

Thursday 15th October 2015
**St Nicholas Church of England (Controlled)
Primary School - Weekly Newsletter**
Headteacher: Christopher Dale



Dear Parents and Carers,

Each academic year, schools must produce a School Development Plan which highlights the key work they will be doing for the year ahead. We start the process off by reviewing the previous year.

Within the school this year along with the Interim Executive Board we have set the priorities as follows.

- To ensure the quality of teaching is consistently good across all year groups and that this enables pupils to make consistently good progress / attainment
- To accelerate pupils' progress and raise attainment
- To ensure that leadership is focused on improving the quality of teaching and learning and raising standards
- Provide a curriculum for pupils that enables rich, meaningful learning experiences and which will stretch and challenge pupils.

These targets will prove to be challenging for the whole school community and as a school we will be looking at support from parents to help assist in these areas of development. I can already hear some parents asking 'how can I help with this?' Well, over the coming weeks we will start, at St Nicholas, to run different workshops and information sessions alongside Parent Consultation Evenings which will be aimed at parents and how they can help their child to achieve. I do hope that you feel you will be able to join in and support these events as we hope they will have an impact on your child and their learning.

Wishing you all a very good weekend.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Dale
Headteacher

Parent Questionnaire

Once again thank you to everyone who returned the questionnaire. I am delighted to inform parents that we received 94 replies in total.

The responses will help members of the School's IEB and Leadership Team address the issues raised by parents and ensure the school continues to work on the challenge of being a greatly improving school over the coming months and years ahead.

Please see the outcome of the questionnaire sent with this newsletter and I hope to be able to present a fuller response to parents on how we will move forward, after the half term break.

Important reminder

As the weather is getting cooler and rather changeable, please ensure your child brings their coat to school every day. The coat should be clearly labelled with your child's name. Thank you.

Dates for your diary

Mon 19th Oct – Year 1 & 2 Flu immunisation

Tues 20th Oct
Individual photos – after 3pm family photos

Fri 23rd Oct – Non-Uniform Day – Bring a bottle for PTFA

Mon 2nd Nov – Children return to school

Tues 3rd Nov – Open Classes 3pm

Tues 10th Nov Parent Teacher Consultations (Late) 16:30 hrs >19:30hrs

Wed 11th Nov Parent Teacher Consultations (Early) 15:20hrs > 18:00hrs

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 27th November
Friday 8th July

Attendance

Well done to Kites class who achieved 99% attendance this week.
Whole school attendance was 95.8%

Class attendances were:

Squirrels	96.1%	Hedgehogs	98.8%
Otter	97.8%	Badgers	92.4%
Eagles	88.5%	Owls	94.7%
Kestrels	98.1%	Kites	99%
Birch	97%	Maple	96.6%
Willow	98%	Chestnuts	93.5%
Rowan	97.4%		

Our target for attendance is 96.6%,

Parent Teacher contact

At St Nicholas, we value the opportunity to share information and we see effective communication as a key element in the provision of your child's education. The school operates an open door policy which means that parents may talk to a member of staff at any time. From time to time, parents may need to pass urgent information on to the class teacher, such as changes of collection arrangements. This can be done when dropping your child off at 8.35am or by writing a message in the home/school link book. Please remember that teachers are very busy welcoming children in to class first thing in the morning and will not be able to give parents a private or lengthy opportunity to speak. Should you require such an opportunity, please arrange an appointment via the school office.

Is your child due to start school in September 2016?

If so, you are invited to attend the event below on **Tuesday 3rd November 2015 at New Romney Children's Centre 3.30—6.00pm**

You will also have the opportunity to talk to Schools and receive information and advice on the Primary School Admission process and tips on what you need to know for your child starting school.

We will also be holding our **Open School Sessions** at St Nicholas on **Thursday 26th November 2015 and Thursday 3rd December 2015** with both events starting at 9.30am. Parents will have the opportunity to meet with the Headteacher, the Early Years Leader and have a tour of the school. If you or anyone you know has a child starting school next year, please let them know of this opportunity.

Chess Club

If you are interested in learning to play chess, Folkestone Junior Chess Club has been in contact with the school and they are looking for new members aged 4-10. With half term approaching they would like to hear from those who would like to learn the game of chess. They are based at the Sports Centre. If you would like more information contact Matthew Cussens via email: mcussens@gmail.com



Staff Development Day (SDD)

Please remember that tomorrow, **Friday 16th October** is a Staff Development Day and that school will be closed to pupils for staff training. Also as a reminder we have booked the next Development Day to take place on **Friday 27th November 2015**

Letters sent home this week: PTFA Bring a Bottle for Own Clothes Day

Next week's Act of Worship will look at the lives of the Saints. We will remember how their lives can be an example to us



"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."

-St. Augustine

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter

We now have 20 followers

@St_Nicholas_CEP



St. Nicholas Church of England (Controlled) Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mr Christopher Dale



Parent Questionnaire - Autumn 2015

Many Thanks to everyone who returned the questionnaire, your responses will help members of the Schools IEB and Leadership Team address the issues raised by parents and ensure the school continues to work on the challenge of being a greatly improving school over the coming months and years ahead.

I am delighted to inform parents that we received 94 replies in total. Some families completed one form while giving feedback on more than one child at the school. This will no doubt help us address different Key Stage as well as year group issues that arise as well.

Please see the outcome of the questionnaire below and I hope that we will be able to present a fuller response to parents on how we will move forward, after the half term break.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Dale
Headteacher

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Not stated
My Child is in year	19	17	19	14	16	18	15	1

		Don't Know	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	TOTAL AGREE	
ENVIRONMENT	1	The school has a happy atmosphere	4%	0%	0%	67%	29%	96%
	2	I feel welcome when I visit the school	1%	0%	0%	58%	41%	99%
	3	My child(ren) enjoys school	0%	2%	2%	52%	44%	96%
	4	The school has a good reputation	4%	10%	40%	34%	12%	46%
	5	The school site is secure	2%	0%	3%	55%	40%	95%
	6	The school encourages parents to play an active part in school life	1%	0%	12%	57%	30%	87%
CURRICULUM	7	You get enough information about the curriculum that your child is following	1%	3%	21%	54%	21%	75%
	8	The school informs me about my child's progress	6%	0%	13%	49%	32%	81%
	9	My child is making good progress at school	21%	0%	9%	46%	24%	70%
	10	The school has sufficiently high expectations of my child(ren)	19%	0%	16%	48%	17%	65%
	11	The school helps my child to choose a healthy lifestyle	14%	0%	5%	63%	18%	81%
	12	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught	5%	0%	28%	49%	18%	67%
	13	School trips and visits are worthwhile school experiences	19%	3%	5%	41%	32%	73%
	14	Members of staff are accessible and approachable	1%	0%	4%	50%	45%	95%
	15	I understand how children are taught in subjects like Maths, Literacy etc	10%	3%	22%	52%	13%	65%
	16	I would attend an open session or curriculum evening, showing me how to support my child at school	10%	0%	3%	52%	35%	87%
COMMUNICATION	17	The parent/teacher consultations provides me with the information I require about my child's achievement	11%	1%	1%	45%	42%	87%
	18	The Friday newsletter gives me the regular information I need about the school	0%	0%	1%	55%	44%	99%
	19	I would be happy to receive the weekly newsletter via email	6%	9%	24%	39%	22%	61%
	20	I always know what social/fundraising events are being arranged at school	4%	1%	3%	70%	22%	92%
	21	I receive enough information about the school	5%	0%	12%	63%	20%	83%
	22	The school Prospectus was a valuable resource of information about the school	26%	1%	3%	56%	14%	70%
	23	I understand the role and responsibilities of the Interim Executive Board	14%	2%	23%	50%	11%	61%
	24	I know how to contact the Interim Executive Board if I need to.	14%	5%	34%	28%	19%	47%

		Don't Know	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	TOTAL AGREE	
	25	I would find it easy to approach the school with questions or concerns regarding my child(ren)	0%	0%	4%	52%	44%	96%
	26	I find the school website a good source of information.	9%	1%	6%	56%	28%	84%
	27	<i>If you have approached the school In the last 12 months with questions or concerns regarding your child(ren) - My concerns were handled well</i>	22%	5%	14%	30%	29%	59%
BEHAVIOUR/PASTORAL CARE	28	I understand what kind of behaviour the school expects from my child(ren)	0%	1%	1%	52%	46%	98%
	29	I am confident that the school deals with inappropriate behaviour effectively	11%	11%	14%	47%	17%	64%
	30	The school achieves high standards of good behaviour	30%	4%	16%	35%	15%	50%
	31	The school's system of sanctions is effective	35%	2%	16%	34%	13%	47%
	32	The school's system of rewards is effective	17%	2%	14%	46%	21%	67%
	33	I understand the school's policy concerning children being at school on time	1%	0%	0%	56%	43%	99%
	34	I understand the school's policy concerning children's absence from school	0%	0%	2%	51%	47%	98%
	35	My child(ren) is/are confident that should they have a problem, there is someone they can go to in school who will listen to them	11%	1%	6%	47%	35%	82%