

13 May 2009

Dear Parents / Carers

We pride ourselves on the standard of education we offer our students. We are constantly challenged with seeking opportunities, to not only maintain our standards, but to significantly better them. In order that school may realise its vision for the future, and ensure that we provide yours sons and daughters with the facilities and environment that they so richly deserve, I am seeking your support. This support is ever more important in the present economic climate; the opportunity for the Governors to find enrichment opportunities from the budget has been completely eradicated. Therefore the possibility of addressing the challenge of refurbishing the changing rooms, upgrading some of the toilets and enhancing IT provision, lie outside of the school's capacity.

Our changing rooms are not suitable for purpose and urgently need refurbishing. The continued maintenance and development of ICT provision across all subject disciplines is also essential. With your help and support, we can provide these facilities.

In these very difficult times we have to look outside the school budget to find the means to improve our facilities and strong support from those who care about St Nicholas' future is crucial. This means our Appeal is more important than ever. If as many parents as possible engage with this appeal St Nicholas will be able to move ahead with its plans in a highly significant way.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely



G F Boyle
Headteacher

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Tax Efficient Giving

If you are a UK taxpayer and make a gift to St Nicholas, a registered charity, we are able to claim back the basic rate of income tax that has been paid, currently 20%, plus a further 2% as the traditional release for Charities.

In simple terms, if you donate £1 without Gift Aid, then £1 is exactly what we receive. If however, you complete a Gift Aid form and donate £1 we are able to claim an extra 28p. To give you an example of what that means, for every donation of £25 we are able to claim an additional £7 in Gift Aid, and for a donation of £500 we can claim a massive £140!

Relatively small regular payments by Standing Order quickly build up. A £7 monthly gift, over five years made through the Gift Aid scheme would result in a total gift to St Nicholas of £538.

Making your gift payments by Standing Order is more convenient for yourself as well as saving the school administrative costs.

You only need to complete the Gift Aid Declaration once, since it will apply to all subsequent gifts to the school.

If you are a higher rate taxpayer you may be able to claim back the difference between the basic rate and higher rate of tax on your Tax Return. Please consult your tax or financial adviser for more detailed advice.