



St Nicholas C.E Primary Academy

Woad Farm Road, Boston, Lincs PE21 0EF

Tel: 01205 363 210 Email: STNenquiries@infinityacademies.co.uk

Web: www.bostonstnicholas.co.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs F Booth

Proud member of the Infinity Academies Trust

"Let your light shine." Matthew 5:14-16



Infinity Academies Trust

Ready to learn, Prepared to flourish.

Tuesday 16th September

Dear Parents/ Carers,

After such a long time away from school I am delighted to be able to offer a warm welcome to our new St Nicholas families and a wonderful welcome back to our existing ones. It has been a real pleasure to once again hear the excited chatter of children and to see them enjoying time with their friends on the playground; they have been full of smiles, so rest assured that your child is happy to be back at school!

Our robust risk assessments and guidance is working well and I trust that you are all finding the new routines and procedures easy to follow and you feel assured that the school is doing everything possible to keep the school community safe. I would like to thank you for your help in keeping our school community safe by following the 'Hands. Face. Space.' Campaign; practising social distancing at the start and end of the day; for wearing your mask at drop-off and collection and for your patience and flexibility as we adjust to being back together each and every day.

Please now take the time to read this letter (sorry it is a long one) but it includes important information that you need to be aware of at the start of this academic year.

SAFETY NOTICE: COVID-19 UPDATES: Face Coverings / Masks

You will be aware that we constantly review our procedures and update our risk assessments; therefore, in accordance with the recent government announcement to reduce gatherings to a maximum of 6 people and the increasing expectation to wear face coverings in public areas, as an Academy Trust, we have taken the decision that from Monday 14th September all adults MUST wear a face mask / covering when they enter the school site for drop off and collection. We are adopting this additional measure to help reduce the risks presented by COVID for people gathering in large numbers where social distancing is difficult to maintain consistently (for example: around our school site at drop-off/collection times). We urge you to continue your amazing work in adhering to this improved measure in order to keep our whole school community safe. There is no requirement for children to wear masks whilst in school.



Children will continue to wash their hands regularly whilst in school and they will be provided with hand sanitiser periodically throughout the day and additional cleaning measures are in place within all classrooms. We are aware that the increased hand washing is, for some children, causing irritation to their skin so please feel free to send your child with hand cream if this is something that you feel they require. As always please pass to your child's class teacher and ensure that it is clearly labelled with their name.

Catch it, Bin it...

Some children are presenting with sneezes and sniffles due to seasonal allergies or common colds. We are encouraging children to use tissues in order to catch their sneezes where possible. Whilst classes have boxes of tissues available, it would be helpful if children had a small packet of tissues with them to keep on their desk should they be suffering with allergies or colds, please feel free to send these into school if required.

Drop-off and Collection

We are finding that the area outside of EYFS & KS1 is quite congested during the drop-off/ collection. Can I ask all parents to please utilise the space on the field, as well as other passing areas, in order to maintain social distancing and reduce the number of times families are having to cross paths. If you can see another family coming in the opposite direction, please encourage your children to wait until it is safe for you to proceed.



The one-way system for all KS2 pupils who use the front gate is an effective way of minimising contact with other families – please continue your fab work in following this procedure.

We are confident in the procedures that we have put in place at the start of the school year, and as part of our continual review we have already made some adjustments, based upon parent feedback, so please do continue to communicate your thoughts to us so that we can make necessary improvements as required.

Staffing Update

I am delighted to be able to announce that **Mrs Dobbs** (Year 5 class teacher) has been appointed to the role of SENDCO. She is working in partnership with Mrs Curtis to ensure our SEND provision is top-class. Mrs Curtis continues to support children across the whole school and is a superb mentor in the world of SEND for Mrs Dobbs. During the course of this term Mrs Dobbs will be contacting families of those children whom we already support with EHCPs or SEND needs to introduce herself and to see if there is anything she can support you with. If you are concerned about your child's development or individual needs please do not hesitate to speak to the school. We would suggest an informal conversation with your child's class teacher initially which will be followed up by a SEND meeting as appropriate.



Mrs Oliver is a fabulous new member of the teaching staff (Pilgrims Class Teacher) who joins us for her 6th year of teaching. A keen power-lifter, Mrs Oliver is an amazing role-model for our children in so many ways and she is completely committed to ensuring that each and every member of her class receives the highest quality teaching each and every day in order that they can "be the best they can be"!

Miss Hardy joins us in EYFS as a SEND 1:1. She has a wealth of experience in a Nursery setting and is already offering invaluable insights into how to ensure each and every child has the best foundations upon which to build success in their first year at school.

Mrs Tory has stepped into her new role as Noah's Ark class teacher ... and it's safe to say, she's loving it! Mrs Tory's constant drive, determination, energy and enthusiasm is providing lots of opportunities for our littlest learners - who missed so much time at pre-school due to Covid closures – to flourish.

Mrs Basker is now leading Computing across our academy! In the 3 days a week that Mrs Basker works with us, she has the incredible opportunity to deliver the Computing curriculum content to the entire school! This bespoke plan (that Mrs Basker has written) ensures that all of our children are experienced Digital Citizens who have a good knowledge and understanding of how to stay safe online & how to make best use of the amazing technology we are surrounded with!

Mrs Dallywaters will be leaving her current post as our Administrator in order to work full time in the Infinity Academies Central Team Offices. We are very sad to see Mrs Dallywaters' smiley face leaving us but we know she'll be an absolute credit to all 5 of our Infinity schools. I know you'll join me in wishing Mrs Dallywaters all the best!

Mrs Johnson is extremely excited to take on the role of Administrator in the Front Office and I know you will all enjoy getting to know her cheeky personality as you have more opportunities to talk with her in the coming months.

Mr Chamberlain is the proud new member of the Midday Supervisor Team and can regularly be found playing games with the children at lunchtimes! He is relishing the opportunity to get to know our children a little better and can't wait to start implementing some of his plans to improve our routines and systems at lunchtimes.

Mrs Molson has retired from her role as Bursar and has relocated to Bulgaria where she is about to commence a new chapter in her life with her new fiancé.



Road Safety and Behaviour

The gates to the school car park close between 8:30 – 8:50am and 2:55-3:20pm. Disabled parking is available upon presentation of a valid blue badge and in consultation with Mrs Booth.

It is important that we are all respectful of the road markings outside of the school gates – the zigzag lines mean that no cars should park in these spaces. Please continue to be vigilant when crossing the road near to school, particularly at the Back Gates where there are residents to be considerate of and building site traffic to negotiate. Please do not allow your children to access private driveways as this can cause distress to residents and damage to property.

Parents of KS2 children who walk alone, please remind them of how to cross roads safely and ensure that they are wearing a helmet if they are travelling on their bike or scooter.



Willoughby Foods – hot meals return!

Exciting news! From Monday 21st September Willoughby Foods will be providing hot meals in school. Please remember that you are able to order meals for an entire term to avoid forgetting – Mrs Johnson and Mrs Dallywaters are always happy to try to help with any questions you may have.

We have taken precautionary measures to plan the lunch sessions in order to maintain, where possible, the same groupings of children eating in the hall but as with all of our safety measures, this will remain under constant review to ensure we are operating the most effective procedures.

Uniform Policy

Please ensure your child has the correct school uniform and appropriate footwear (no trainers) at all times. This includes rules on jewellery and hairstyles. Please be reminded that hair bands should be in keeping with the school uniform and subtle. Girls should not be wearing headbands with ears or pom-poms on them and brightly coloured decorations in their hair should be reserved for non-uniform days only. Hair dye of any colour is not acceptable. We expect girls to have their hair tied back with appropriate accessories. Please ensure your child does not wear anything else in their hair.



Further information is found on our school website.

PE Kit and After School Clubs

It is vital for your child to come to school wearing their PE kit due to Covid restrictions. Your child's PE lesson will be taking place outdoors so please ensure your child has suitable clothing for all weathers. PE kits should also be in keeping with school colours – a navy t-shirt and black or navy shorts.

Outdoor tracksuits should be navy, black or grey please as these are more practical if your child represents the school in a sporting event.



Please also be reminded that children will be expected to remove their earrings in order to take part in PE lessons – please ensure they are able to do this, if not please remove them at home on the morning of their PE lesson.

Please ensure that all uniform and PE kits are named including footwear. If you have any questions relating to expectations in PE, please contact our Sports Leader, **Mr Lee**

PE days are as follows (2 sessions per week):

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	EYFS		Y3		EYFS
			Y4		
1:20 – 2:10	Year 4	Year 5	Year 1	Year 2	Year 6
2:10 – 3:00	Year 3	Year 6	Year 2	Year 1	Year 5
After-School Clubs					
Mr Rowlatt	Football Year 3/4	Football Year 5/6	Gardening Year 5/6	Gymnastics Year 1/2	Lego Year 1/2
Elite	Archery Year 3/4	Yoga Year 5/6	Tennis Year 3/4	Gymnastics Year 1/2	Athletics Year 5/6

Expectations at After-School Clubs

We are delighted to be able to offer a wide and exciting range of FREE clubs this year. The school Behaviour Policy and expectations remain in place during all extra-curricular activities. During the current circumstances, we also must insist that all visitors to the site follow the “Hands. Face. Space” approach to ensuring everyone is kept safe and well.

Water Bottles and Snacks

We encourage children to bring a water bottle to school so that they can stay hydrated during the day. It is preferable that children only bring water to school, however if necessary a weak diluted sugar free juice is acceptable – but only in exceptional circumstances please.

KS1 children continue to receive a piece of fruit or vegetable each day as part of the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. KS2 children are welcome to bring a healthy snack into school to eat at break time. Please encourage your child to bring a piece of fruit or healthy snack bar. Chocolate bars and sweets are not to be eaten at break times; please also limit the number of times you send your child with crisps.

For advice on healthy snack options and well-being please find information by following the links on our school website and the change4life website: <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/food-facts/healthier-snacks-for-kids>



11+ Entrance Exam (Y6 children only)

11+ tests will be held in school but administered by staff from the Grammar Schools on Friday 18th and Friday 25th September. Appropriate safety measures will be in place and visitors to school will be wearing face masks and will be asked to keep socially distant from pupils at all times.

Please remember that this test is not a primary school test and any questions about how the test will be administered should be directed to the Grammar Schools. Only the children whose names appear on the Grammar Schools' lists will take the test so please ensure that you have informed the appropriate Grammar School of your wishes.

Communication and School Website



School letters/ helpful information is stored on our school website so please do check the website regularly for information:

<https://www.bostonstnicholas.co.uk/>

Remember your child's class has their own page on the website which is regularly updated with details of what the children have been learning. You will also be able to download copies of newsletters and any policies that you may find useful.

Twitter

We use Twitter every day to celebrate children's learning and to share important messages. Please follow our Twitter account **@BostonStNic**. Mr Booth (CEO of Infinity Academies Trust) also communicates widely via Twitter so please also follow our Trust account **@InfinityAcad**

All of our teachers use Twitter to celebrate the learning that the children have been doing each week, it is a great way to find out what has been going on in school, so check out the details of how to follow your child's class here:

- EYFS Noah's Ark Class: **@StNNoahsArk**
- Year 1 Gospels Class: **@StGospels**
- Year 2 Apostles Class: **@StNApostles**
- Year 3 Disciples Class: **@StNDisciples**
- Year 4 Pilgrims Class: **@StNPilgrims**
- Year 5 Saints Class: **@StNSaints**
- Year 6 Prophets Class: **@StNProphets**

Facebook

We have a wonderful Facebook account where you can also keep up to speed with all of the wonderful developments within our school as we continue to rapidly improve our school. Simply follow 'St. Nicholas CE Primary Academy'.

Please be aware, that we do read all of your posts but we do not use Facebook or Twitter as a means of exchanging important personal messages. If you have a question or need any help with anything, please speak to your class teacher or call the main office – we are always more than happy to help!

Our aim is to be a completely paper-free school by Christmas 2020! In order to achieve this, we need all of our families to download this free app called '**Parent Hub**'. This enable all communication from school to come direct to your mobile device so that you can keep up to date with all of the exciting things going on in your child's class, across the wider school and within the Infinity Academies Trust.

For the easy set-up guide please visit:

<https://www.bostonstnicholas.co.uk/letters/>

And select 'Parent Hub Set Up Guide'. Alternatively, ask your child's class teacher or speak to Mrs Johnson in the Office.

Speaking to teachers

We appreciate that currently it is more difficult to catch your child's class teacher at the door so if you have something important to share with us please speak to Mrs Curtis/ Mrs Booth on the gate, telephone the school or pop in to see Mrs Johnson in the office to make an appointment. We will be happy to call you back after school or at a time that is convenient to you. Where necessary, we will arrange a socially distanced meeting so that we can continue to provide wrap-around care for all of our families.

Please do let us know of any changes at home or special circumstances that may affect your child as this can have an impact on how they feel in school and we want to be able to support them the best way possible.

Please also ensure you keep us fully informed of any changes to your contact details.

Parent Consultation Evenings

We will be offering an opportunity for you to meet with your child's class teacher to talk about your child's progress. These will take place on the **12th & 13th of October**. We will also be offering an opportunity to have a telephone consultation if you prefer. Further information on how to book your slot will follow very soon and will be responsive to any Government changes.



Calendar dates and events

You will have received our calendar dates for the year and you will be able to see that we are aiming to try to run a full menu of engagement events – they may just look and feel a bit different! We will constantly review all of our risk assessments and make decisions prior to any event listed as to whether or not it will go ahead. If events have to be cancelled or rescheduled, we will try to do this with as much notice to yourselves as possible. Our aim is to continue to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that enriches children's learning. We will do as much as possible to ensure we can incorporate our engagement activities into our curriculum. Currently, we cannot invite parents into the school building in large groups for class assemblies or engagement events at this time, but we are planning alternative ways of sharing these events with you so please do keep an eye out for letters and announcements on Twitter, Facebook and Parent Hub nearer to the dates planned.



And Finally...

I appreciate there has been a great deal of information to read but can I finish by saying a huge "thank you" to all of you – our amazing families. Your support, words of encouragement and ideas for improvement have been invaluable and it is reassuring to know that together we can make something magical out of this uncertain time. It is wonderful to be back at school and to have been greeted by amazing, hardworking, kind and loving children – they are a real credit to you all. I am very excited about the year ahead and look forward to continuing to strengthen partnerships with parents and the wider community throughout the year. Should you have any concerns regarding our school then please do not hesitate to contact the office and make an appointment to see.

I can't wait to see how brightly we shine!

Mrs F. Booth

