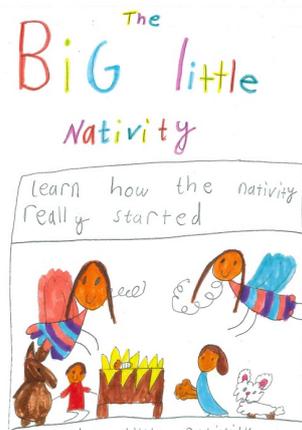




## Message from Mrs Crouch

What a festive week! The evening carol service on Wednesday was incredible. Emerald, Sapphire and Diamond classes sang beautifully, delivered the readings confidently and reminded us all about God's Love for the world. I was very proud of our children. Thank you to all the staff who supported the children in preparing for the service. Thank you also to all the parents who attended and joined in with the singing.

*The Big, Little Nativity* has been performed for the parents of Garnet and Topaz classes. What an incredible performance! The children's speaking, acting and singing were truly impressive. It was heart-warming to see the children shine with confidence, enthusiasm and talent. The nativity performance was a great success thanks to the dedication and support of the staff. It was spectacular!



Throughout this term, I was once again struck by the dedication and effort that all our staff put into doing the very best for your children. Our school is what it is thanks to our fantastic team of talented and hardworking staff, both those working directly with children and those who support the wider life of the school in other ways. A very sincere thank you for all your efforts this term.

In addition, I would like to thank the parents for their support with learning, trips, events to name but a few. The community spirit is such a strength and makes a difference to the lives of all the children.

Wishing everyone a joyful and restful Christmas and New Year!

### Core Values



### Upcoming Events

#### School Lunch Menu change

There will be a change from the original menu on the following days:

Tuesday - We have arranged for a later lunch after the pantomime. Children who would like a hot meal will be offered pizza and chips, followed by a biscuit or fruit. Alternatively, your child may bring a packed lunch from home.

Wednesday - Chicken pie

Please update your child's lunch order if needed.

#### Christmas Jumper Day

The School council has been promoting a way to support the Save the Children charity by wearing Christmas Jumpers or accessories on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Parents are encouraged to make a £1 donation to support this wonderful cause. Donations can be made in the playground on the day. Alternatively, donations can be made online via [Christmas Jumper donation](#)

#### Class Christmas Parties

Children can come to school wearing party clothes on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December as we will be having Christmas parties. There is no need to send any food in.

#### End of Term Service

All parents are invited to attend the end of term service at St Nicholas Church on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 9.05am. Governors will be offering refreshments to parents at Cornelia's café after the service.

### Dates

15<sup>th</sup> Dec—Breakfast Boxing Club—Last club session

15<sup>th</sup> Dec—Talent Show

16<sup>th</sup> Dec—Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime—Eric Morecambe Centre 10.15am

**16<sup>th</sup> Dec—Year 5/6 Football Match at The Grove 3.30pm**

17<sup>th</sup> Dec—Christmas Jumper Day

17<sup>th</sup> Dec—Class Christmas Parties

18<sup>th</sup> Dec—End of Term Service at St Nicholas Church all classes attending 9.05am

18<sup>th</sup> Dec—End of Term school finishes at 1.15pm

19<sup>th</sup> Dec—Occasional Day—No Children attending school

5<sup>th</sup> Jan—INSET Day—No Children attending school

6<sup>th</sup> Jan—Spring Term Begins

7<sup>th</sup> Jan—Open Day for September 2026 Reception Intake 9.30am

**9<sup>th</sup> Jan—Fencing Club begins**

**9<sup>th</sup> Jan—My (after school) Art Club begins**

**12<sup>th</sup> Jan—Chess Club begins**

**13<sup>th</sup> Jan—Riverside Gymnastics Lunchtime Club begins**

**13<sup>th</sup> Jan—Years 1 & 2 Football Club begins**

**14<sup>th</sup> Jan—Spanish Lunchtime Language Club begins**

**14<sup>th</sup> Jan—Years 3 & 4 Football Club begins**

**15<sup>th</sup> Jan—Years 5 & 6 Football Club begins**

**15<sup>th</sup> Jan—KS1 & KS2 STEMgineers begins**

**16<sup>th</sup> Jan—French Lunchtime Language Club begins**

<https://www.stnicholasce.org/diary/grid/2025/01/>

### Primary Maths Challenge:

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of all the children who took part in the Primary Maths Challenge 2025. Your hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication truly shine through.

**Gold Award Certificate:** Eddie, Hunter, Henry R

**Silver Award Certificate:** Dash, Alex C, Ines, Ella

**Bronze Award Certificate:** Oliver F, Amelia D M, Joseph F

**Perseverance Award:** Isla A, Everly, Luke, Jack M, Grace, Gwynn, Jack S

A huge thank you to every participant for your commitment and positive attitude. You have shown that learning can be both challenging and rewarding, and we are incredibly proud of you all!



### Awards: Stars of the week:

**Diamond:** Alex for producing excellent writing this week. Daisy for persevering with her writing this week.



**Sapphire:** Margot for demonstrating exceptional strategic thinking and insightful analysis when discussing Boudica's battle against the Romans. Stefan for always being an active participant in lessons and making valuable contributions to class discussions.

**Emerald:** Munachiso for referring to text when answering questions in reading. Penelope for good use of subordinating conjunctions in her writing.

**Topaz:** Alexis for her careful and thoughtful writing and illustrating. Ava for working hard with her Maths this week.

**Garnet:** The whole class for working so hard on their Nativity.

### Extra-Curricular Achievements:

Congratulations to Eddie for achieving his 1st Kyu (brown belt with two stripes) grading at Harpenden JKA in karate.



Congratulations to Eleanor, Elizabeth, Eva, Evie, Grace, Indigo, Lilo, Munachiso and Sienna for receiving their Proficiency Awards from Riverside Gymnastics Club.

### Prayer

Loving Father,  
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
and that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate,  
and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift,  
and good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing, which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,  
and Christmas evening bring us,  
to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven,  
for Jesus sake.  
Amen.

