



Headteacher: Mrs Lorraine Collins BA (hons), MA

10th July 2026

Our Value this half term is Justice

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

Staff News We wish **Mrs Prendergast, Mr Ryall and Mrs Roberts**, who are leaving us, all the best for the future as they move on to pastures new. Please do say goodbye if you see them! Thank you all very much for your hard work and dedication during your time here at St. Nicholas.

Thank you very much too to Ms Matuszyck and Miss Tungamirai for looking after Y4 and Y2 so well this term. We are delighted that Mrs Ruddlesden and Ms Ward are now returning to school; Y4 have enjoyed having Mrs Ruddlesden back this week!

Free School Meals – Eligibility Changes from September 2026

From September 2026, all families receiving Universal Credit will be eligible for Free School Meals, regardless of income.

Applying takes around **5 minutes** and requires your **National Insurance number**. Please apply via [Free school meals and other benefits | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

If your child already receives Free School Meals, you do not need to reapply.

Even if you were previously told you were not eligible, we encourage you to apply. Your child could receive a free nutritious meal, and the school will receive additional funding to support pupils.



Safety Online Simplified 7

Online gaming: Online games are social activities, and most have features that allow children to chat with others whilst they play. For information about the positives of gaming, the risks of in-game chat and measures you can take to help protect your family, we suggest you read this article: [In-game chat: a guide for parents and carers.](#)

Achievements

Each week we will be focusing on a learning behaviour and one or two children who display this behaviour in each class will receive a certificate in celebration of this. Our learning behaviour this week has been **Listening**. Congratulations to:

Nursery & Reception: Dahlia & Amira; **Y1:** Scarlett; **Y2:** Nicholas; **Y3:** Enzo & Nina; **Y4:** Alex; **Y5:** Milo; **Y6:** Rose.

Next week we will be focusing on **Curiosity**.

Sporting Achievements

Commonwealth Fun Day Year 5 braved the heat and had a great afternoon at Fairlands Valley Park last Friday. They took part in a variety of sporting activities such as weight lifting, judo and dance as part of a Sporting Futures fun day.

We have heard this week that we have achieved the **School Games Platinum Award** which is a great achievement! Thanks to Mrs Ruddlesden, Mr Whitchelo and all the staff and students who have helped at and taken part in sporting events this year.

House points

We are keeping a weekly tally of the number of House points each House has as well as a running total.

The overall total number of points so far this term for each

House are:	St Andrew:	6710
	St Francis:	6523
	St Clare:	6193
	St Catherine:	5704

Skills Builder Bronze Award Please see overleaf for another exciting award which we have received this week!

Next Wednesday is our **Open Evening** from 3:30 – 5pm. It would be lovely to see you here, where you will have the opportunity to see some of the work your children have done this year displayed in their classrooms, as well as to visit their classrooms and teachers for next year.

Have a great weekend! Mrs Collins

Learning, Loving, Living in God's Family

"But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love forever and ever." Psalm 52:8



Skills Builder

Bronze Award

2026 - 29

Celebrating Our Skills Builder Bronze Award

We are delighted to announce that our school has been awarded the **Skills Builder Bronze Award** in recognition of our commitment to developing the essential skills that help children succeed both in school and in later life. Through our curriculum and wider school experiences, pupils have been building the eight essential skills: **Listening, Speaking, Problem Solving, Creativity, Staying Positive, Aiming High, Leadership and Teamwork**. Achieving the Bronze Award celebrates the hard work and dedication of our pupils and staff in embedding these important life skills into everyday learning. We are incredibly proud of this achievement and look forward to continuing our Skills Builder journey, helping every child develop the confidence and skills they need to thrive.

Diary Dates

- **Monday 13th July** – 6pm Y6 Production: *Oliver with a Twist*
- **Tuesday 14th July** – Last Y5 swimming lesson
- **Tuesday 14th July** – 6pm Y6 Production: *Oliver with a Twist*
- **Wednesday 15th July** – 3:30-5pm Open Evening
- **Monday 20th July** – 1:45pm Y6 Leavers' Service in church (Y6 parents and carers welcome)
- **Tuesday 21st July** – Last Day of Term – Early finish 1:30pm

- **Wednesday 2nd September** – Back to School for the First Day of the Autumn Term

A reminder that our term dates can be found on our website on the following link: [St Nicholas CoE \(VA\) Primary School & Nursery - Term Dates](#)