

Monday 25th January 2016
St Nicholas Church of England (Controlled)
Primary School - Weekly Newsletter
Headteacher: Christopher Dale



Dear Parents and Carers,

Today your child has been introduced to the reading challenge, 'Buster's Book Club.' The aim of the scheme is to encourage your child to read more. We all know how reading can have a positive impact on a child's academic progress and this is further highlighted in a poster at the end of this newsletter. One of the biggest challenges of modern family life is finding the time to read with children but if we add this into our child's routines, it will bring its own rewards to them.

Last week, I had the opportunity to meet with the school's pupil council. Our discussions took place on the names for the school house teams, the pupils also had ideas about how some things could be further improved and in the way they would like to see things changed. They reported that they were also very happy with the recent timetable changes in the school as these gave a greater emphasis on learning across the school. The meeting was really productive and has already provided a full agenda for the year ahead.

We were also fortunate as a school to be joined by a number of special visitors last week, all of whom reported that the children were delightful in their involvement and engagement in the activities they led. It is always nice to hear this from visitors who come into our school and does the children of St Nicholas school much credit.

Wishing you all a very good week

Yours sincerely
Christopher Dale
Headteacher

School Council

Last week the school council met to decide upon the new House Names for the school. After a discussion on the short list the pupil council held a vote and decided upon the names of the Saints of local Churches as the new house names for the school. The names of the Houses are: St Augustine – Blue House, St George – Red House, St Nicholas – Green House and St Peter – Yellow House.



The children will soon be sorted into house groups across the school and start competing for house points in their class work and in school events, including sports day in the summer where the children across the school will compete against each other.

Help - Children in reception class are currently learning about 'People who help us' Do you have a job in the public sector where you would be willing to come into school and talk to the children about your job. If so please speak to Mrs Pearce, Early Years Leader.

Dates for your diary

Tues 26th Jan

2.30pm Year 5 Parent meeting re: Kingswood residential

Year 6 Parent Teacher Consultation 4.30pm to 7.30pm

Wed 27th Jan

Year 6 Parent Teacher Consultation 3.20pm to 6.00pm

Tues 2nd Feb

Year R & 2 Open classes for parents 3.00pm to 3.45pm

Fri 5th Feb

2.15pm Maths workshop for KS2 Parents

Tues 9th Feb

Breakfast and Chat with the FLO and Children Centre staff 8.30am – 10.30am

Year R & 2 Parent Teacher Consultation 4.30pm to 7.30pm

Wed 10th Feb

Year R & 2 Parent Teacher Consultation 3.20pm to 6.00pm

TERM DATES

Fri 12th Feb

Term ends

Mon 22nd Feb

Term starts

Easter Holiday

Fri 25th March to Fri 8th April

Changes to local authority attendance policy.

We have been informed of changes to the local authority attendance code of conduct, effective January 2016, which forms part of the KCC attendance policy, which the IEB upholds as we are a local authority maintained school.

Unauthorised Term Time Leave

A penalty notice will be issued when a parent takes their child out of school for 5 days within a 50 SCHOOL day period.

Lates After 9am

The policy states that a penalty notice will be issued 'where a pupil has been persistently late for 10 more sessions after the register has been closed.' The school will of course continue to monitor all forms of absence and will, as it does at present, inform parents if they are close to receiving such a notice. If you are having difficulty in getting your child to school or are experiencing other difficulties with attendance please do not hesitate to contact the school, where we will seek the right support for you.



This weeks collective worship focus is:

REFLECTING ON THE LIGHT OF HOPE

'As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.'

John 9:5

Attendance

Well done to classes Eagles who achieved 99.6% and Kestrels who achieved 98.1% attendance in the week ending 22nd January.

Whole school attendance to 22nd January was 95.8%.

Thank you for realising the importance of sending your child to school every day.

Messy Church

The next Messy Church at St Nicholas Church is THIS WEEK:

Friday 29th January at 3.15pm.

Please join in. All ages are welcome!

Star Awards

Star of the week awards went to: Hedgehogs: Leila, **Badgers:** Mai, **Eagles:** Jessica, **Kestrels:** Alesha, **Birch:** Daisy-May, **Willow:** Max, **Rowan:** Evie
Work to be proud of awards went to: Squirrels: Evie, **Otters:** Sophie, **Owls:** Morgan, **Kites:** Leah, **Maple:** Angel, **Chestnut:** Tyler



Nicholas Bear went to: Eagles

Last week at St Nicholas...



Olympic visitor We were visited by Chris Cook, Olympian and double Commonwealth swimming champion. Chris worked alongside the children as part of the Kent schools INSPIRE programme, where children in Kent are encouraged to use the build up to the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, as an opportunity to increase their participation in physical activity and sport, the arts, and personal development.



Captain Graham Nunn We were also joined last week by Captain Graham Nunn of the Church Army who came into school for a Key Stage 2 Act of Worship. Apart from teaching us lots of new songs with actions which the teachers couldn't do, he reminded us of our blessings and of the true meaning of being sorry.

Year 2 Rugby Tots As part of the school's Sport Premium, year 2 have been taking part in rugby tots, where the basic skills of rugby are coached maintaining small class numbers, the focus is on fun whilst enhancing self-esteem and confidence.



Romney Marsh Community Church – Friday Club

Friday club meets on Friday 6pm – 7.30pm for children in school years 3 – 6. It is an informal social time for children to join in with fun games and activities and chill together.

St Nicholas Church of England (Controlled) Primary School

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Twitter: @St_Nicholas_CEP – We now have 67 followers.

Head lice - have recently been found in the hair of children in key stage 1 classes. Head lice have nothing to do with cleanliness or parenting skills. Head lice are spread mostly by direct head-to-head contact. The sharing of hats, combs and other hair accessories may also spread head lice, but this is rare. The best way of dealing with head lice is to wash children's hair and apply plenty of conditioner, using a fine-toothed comb with metal teeth spaced close together. The secret is then to repeat as often as possible as head lice are not able to cope with well conditioned hair. Pupils with longer hair should also have their hair tied back to minimise the risk.



Reminders

Breakfast Bonanza

Come and join the school FLO, Lisa Baker and staff from the Children's Centre in helping finding out what services parents would like.

Drop your children at school and use the time to join us for breakfast and a chat.

On Tuesday 9th February 8.30am to 10.00am

All parents and carers are welcome to attend. Please collect a ticket from the school office to help us plan our numbers for catering.

Maths Workshop for parents

The KS2 (years 3 to 6) parent workshop will be held at **2:15pm on Friday, 5th February**. This session is designed to provide parents with strategies to support your child's maths at home.

Parents will also be introduced to 'My maths' an online learning platform for children to complete interactive maths activities at home.

The Key Stage 1 session will be held after the half term break on **Friday 26th February at 2.15pm**. Please do try and come along to these informative sessions.



Why Your Child Can't Skip Their 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight

James

reads 20 minutes per night,
5 times per week



Travis

reads only 4 minutes per night
...or not at all



In one week:

100
minutes of reading



20
minutes of reading

In one month:

400
minutes of reading



80
minutes of reading

In one school year (9 months):

3600
minutes of reading



720
minutes of reading

By the end of eighth grade:

28,800
minutes of reading



5760
minutes of reading

Which student would you expect to read better?
Which student would you expect to know more?
Which student would you expect to write better?
Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?
Which student would you expect to be more successful in school and life?
How do you think each student will feel about himself as a learner?



GREER GENIUS
BRILLIANT DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT