

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015**  
**St Nicholas Church of England (Controlled)**  
**Primary School - Weekly Newsletter**

**Headteacher: Christopher Dale**



Dear Parents and Carers

**Welcome.**

I am delighted to be able to write my first letter as the new Headteacher of St. Nicholas Church of England Primary School. All the staff and children have made me feel very welcome and I feel privileged to be joining your school community. Being a father of two boys, I am very much aware of the responsibility that the staff and I have in ensuring that the highest standard of teaching and learning is evident in all areas.

Since my appointment, I have had the opportunity to visit the school on several occasions being able to meet with the IEB, pupils and staff.

My priority as Headteacher is to ensure that St. Nicholas works hard to become an outstanding school. Not only do I want to get to know the pupils, staff and school community this term but also begin to build an excellent team. This is to ensure we are able to meet the needs of all our pupils to achieve their full potential in their academic, creative, personal, physical, moral and spiritual development.

Within the context of Christian belief and practice, our school will develop a set of core values which will underpin all the work we do. These values, underpinned by our curriculum, will have a huge impact as your child develops. They help to deepen your child's positive values and in doing so, help them consider the implications of their choices in relation to themselves, the communities from which they are part and the wider world.

I know how vital working in partnerships with parents really is, in order for children to find school a positive and rewarding experience. I strongly believe achievement and enjoyment go hand in hand to ensure each child's excellent progress. I hope you will support our high expectations in all areas, especially in behaviour and achievement.

I am sure I will be meeting many parents on the school gate at the start of each day and on the 'Meet the Teacher' morning next Tuesday. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries, concerns or if there is anything I can do to help and support you with your child's learning and school life.

I would like to thank you personally for your continued commitment and support towards the staff and pupils of this school.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Dale  
**Headteacher**

**The World's Biggest Coffee Morning**

We will be taking part in the 'World's biggest coffee morning' on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September**.

Please come and join us in the school training room from 9:00am until 10:30am where we will be selling cakes and refreshments to raise money for the Macmillan Cancer Support, a charity which

**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**



helps to change the lives of people affected by cancer. If you are able to donate cakes for this event please bring them along to the school on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning. Please do try and come along for a chance to chat with other parents and to support this worthy cause. Thank you.

**Dates for your diary**

**Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Sept** –  
Reception children  
finish at 1.30pm

**Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Sept** –  
Open classes – details  
over the page

**W/e of 18<sup>th</sup> Sept** –  
Year 6 to Swattenden

**Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Sept** –  
Reception children  
start full time

**Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Sept** – 9am to  
10.30am Macmillan  
coffee morning

**W/e Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Sept**  
Year 6 to Swattenden

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Harvest  
Festival Service

**TERM DATES**

**Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct** - End of  
term 1

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov** – Term 2  
starts, children return  
to school

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Term 2  
ends at 2pm

**Staff Development  
Days**

The school will be  
closed to children on  
these dates

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October**  
&

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

The school has one day still to  
arrange.

**Attendance: Every day counts:** School attendance is vital for young people to reach their full potential. School attendance is a priority for St Nicholas and we will from now on be constantly monitoring pupil attendance. We want to work together with parents/carers to help ensure excellent attendance and punctuality from every pupil. Parents are required by law, to ensure their children attend school regularly. If they fail to do this they are guilty of an offence and may be given a penalty notice or prosecuted under section 444 of the Education Act 1996. The Courts have interpreted regular attendance as 'a child being in school every day it is open for education'. If a child is absent from school without permission, including for a holiday, the parent can be fined by the local authority.

Don't forget to  
follow us on  
Twitter

@St Nicholas CEP

twitter 

Whilst walking around the school, it is clear that this is a very exciting time for the children as they are becoming immersed in their new topics through the 'entry points' they share as a class. A topic 'entry point' is the hook for the learning that gets the children interested - it gives the WOW factor! It is fantastic to see how the children's imagination and interests are being peaked in all manner of different ways! This is all part of the schools new International Primary Curriculum which we have adopted here at St Nicholas. The IPC has been successfully supporting schools to achieve the outcomes of the National Curriculum for over a decade, while making learning exciting, active and meaningful for children.



### Open Classes

Next week, on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 8.40am** we will be holding Open Classes for parents. This is an ideal opportunity for you to hear more about life in your child's class, to ask questions and to meet the team teaching your child. I would encourage as many of you as possible to attend.

### Twitter

St Nicholas CE Primary School has joined Twitter. If you use the social networking service, you can now follow us for our latest news and see other things going on in the school! Simply go to, [twitter.com/St\\_Nicholas\\_CEP](https://twitter.com/St_Nicholas_CEP) and click Follow



### E-safety

internet  
matters.org

There are so many things to think about during the back to school period. Attached with this week's newsletter is a useful parent guide produced by the charity *internet matters.org* The online safety guide provides lots of useful tips and advice, to give you that helping hand in keeping your child safe online.

internetmatters.org – who are they? Internet Matters is a non-profit organisation working with online safety experts to bring you all the information you need to keep your children safe online. They provide parents with advice on important e-safety issues; News and advice from industry experts; Guidance on setting parental controls and filters; and Reviews on the latest technology and apps.

### Star Awards



**Start of the week awards go to,** Gabriel Siret-Jones, Kestrels; Macie West, Eagle; Ethan Cross, Kites; Charles Michel, Rowan; Luke Hopper, Willows; Natacha Lovett, Owls; Preston Laker, Maple; Oakley Davies, Chestnut; Edward Martin, Otters; Lenny

Parker, Badger

**Work to be proud of awards go to;** Jack Ashdown, Badgers; Arfon Leyshon, Rowan; Sophie Blundred, Kestrel; Julia Harrington, Willow; Isobel MacDonald, Chestnut; Medard Boti-Godri, Kite; Skye Smith, Eagle; Rhys Lyon, Owl; Aaliyah Singh, Birch; Nicki Hurcombe-Straker, Maple; Lucy Blundred, Otters.



### Letters sent home this week:

We will list all letters sent home this week so you can see if you have missed anything.