



# St Nicholas CE School Newsletter

January 2021

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<http://www.west-tanfield.n-yorks.sch.uk/Dates.aspx>  
**Diary dates for this term**

## Contact Us

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## 2021...

I can't believe that we are already approaching the end of January – and what a January it has been!

We have really missed having all of the children in school but have been so impressed and grateful for the support they have had at home and for all the hard work the children (and parents) have put into home learning – you are AMAZING!

Thank you to all the parents for your support; speaking from experience I know how hard juggling home learning and working can be. Thank you also for the kind words the staff have received; they are working incredibly hard teaching in school and delivering home learning too.

I hope you enjoy the January newsletter.  
Mrs Sarah Taylor

## Our Snow Competition

We loved seeing all your snow pictures from last week. It looks like there was lots of fun had! The winner of the most 'creative' snow work is James with his fantastic sculpture! Jessie wins the tallest snowman – he's nearly double her height! Well done to you both! There will be a little prize at school for you on return.





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## RSPB!



The children are all very excited about the 'Big Garden Birdwatch' for the RSPB.

The RSPB ask people around the UK to take part in their annual Big Garden Birdwatch 2021. Running from 29th to 31st January 2021, the Big Garden Birdwatch is perfect for the whole family to enjoy. Resources have been sent home with all children and more information can be found on the link below.

1. To take part, all you need to do is choose any hour between 29th and 31st January to head outside and see what you can spot. Whether you're an early **bird** or a night owl, you can still take part.
2. Next, count the birds you see in your garden. Ignore any birds that are still in flight. "To avoid double-counting, just record the highest number of each bird species you see at any one time – not a running total.
3. You can submit your results online at [rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](https://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch) or alternatively post your results instead.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

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## Laptops!

A huge thank our local community who have donated 18 laptops to school to help all our children both in school and at home access our learning in lockdown. This has made such a difference for many families. Thanks also to Daphne Bourne -Arton who collected these and organised for Ripon Laptop centre to make these safe and install the appropriate software needed so they were ready for school use.

We still have several lap tops in school should any families require one. Please contact the school office who will organise safe delivery of these.

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## Remote Learning

Now we are a few weeks into our home learning offer, we felt this would be an appropriate time to seek parental voice as to how this is working.

Whilst reflecting on remote learning, now may also be a good time to remind parents of the following:

- As a school, we are legally obliged to set home learning of sufficient quantity and quality.
- We recognise that every family situation is very different and only ever ask that parents undertake what is manageable for their family.
- Our role is also to check in with parents and offer support to remove any barriers they may be facing with home learning where we can, or any well-being support for children when needed.
- We recognise each situation is unique and will always seek to reassure all parents that we are here to support our families in whichever way we can.

Please find a link below to our remote learning parent survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/T72PFLZ>

Please complete one of these separately **for each of your children** in school. The survey will close on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021.

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## Wellbeing Wednesday!



Children's mental health week is more important than ever this year in lockdown. Throughout next week teachers will be delivering various activities to support children's mental health.

There are also lots of resources for parents on the schools website. These can be accessed under the STUDENTS/REMOTE LEARNING tab.

We will also be holding Wellbeing Wednesday next Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. We are encouraging all children at home or in school to wear whatever makes them happy on this day.

Teachers will also plan the day around supporting mental health. There will be a PSHE session at the start of the day followed by three other sessions in the morning themed around a happy body, happy mind and happy soul!

In the afternoon, everyone in school or at home will be encouraged to take the afternoon to do something that makes them happy. Please look out for more details to follow from class teachers.

