



Dear Parents and Carers

With the children already back into the swing of their learning and many activities and topics underway, I must say how pleased I am to see the children maintaining a smart appearance and demonstrating so much enthusiasm in their learning. The children have also impressed me with their manners and their attitude to school life and work.

Over the coming weeks the school team will be renewing its focus on regular reading at home. It is my expectation at St Nicholas that children read for at least 10 minutes every night. We want our children to have the skills they need to be equipped for their next phase of education and adult life and reading is one of the key skills. Please sign your child's reading record when you read with them. Please also ensure your child has their reading record at school every day.

This term the focus in our school collective worship is on being a friend and friendship and what it means to be a friend. To build on this theme I would like to promote more widely the idea of working together and I will be working with the children and school community in setting up a new house system. This will mean that all the children will belong to a different house team and work together as a school in developing social responsibility towards one another. The house system will also be used for rewarding pupils for their working effort and behaviour. All of which I believe will be positive for the children and for school life.

Wishing you all a good weekend

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 25th 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 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.

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



Dates for your diary

W/e of 18th Sept –
Year 6 to Swattenden

Mon 21st Sept –
Reception children start full time

Fri 25th Sept – 9am to 10.30am Macmillan coffee morning

W/e of Fri 25th Sept
Year 6 to Swattenden

Fri 9th Oct – Harvest Festival Service

TERM DATES

Fri 23rd Oct - End of term 1

Mon 2nd Nov – Term 2 starts, children return to school

Fri 18th Dec – Term 2 ends at 3pm

Staff Development Days

The school will be closed to children on these dates

Friday 16th October
&
Friday 8th July

The school has one day still to arrange.

Attendance: Every day counts:

Last week in the newsletter we explained the importance of school attendance. We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the process for contacting the school when your child is ill. On the first day of illness please ring the Absence Line on 01797 363118. We do not require any further calls on subsequent days. If your child is absent from school for 5 days or more then medical evidence will be required. This can be a Drs appointment card/letter or prescription/medicine with a dispensing label. Failure to provide evidence will mean that we will not be able to authorise the absence. This could lead to a penalty notice being issued.

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Great News

St Nicholas school has come top out of 32 schools in Shepway in the Kent Libraries Summer Reading Challenge. A staggering 109 pupils signed up to the challenge and on completion received a medal and certificate. The Community Librarian visited the school in the Summer Term to tell pupils about the challenge.



The Summer Reading Challenge is a national scheme which takes place every year during the Summer holidays. It encourages children to visit their local library and keep up their reading skills. Each year the reading challenge has a different theme and this years was Record Breakers.

Many thanks go to Lorna Leyshon, for her hard work and enthusiasm in keeping all the pupils and staff motivated.

Open Classes

Many thanks to all the parents who attended the Open Class sessions earlier this week. I hope you found them useful for finding out more about your child's class, the routines and how you may be able to help with your child's learning. Please remember that the Teachers are always more than happy to discuss matters with you before school but longer and more detailed conversations are probably best left to the end of the school day.

New House system

The 'house system' is a traditional feature of many schools in Kent. For parents who are not familiar with the system it is when the school is divided into units called 'houses' and each pupil (and family member) is allocated to one house. Houses then compete with one another at sports and maybe in other ways, thus providing a focus for group loyalty.



What are going to be the names for the house groups at St Nicholas? Well that is where we would like your help. We would be interested in the ideas the children and family members have in naming the Houses at St Nicholas. They could focus on an historical theme – something local to the area. They could focus on the Christian theme underpinning the value and ethos of our school. We would however not want any Harry Potter themed houses and we would like to make our house names unique to our school – if you are interested in taking part please send your suggestions to Mr Dale.

Star Awards



Star of the week awards go to; Badgers: Lottie L, **Otters:** Honey S, **Owls:** Jayleigh Y, **Eagles:** Chloe H, **Kestrels:** Valentine L, **Kites:** Joshua R, **Birch:** Madison C, **Maple:** Skye R, **Willow:** George C, **Rowan:** Joshua N, **Chestnut:** Jessica M

Work to be proud of awards go to; Badgers: Nathan B, **Otters:** Sophie L, **Owls:** Joel, **Eagles:** Amie C, **Kestrels:** Isabel W, **Kites:** Ruby J, **Birch:** Caleb P, **Maple:** Alfie E, **Willow:** Charlie R, **Rowan:** Megan D, **Chestnut:** Amelie R



Letters sent home this week: Club letters