

9th January 2026***Our Value this half term is Forgiveness***

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to school!

We celebrated **epiphany** in worship at the beginning of this week. As part of our Epiphany service, we have blessed our school community 'by **chalking the door**'. The chalking of the door is an ancient tradition, a way of blessing your home and those who live there. The writing outside the door is also a symbol of welcome; the chalk used has been blessed by local clergy. Some of our Year 6 children wrote 20+C+M+B+26 on the wall outside the front of the door to bless the school (Please see photos overleaf). The letters and numbers have the following meaning:

"The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, Christus mansionem benedicat: "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "26" at the end mark the year."

Contacting Your Child's Teacher: If you have any concerns or questions, your child's class teacher is the first person to speak to. Our teachers are happy to talk with you about your child. If you would like to speak to them please make an appointment via the school office. Teachers are not available first thing in the morning or immediately after school because they are busy ensuring the safety of your children as they arrive and leave. Please do not enter the school through the classroom doors but enter via the office. Thank you.

Birthdays We enjoy celebrating your childrens' birthdays but please do not send them in with sweets or anything else to share with their class. Unfortunately, we are unable to hand out any food due to the range of allergies and intolerances and sending in other items can put pressure on other families unintentionally. There is no expectation for families to do anything but if you would like to mark their birthday in school, you could buy a favourite book to donate to their class and we will put a sticker in it saying that it has been donated on behalf of your child, to celebrate their birthday. Thank you for your understanding.

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 **Independence**. Congratulations to:

Reception: Ada; **Y1:** Fenton; **Y2:** Andrzej; **Y3:** Alfie & Daisy; **Y4:** Caelib; **Y5:** Alex; **Y6:** Ollie & Muhammad.

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

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 is:

St Andrew:	2302
St Clare:	2071
St Catherine:	2054
St Francis:	1961

***Safety Online Simplified 16***

Talk to your child! One of the key messages around online safety that has come from all the research into how to keep children and young people safe online is: *Talk regularly with your child about what they like to do online and find out what apps, games and sites they use or would like to use.*

For advice around how to start these conversations you may like to read CEOPs article [here](#).

Reading for Pleasure A reminder that inside our entrance is a small bookcase with books that you can borrow; please just return them when you have finished them.

If you have a book that you have enjoyed and would like to leave it for someone else to read, please do. We would welcome any books in languages other than English so that we can meet the needs of our diverse school community. Thank you very much, and happy reading!

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

Chalking the Door this week



Diary Dates

- **Wednesday 15th January** – Deadline for Reception applications to start in September 2026
- **Friday 17th January** – Y5 Netball match at home after school
- **Monday 19th January** – Premier Education Free Breakfast and After School Club Taster Sessions (must be booked in advance - please contact Premier Education directly for details)
- **Tuesday 10th February** – Safer Internet Day
- **Monday 16th – Friday 20th February** – Half Term
- **Monday 16th – Thursday 19th February** – Premier Education Holiday Club (please contact Premier Education directly for details)
- **Friday 27th March** – Last Day of Term – Early finish 1:30pm
- **Monday 13th April** – Back to School

Please note, the calendar has been updated on our website with a new start date after the Summer holidays; children will return to school on Wednesday 2nd September. The calendar can be found on the following link: [St.Nicholas.CoE.\(VA\).Primary.School.&Nursery-Term.Dates](http://St.Nicholas.CoE.(VA).Primary.School.&Nursery-Term.Dates)