

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016**  
**St Nicholas Church of England (Controlled)**  
**Primary School - Weekly Newsletter**  
Headteacher: Christopher Dale



Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week, you should have received the schools most recent Ofsted report and a letter from the Chair of the IEB Mrs L Balcombe. There will be a meeting taking place in the school hall on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 from 6.30pm to discuss with the IEB, LA and members of the leadership team the latest inspection report. We hope that parents will attend this event.

I would also like to take the opportunity to remind parents of one or two other events taking place at the school where you are welcome to attend. Please do try and come along to the Maths workshop for KS2 parents at the end of this week (5/2/16), taking place at 2.15pm in the small hall, there will be an opportunity for parents to find out how maths is taught at St Nicholas and find out more about 'Mymaths,' an on-line learning platform which can be used to promote learning at home. Parents will also be provided with a copy of the schools calculation handbook which will highlight how concepts are taught in different year groups across the school.

Parents are also welcome to meet with the FLO, Lisa Baker next week and members of the Children's Centre for breakfast on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February between 8.30am and 10am to help us find out what other services they would like us to provide.

We will soon be reviewing the schools policy on homework, or as it will become known at St Nicholas, Home Learning. Ever since Michael Gove scrapped the guidelines for homework, schools have had the flexibility to manage their own policy in this area.

If you would like to take part in the review of this policy please let me know and I will be delighted to find out more regarding your thoughts and ideas with this policy. I am hoping to meet with parents who would like to attend on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb at 5pm. Please do let me know if you would like to attend.

Wishing you all a very good week

Yours sincerely  
Christopher Dale  
Headteacher

**Spelling at St Nicholas**

This evening you will have a letter outlining in greater detail how we teach spelling. We follow 'Clued Spelling' which is a systematic but child initiated approach to the teaching and learning of spelling. During the course of a week a child is given a number of spellings to learn and at the end of the week will have a test on those words.

Parents can help their child by practising the high frequency word lists which were sent home recently. These will soon be available on the school website.

**Dates for your diary**

**Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb**

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

**Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Feb**

2.15pm Maths workshop for KS2  
Parents

**Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Feb**

Ofsted Parent meeting  
6.30pm

**Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Feb**

Breakfast and Chat with the FLO and Children Centre staff  
8.30am – 10am

**Year R & 2 Parent**

Teacher Consultation  
4.30pm to 7.30pm

**Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Feb**

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

**TERM DATES**

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Feb**

Term ends

**Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb**

Term starts

**Easter Holiday**

Fri 25<sup>th</sup> March to Fri 8<sup>th</sup> April

**Summer term**

Mon 11<sup>th</sup> April to Fri 27<sup>th</sup> May

**Bank Holiday Monday**

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016 – school closed

Over the last few weeks there have been a number of parent meetings and these presentations have been placed on the school website. Some parents have had difficulty finding these – they are also on Twitter as a link but are also below for your convenience.

**Year 5 residential presentation –**

<http://www.st-nicholas-newromney.kent.sch.uk/documents/presentation-grosvenorhall.pdf>

**Whole school assessment presentation -**

[http://www.st-nicholas-newromney.kent.sch.uk/documents/changes\\_to\\_the\\_way\\_we\\_use\\_assessment\\_parent\\_presentation.pdf](http://www.st-nicholas-newromney.kent.sch.uk/documents/changes_to_the_way_we_use_assessment_parent_presentation.pdf)



This week's collective worship focus is:

**OUR BLESSINGS**

"Give thanks to the Lord and remember the wonders he has done."  
1 Chronicles 16: 8

**Attendance**

Well done to Otters and Owls classes who achieved 97.7% attendance in the week ending 29<sup>th</sup> January.

Whole school attendance to 29<sup>th</sup> January was 93.4%.

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

**Romney Marsh Community Church – Friday Club**

Meets Friday 6 - 7.30pm for children in school years 3 – 6  
It's an informal social time for children to join in with fun games and activities and chill together.

**Star Awards**

**Star of the week awards went to: Squirrels:** Harley M, **Kites:** Sunny, **Birch:** Florence N, **Maple:** Amber B, **Chestnut:** Paige B

**Work to be proud of awards went to: Hedgehogs:** Jasmine S, **Badgers:** Emily O, Nathan B and Joshua P, **Eagles:** Violet B, **Kestrels:** Mia S, **Willow:** Nathan H, **Rowan:** Joshua N



**Nicholas Bear went to: Kestrels**

**Busters Book Club**

The aim of this challenge is to encourage more children to read at home and to develop a love of reading for pleasure. The children have been given a bookmark, which states the target time that they are aiming to read on one day. This should last them until the end of Term 4. Bookmarks must be returned to school every Thursday morning so that the amount of time can be totalled for your child's class and compared against the other classes in school and other schools involved in the project. The target times are as follows:



- FS & Year 1 = 10 mins
- Year 2 & 3 = 15 mins
- Years 4,5 & 6 = 20 mins

This time can be spent reading school books, magazines, newspapers or other books of interest, etc. This also includes being read to or listening to audio books.

The only thing we ask of parents is to fill in the bookmark. This needs to be done once a week (preferably on a Wednesday night) to say how much time your child has read (or been read to) for one day in the week from Thursday to Wednesday. You do not need to add up the whole week, just the amount of time for one day (or the day they spent the longest amount of time reading). If your child goes over their daily target, this will be calculated too so can be included on their bookmark.

The winning class will be awarded with a trophy each week in Friday's assembly. I hope that you will be able to help to support us in this and encourage your child to read as much as possible at home.

**Important Reminders**

It has come to my attention that a small minority of parents are behaving inappropriately towards the office staff. Please may I remind you that the ladies in the office are there to help you and that they should be treated with respect. If you have a concern then please make an appointment to see Mrs Harper or myself.

Please could I remind parents and children not to walk across the grass and mud as it is being brought into school on shoes and ruining the carpets.