ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



Year 7

WELCOME BOOKLET

WE ASPIRE TO EMBRACE THE GOSPEL AND ITS VALUES

'Everyone Matters'



WELCOME



May I extend a warm welcome to you on behalf of the whole community of St Nicholas Catholic High School.

I am aware that the period of transfer from primary to secondary school can be an anxious time for some students, parents and carers. For students, there is the excitement of exploring an environment with new people, the making of new friends and experiencing different subjects and facilities. For parents and carers, there can be some trepidation about how easily your child will settle, cope with the work and relate to their new teachers.

This Year 7 Handbook covers many of the practical details about the school that you really need to know (eg What bus do they get? What will be taught in lessons? What do I do when they are ill and absent from school?) and supports our Information Evening for new parents and carers on Tuesday 21st June.

One of the foundations of the success of St Nicholas' over many years has been the close relationship fostered between parents, carers and the school. We value your support and could not operate as successfully as we do without your co-operation. In return, we are committed to developing the God given talents and potential of each child in a safe, secure and happy environment.

Once again, welcome and I hope you find this booklet useful.

Yours sincerely

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RICHARD WOODS HEADTEACHER

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MISSION STATEMENT



WE ASPIRE TO EMBRACE THE GOSPEL
AND ITS VALUES,
CELEBRATING UNIQUENESS
AND DIVERSITY.
OUR LEARNING, WITHIN AN
ENTERPRISE CULTURE,
IS BASED UPON TRUST AND RESPECT
WHICH DEFINE
OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN
THE WORLD FAMILY.

'EVERYONE MATTERS'

FAITH LIFE

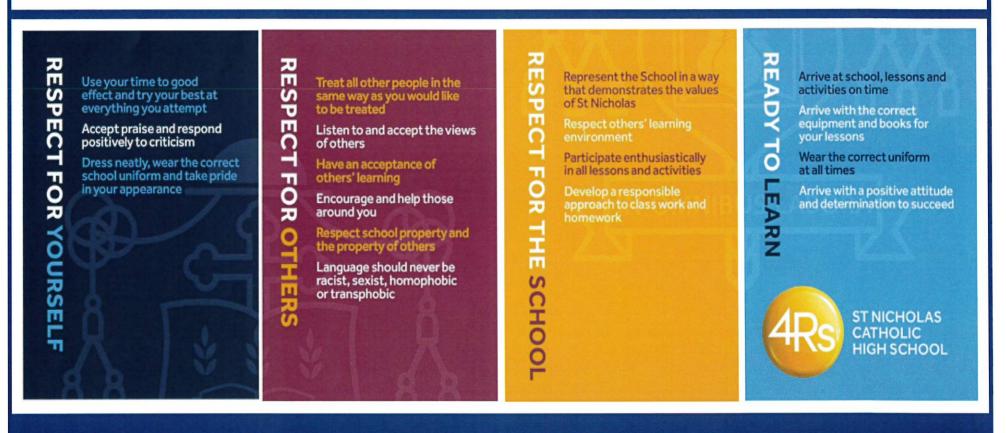
St Nicholas' is proud to be a Voluntary Aided secondary school within the Diocese of Shrewsbury. The life of the school is conducted in accordance with the rites, practices and observances of the Catholic Church. It is expected that children admitted to the school will take a full and active part in the religious life of the school. There are opportunities for students to go to Mass and to participate in other forms of liturgy. Retreats are organised for students on a variety of occasions at different venues. Students in Sixth Form are invited to travel as volunteer helpers in the annual Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Students begin each day with a moment of prayer and reflection during 'Sacred Space' time – this will either be as a Form Class during morning registration or as a Year Group during assembly. Prayer is led by both students and staff alike and is central to our life together as a community founded on the beliefs and values of Jesus Christ. Each week students are able to attend voluntary Mass in our School Chapel every Tuesday lunchtime, this is subject to any restrictions in place. We have a full-time lay Chaplain, Mairie, who supports prayer and liturgy and is also on hand to offer personal and spiritual support to all staff and students.

STANDARDS AT ST NICHOLAS

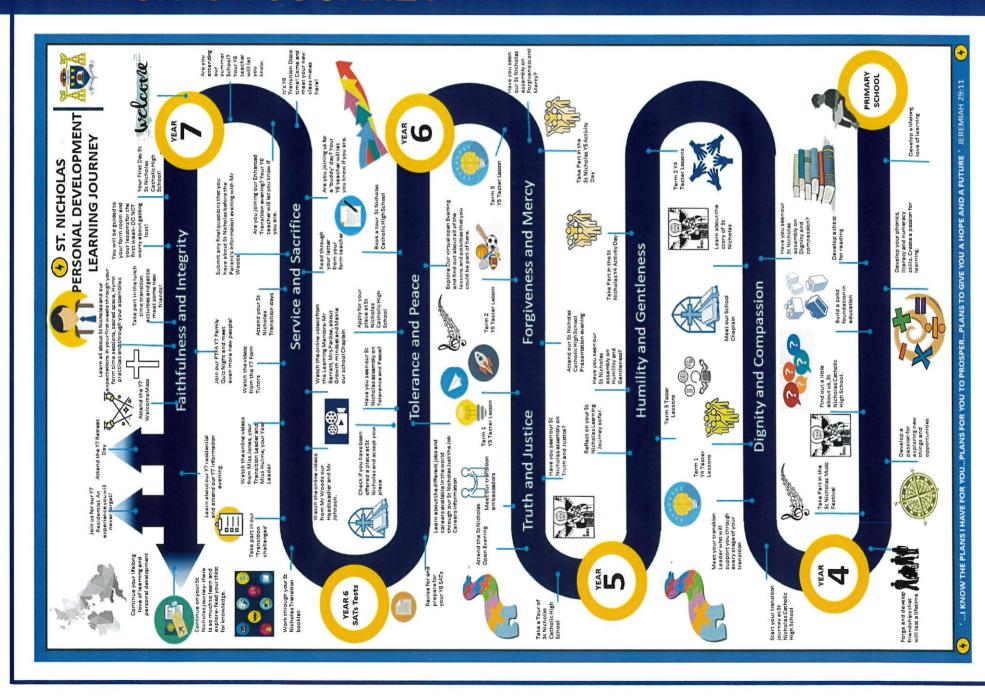
Here at St Nicholas we expect the very best from every member of our community in all that we do.

We refer to this as the '4 Rs' -



Further detailed information can be found within the School Behaviour Policy on our website.

TRANSITION JOURNEY



YOUR TRANSITION PACK CONTENTS

WELCOME TO YOUR ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITION PACK

We understand that starting high school can be a daunting prospect so we want to ensure that we provide you with all the information that you need before you start with us in September.

We have drawn up a list of everything we have included in this pack of information as a guide.

We hope you are as excited to start at St Nicholas Catholic High School as we are to meet you in September.

If you have any further questions or enquiries, please email them to:

transitions	@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk

INCLUDED IN PACK	RECEIVED	ACTION REQUIRED		
Headteacher's Letter		None		
Year 7 Welcome Booklet		None		
Transport Letter		Complete the Microsoft Form by 30 th April 2022		
INFORMATION SENT VIA EMAIL - Week commencing 2 nd May 2022				
Admission Information Form		Complete the online form by 31st May 2022		
LETTERS TO FOLLOW IN JUNE 2022				
Music Tuition, Parentpay Login details, Residential Information				



PLANNED TRANSITION EVENTS

We know that moving to High School can be a daunting prospect for parents and carers and their children.

We want to assure you that we want to answer questions you may have - however big or small.

Outline'd below are the dates and details of our key transition events.

PLANNED ONSITE ACTIVITIES	KEY DATES
YEAR 6 VISIT DAYS	The dates for your child's two taster days will be confirmed after 27th April
YEAR 6 DISCO	Friday 8th July (all students)
ENHANCED TRANSITION EVENING	Tuesday 5th July (some children as requested by primary colleagues)
BUDDY DAYS	(some children as requested by primary colleagues)

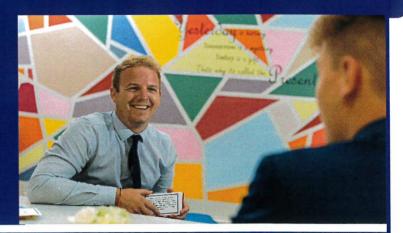


WHO IS WHO AROUND SCHOOL?

AT ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL,
WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THE RELATIONSHIPS WE DEVELOP
WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY.

There are many adults in school, which can be daunting at first, but you soon get to know everybody and we are all here to help you.

Here is a guide to help you know who is here to help you.

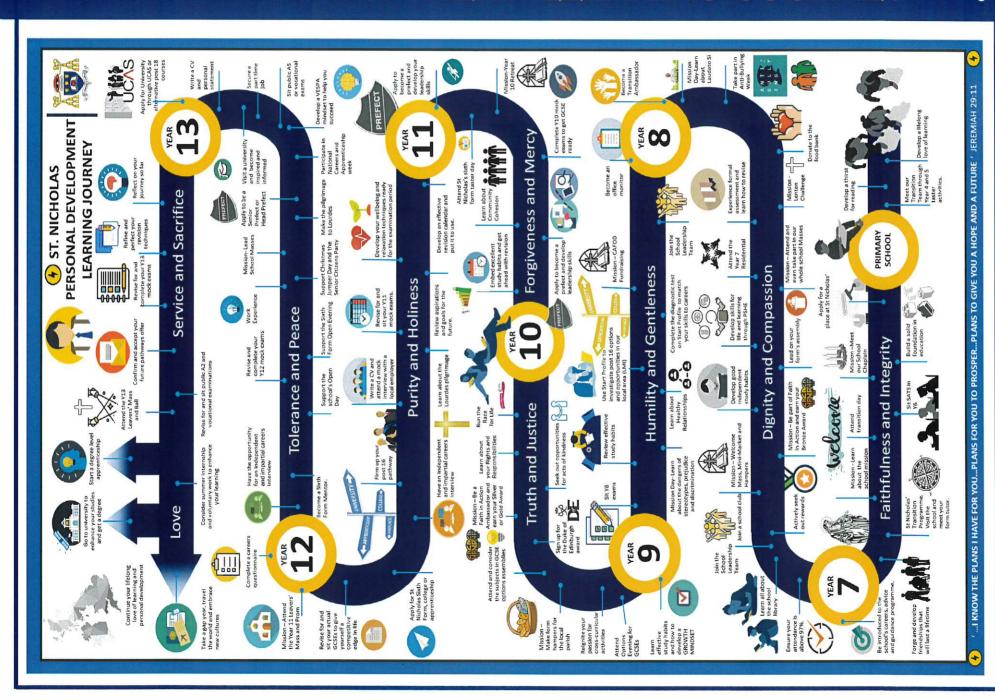


FORM TUTOR	This teacher is your first point of contact for any help or advice you may need. They will help with organisation and any challenges that may be faced throughout the day.		
YEAR LEADER	Your Year Leader will be there to support your Form Teacher and to keep track of your success whilst you are part of our community. Your Year Leader can help you with any pastoral issues that you may have and will help you to feel safe, happy, involved and able to perform to your potential.		
LEARNING MENTOR TEAM	The Learning Mentors are there to support you if you are having a difficult day in school. Regular weekly appointments can also be arranged if you need further support. They are here to help you feel happy in school and look forward to meeting you.		
SCHOOL CHAPLAIN	Mairie is based near the Chapel and she can be seen out and about around school and also during Mass and reflective times.		
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER	Mr Johnson is another member of your pastoral team, who will assist your Year Leader in their pastoral role to ensure that you are safe, happy, involved and able to perform to your potential.		

Finally, during break and lunch time as well as before and after school, there are many members of staff on duty.

They all wear high visibility jackets and will be able to provide any support you may need during this time.

For more information on staff at school, please visit our 'meet the staff' page on our school website.



ATTENDANCE, PUNCTUALITY and ABSENCE

ILLNESS AND ABSENCE

In the case of unavoidable absence, contact school on: 01606 706000.

Written requests for leaves of absence must be at least one calendar month in advance - please contact Mr Hunt, Attendance Officer.

Term time absences will not be authorised unless in exceptional circumstances and will be decided on a case by case basis.

Holidays will NOT be authorised in term time.

Students are expected to be in form for 8.50am

Students arriving after this time will be marked as late. Students arriving after 8.50am must sign in at Reception before going to form or lesson if after 9.15am.

Please contact your child's Year Leader with any attendance or punctuality concerns.



EVERYONE MATTERS, SO ATTENDANCE MATTERS



ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGE (%)	DAYS ABSENT (Academic Year)	DAYS ABSENT (Term)	DAYS ABSENT (Half-Term)	IMPACT
100	0	0	.0	Best chance of success in school.
98	3	1	1/2	Improved wellbeing and making good progress.
96 – Minimum expected	7	2	1	Seeing friends regularly, enjoying lessons and keeping up with the learning.
94	11	3 ½	2	Decreasing motivation. Starting to miss links between lessons.
92	15	5	2 1/2	Learning getting difficult. Progress at risk.
90	19	6	3	Increasing risk of mental health issues. Losing the link between lessons and progress.
Below 90 (persistent absence)	19+	6+	3+	Significantly decreased chance of success. Putting potential qualifications at a huge risk. Possible fixed penalty notice and parental prosecution.

LESSON MONITOR GRADES

Subject teachers record one of the numbers below for you in every lesson.

This is then used to reward and monitor effort and achievement.

0	The minimum expectation has not been met; the student has disrupted the lesson severely and/or displayed extreme behaviour; the student is likely to have been removed from the lesson.
1	The student is not adhering to the '4Rs' and this could include rude and/or disruptive behaviour, disrespect or discriminatory behaviour.
2	The student is not ready to learn in terms of attitude and does not complete tasks to the best of their ability. The student has 'coasted' and had to be persistently cajoled and encouraged to complete classwork.
3	The student meets the '4Rs'.
4	The student meets the '4Rs' and shows and exceptional thirst for knowledge going beyond the lesson expectations. Attitude to learning is exemplary, demonstrating initiative and independence.
8	The student did not complete and/or hand in homework.
9	The student is not ready to learn in terms of equipment including diary/day sheet and uniform.

You should ensure that for every lesson you have two pens, a ruler, a pencil, an eraser and a pencil sharpener.

OFFICE 365, HOMEWORK and SCHOOL PLANNER

OFFICE 365

All students are issued with a login to Office 365. This gives the students:

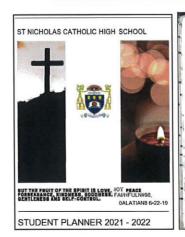
- A school email address, which is to be used for school business only.
- One terabyte of online storage space.
- Access to a range of online productivity tools (Word online, Powerpoint online, Class Notebooks).
- The ability to download and install the full Microsoft Office suite on up to five computers, five tablets and five smart phones, with no cost incurred.

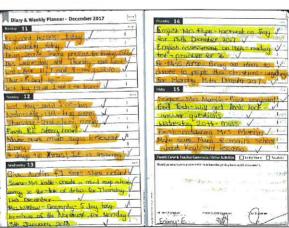
YEAR 7 HOMEWORK

- Students will receive homework for all lessons except PE.
- Students should receive a task once every two lessons and aim to spend no longer than 30 minutes per subject in Year 7.
- All homework should be recorded in the student's planner.
- It is an expectation that all homework is completed on time.
- Homework is an important way to create independent learners and good study habits which are vital as students progress through the school.
- Homework is set on Microsoft Teams.

SCHOOL PLANNER

All students will be given a School Planner on their first day. This is full of helpful information and students use it to record homework. Students have an opportunity to design the front cover and it is a great communication tool.





EXAMPLE OF STUDENT SCHOOL PLANNER

TRACKING and MONITORING and SCHOOL CURRICULUM

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING AT KEY STAGE 3

Challenging targets are set for all students at St Nicholas Catholic High School. Targets are calculated by FFT (Fischer Family Trust) using SATS test data that they complete within Year 6.

REPORTING PROCESS

Data is regularly collected and communicated to parents at various times throughout the year to inform parents of their child's progress. This is called 'TRACKING AND MONITORING' and includes the following:

FFT TARGET – your child's target grade.

CURRENT WORKING LEVEL – The current standard of work your child is producing

BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING GRADE -

A grade that signifies your child's attitude to learning.



The St Nicholas Catholic High School curriculum is rooted in the **School Mission Statement** which makes explicit the Christian and Gospel Values on which the school is based and the sacredness and worth of each individual in the school community. Further information relating to our School Curriculum is available on the school website: www.st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk

FINDING YOUR WAY

We know that during those first weeks at St Nicholas, our new students worry about finding their way and making new friends.

This is how we help students to become familiar with their new surroundings:

St Nicholas teachers will collect their classes from the Assembly Hall and return them at the end of each lesson.

Any student who is still unsure how to find their way can report to the Assembly Hall and a 'buddy' can take them to their classroom.

If students are still unsure we will pair them up with another member of their class to help them find their way.

We have a lovely community of students who all assist in helping our new Year 7 starters find their classrooms. They love to volunteer for this!

ANNUAL REPORTS

In addition to Tracking and Monitoring, students receive one written report each year. The report details students' progress, and will include a comment and target for each subject as well as any applicable examination results. Reports will include the Current Grade and the Behaviour for Learning grade. It will also include comments from their Form Tutor to give an indication of how each student is progressing throughout school.



SCHOOL UNIFORM



St Nicholas Catholic High School has a high expectation of personal appearance and this includes our unique school uniform. Please read the information below to ensure purchases of uniform and footwear are in accordance with the school policy. Our full Uniform Policy can be found on our website.

UNIFORMITY Schoolwear are our uniform provider who stock all of our bespoke items. They operate an online uniform shop as well as having a shop in Chester, a few minutes walk from the City Centre, where you can try on and purchase uniform.

UNIFORMITY SCHOOLWEAR SHOP

22-26 Handbridge, Chester CH47JE
Tel 01244 566486 Email: Info@uniformityclothing.co.uk

ONLINE SHOP: http://www.uniformityschools.com/schools/ st-nicholas-catholic-high-school

SHOP OPENING HOURS

Monday to Thursday – 8.30am – 4.45pm Friday – 8.30am – 4.15pm

SATURDAY 9am — 4pm on the following dates: 30th July, 6th August, 13th August, 20th August, 27th August and 3rd September

Orders can be processed online where you can select from the following options:

- Delivery to home address
- Delivery to school (usually Friday)
- Click & Collect

We recommend that you check the sizing guides under the 'Uniform' tab on the school website before placing orders or alternatively visit the Uniformity shop for a fitting.

Please order your uniform as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

SCHOOL UNIFORM Cont'd

Below is a list of all the uniform items that are required and where they can be purchased from. <u>Blazers are expected to be worn at all times</u> in order to maintain the high standards of the school and its positive public image. Students do have the option of wearing a v-neck jumper underneath the school blazer or a coat, but these items **must not** carry any branding. **Hooded tops are not permitted at any time**. Prices are accurate at the time of printing.

ALL ITEMS OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED AS 'OPTIONAL' ARE COMPULSORY

ITEMS FROM UNIFORMITY SCHOOLWEAR	PRICE (start price)	ITEMS FROM THE HIGH STREET
Blazer – Teal with logo	£43.20	Trousers – black (not skinny or tight fit)
Skirt – Pleated with logo	£19.00	Shirt – white (long or short sleeved)
Tie	£6.85	Socks/tights – plain black
PE – Polo Shirt	£13.45	Jumper – black v-neck* optional
PE – Rugby Top (sky blue stripe with logo)	£17.10	PE – navy/blue sweatshirt (no hood)* optional
PE – Shorts (sky blue stripe)	£8.70	PE – navy/blue jog pants* optional
PE – Skort (sky blue stripe)	£15.05	PE – navy/blue leggings* optional
PE – Socks (hooped design)	£5.55	Shoes – black, leather (see guidance on school website)

OTHER PE KIT REQUIRED INCLUDES: trainers, football/hockey boots, shin pads and a gum shield.

*Items asterisked must be unbranded

EXAMPLES OF FOOTWEAR WHICH ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE



TRANSPORT

The school expects the highest standards of behaviour from students as they travel to and from school. Students are greeted by senior staff as they arrive on the premises and their departure from school is supervised by a team of duty staff each day.

Options of travel to St Nicholas includes Managed Bus Service routes, public bus routes and trains. Details of these can be found in the table below:

MANAGED BUS ROUTES

These routes require payments via Parentpay*

- Winsford Yellow route, this includes Wharton, Davenham & Moulton
- Winsford Purple route, this includes Whitegate & Over
- Frodsham Green route, this includes Helsby, Frodsham, Kingsley,
 Crowton, Acton Bridge, Weaverham
- Sandbach Blue route, this includes Middlewich and Rudheath
- Warrington Red route, includes Wincham & Kingsmead



- Greenbank station is the nearest station and is a 10 minute walk from the school. Services run every hour and full details are available via Northern Rail online
- To the East Lostock Gralam, Plumley, Knutsford & Mobberley
- To the West Cuddington, Delamere & Mouldsworth
- Hartford Station is a 20 minute walk from the school and trains run to Winsford station.



*Managed routes: Full timetables and further information including behaviour expectations are available via our website: https://st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk/travel-details/

Please refer to the attached letter and instructions for requesting a place on the Managed Bus Route.

TRANSPORT - Payment Options

• Bus passes can be requested from the Finance Office when regular daily travel is required, they are issued to students at the start of September and payments processed in advance of travel each half term direct to school via the online payment system ParentPay. Costed at 2021-22 prices, passes cost £3.60 per day (return journey), pricing is subject to **MANAGED** annual review*. BUS • Where students do not require regular travel each day or both morning and afternoon, travel **SERVICE** tickets can be purchased for occasional journeys via ParentPay A minimim of £20 to cover 10 individual journeys, must be purchased in advance of travel. Costed at 2021-22 prices, tickets cost £4.00 per return journey, pricing is subject to annual review*. Please refer to the letter enclosed for bus routes and payment options. • Northern Rail usually offer discounted train fares in the form of an educational train pass although details of these will not be released by Northern Rail until mid-to-late August. **TRAIN TICKETS** Please refer to the website for more information: https://www.northernrailway.co.uk/tickets/educational-season • Local authorities still provide free transport for eligible students. Please refer to the letter enclosed. Further information is available on the Cheshire West & Chester website: FREE TRANSPORT https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/school-and-

*Further details confirming prices for travel will follow in the Summer Term by email. Further information or queries can be sent to Mrs Fiona O'Hanlon, Finance Officer by email: f.o'hanlon@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk

college-transport/apply-for-travel-assistance.aspx or call the helpline on 0300 123 7039.

To confirm your child's transport arrangements, please complete the online form using the link, which can be found on the enclosed Transport Letter, by 30th April.

At St Nicholas we are very fortunate to serve a variety of nutritious hot and cold food, all freshly made on site. As a cashless school, all students are issued with a catering card on their first day. The catering card can be topped up via a re-valve machine located in the dining room with cash, or via Parentpay, the login for which will be communicated to you shortly. There is a maximum spend of £5 per day. If you wish for this limit to be amended, please email: admin@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk

Our menus run on a three weekly cycle. Examples of the current menu are available via our website: https://st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk/dining-room-menus/ and are usually updated three times per year.

AVAILABLE OPTIONS SHOWN BELOW:

Hot meal or meal deal or free school meal allowance	 examples include: roast dinner, curry, mac & cheese, casserole, lasagne, vegetarian option, all with seasonal vegetables/salad. a sandwich, baked crisps, a fresh piece of fruit & bottle of water. 		
Daily	 pizza panini variety of deluxe sandwiches (deli counter) premium salad box variety of tortilla wraps cold pasta pots fresh fruit/vegetable pots tray bakes 		
Grab and Go	 changes daily. Examples include: chilli nacho pots, hot chicken skewer & rice wraps, pulled pork/beef brioche buns. 		
Hot Pasta counter	pasta/noodles/rice & jacket potatoes with a variety of fillings.		

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you are eligible for free school meals, your child's account will automatically be topped up each morning by the allowance set by the council; this is currently £2.50 but is subject to change.

If you would like to apply for free school meals, please do so via their website:

https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/school-meals.aspx
or by calling the Cheshire West Free School Meal team on 0300 123 7021.

HOLIDAY DATES

AUTUMN 2022	SPRING 2023	SUMMER 2023		
Monday 5 th September — Friday 21 st October (35 days)	Wednesday 4 th January — Friday 17 th February <i>(Inset Day 3rd January)</i> (33 days)	Wednesday 19 th April – Friday 26 th May (Bank Holiday 1 st May) (27 days)		
HALF TERM 24 th — 28 th October	HALF TERM 20 th — 24 th February	HALF TERM 29 th May — 2 nd June		
Monday 31 st October – Friday 16 th December (Inset Day 25 th November) (34 days)	Monday 27 th February — Wednesday 5 th April (28 days)	Monday 5 th June — Thursday 20 th July (Inset Day 23 rd June) (33 days)		
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY 19 th December — 3rd January	SPRING BREAK 6 th – 18 th April	SUMMER HOLIDAY 21 st July – 31 st August		
INSET DAYS				
INSET DA INSET DA INSET DA INSET DA INSET DA	Thursday 2 nd Septe Thursday 2 nd Septe Friday 25 th Novemb Tuesday 3 rd January	mber 2022 per 2022 / 2023		

ST NICHOLAS PTFA

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1162567

JOIN IN THE FUN

Throughout your child's journey at St Nicholas', you will enjoy many interactions with our active PTFA which is made up of parents, carers, teachers and friends of the school. All those involved in the PTFA share a common purpose – to make a difference to our children and their families by raising money for projects and activities which the school budget would not otherwise be able to fund.

Throughout the year we organise a variety of fundraising events, which have included wine tasting, a fashion show and a running event along the River Weaver with students, families and teachers taking part. We also hold a Christmas and Summer raffle which offers some fantastic prizes.

To enhance our fundraising this year, we are about to launch our school lottery. We hope to hold a car boot sale and will be helping the Year 11s celebrate at their Prom. We really do enjoy supporting school and can often be seen at school events providing tea and coffee as well as ice lollies on Sports Day.

It is a super feeling to know you have contributed to school in various ways, eg school trips; a music audio recorder, a sewing machine, football kits, hockey sticks, outside tables and chairs, to name just a few. We are always looking for new members and there are many ways you can help or become involved. If the PTFA is something you think you may be interested in, please contact school.

FOR ALL OUR
UPCOMING
PTFA EVENTS
please refer to
St Nicholas'
website



where we have our own webpage.
We also provide information in the school newsletter, which goes out every Friday via Parentpay.

