school league! Hooray for a trophy!

In netball, following two of our year 6 boys writing to the local league organisers, boys were able to play in competitive matches for the first time. The team triumphed by winning both the small schools league and lifting the winner's trophy at the netball rally. Hooray for two more trophies!

Teams also participated in the chess tournament, rounders, kwik cricket and tag rugby. District Sports is often known for weather disruption and this year proved no exception with a torrential thunderous rainstorm abruptly ending the first attempt. Sports day was well attended with excellent participation from the children, and some parents too! Thank you to everyone for supporting our sporting endeavours and particularly to PE coach Mr Tuffin, and Simon Price from Team Horizon for their excellent coaching and being an inspiration to the children.

**8. The Club** - The Club run by Lucie Allen and Becca Brown continues to provide a caring, reliable and fun before and after school club provision and we know how helpful it is for some families that they now offer an early start from 7.30am. Congratulations to Becca for adding to her family in the



year and we look forward to her being back at The Club in September. Please contact Lucie or Becca for any further information about Club availability. [contactus@theclubharpندن.co.uk](mailto:contactus@theclubharpندن.co.uk)

**9. PTA** - I told you they could all be listed first! Enormous thanks to our brilliant PTA who have once again triumphed with a varied and interesting range of community and fundraising activities throughout the year, raising a whopping £15,300 in the year to May'22. Funds have been spent this year on 41 new ipads, a new phonics scheme, maths and science resources and a new smartboard which is coming soon. These are all greatly valued resources to support the children's learning.

Abbie Winters was a finalist in the Parentkind Volunteer of the Year Awards and rightly so. Thank you to Rachael for nominating her and everyone who voted. The PTA Executive have shown incredible creativity, care and commitment with a wonderful array of activities.

Please read the PTA AGM minutes for a full sense of all that they have achieved. I know they would value more parents offering their help so please consider this in whatever small or large way you are able. A large shout-out of thanks also to the brilliant Class Reps for keeping everyone posted on vital day-to-day information that could otherwise be forgotten.

**10. Our governors** - Last but not least, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the incredible experience and commitment of our governors, often working behind the scenes and always for the good of the school. Our work covers many areas including safeguarding, admissions, finance and premises, school effectiveness, GDPR, personnel, communications and strategic planning. As an example, this year we invested in a new fire alarm system and made essential roof repairs, using gratefully received financial support from a Diocesan grant to help with some of the costs.

Natalie Pepper joined as a parent governor in October'21 making an immediate impact with her communications experience and ideas. We say farewell this July to Jane Croot who has worked incredibly hard across all of our committees in her tenure as a governor over the last decade. Thank you Jane. You can read more about our work as governors on the school website [here](#).

For me personally the end of this term marks the end of nine years as a St Nicholas parent. The time has absolutely flown by. Enjoy every second that your child is at St Nics as the primary years will soon be gone. I plan to continue as a governor through the next year so it isn't goodbye from me yet.

I wonder what your St Nicholas school reflections and highlights have been from the last school year, or maybe longer since your child started in reception?

I hope you have a happy, healthy and relaxing summer,  
Caroline Fleming  
Chair of Governors  
[cfleming@stnicholasce.org](mailto:cfleming@stnicholasce.org)

#### **Keeping in touch with school news**

*Read the weekly ebulletins so you don't miss school news and dates.*

*Follow school activities on twitter and retweet if you can: <https://twitter.com/StNicsHarpندن>*

*Join the PTA facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/stnicholasschoolpta>. Watch out for the new PTA website launching in September.*

*Use the resources on the school website: <https://www.stnicholasce.org/>*

# Governors' Newsletter

July 2022

A section of photos extracted from the 2021-2022 weekly ebulletins

