

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
**St Nicholas Church of England (Controlled)  
Primary School - Weekly Newsletter**  
Headteacher: Christopher Dale



Dear Parents and Carers,

A Happy New Year to all the families of St Nicholas. May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kind wishes, cards and gifts received before the Christmas break. I hope that Christmas was a quiet and restful period for you all in amongst the obvious excitement of the festive period.

I would like to welcome two new members of staff to St Nicholas this term; they are Mrs O'Neill who is taking charge of Chestnut class and Mrs Buss who is joining us as a Reading Assistant, to support reading development across Key Stage 2.

This will be a very busy term, ensuring the children continue to make developments in their progress and learning. In the next few weeks we will have parent teacher consultations for years 6, 2 and EYFS. Years 1, 3, 4 & 5 will receive annual reports after Easter with parent consultations taking place in the Summer Term.

I would also like to invite parents to find out more about how we are assessing children in their learning at St Nicholas now the use of levels has been removed by the government. This will allow parents to better understand the changes that are taking place in all schools. (More information below on this.)

We will continue to keep a focus on reading within the school and the progress children are making, but regular support is needed at home with this important life skill as well. The school will be joining the reading bug challenge later this month and there will be rewards and incentives for children to read more regularly, hopefully building on our successes in the reading challenge at the start of the school year.

No doubt, parents will have seen the very recent announcement by the Secretary of State on the importance of multiplication knowledge; hopefully parents will still have the letter I sent out before the holiday outlining our expectations here at St Nicholas. If not, please do ask for another copy.

Wishing you all a Happy 2016.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Dale  
**Headteacher**

**Life without Levels workshop for parents**

The government announced last year that there would no longer be National Curriculum levels and that schools would have to set up their own way of assessing pupils. At St Nicholas we have adopted a method used by many other Kent schools. This is a system used to judge children on their progress towards end of year expectations as outlined in the New National Curriculum.

To help parents get to grips with understanding the changes we have set up a workshop on **TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 2.15pm** for parents to attend and understand more about the changes that have taken place. We do hope you are able to attend.

**Dates for your diary**

**Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Jan**

Life without levels workshop for parents  
2.15pm

**Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Jan**

Year 6 Open classes for parents 3.00pm to 3.45pm

**Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Jan**

Year 6 Parent Teacher Consultation 4.30pm to 7.30pm

**Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Jan**

Year 6 Parent Teacher Consultation 3.20pm to 6.00pm

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

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

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

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**

Children return to school

**Easter Holiday**

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

## Attendance

Class attendances for the autumn term were:

Squirrels	93.2%	Hedgehogs	97.7%
Otter	95.4%	Badgers	94.8%
Eagles	94.2%	Owls	93.7%
Kestrels	95.5%	Kites	93.5%
Birch	93.8%	Maple	94.5%
Willow	96.1%	Chestnuts	93.3%
Rowan	93.6%		

The school target for attendance is **96.6%**

**Leave During Term Time** As you are aware the government does not allow holidays during term time as there are 14 weeks school holidays during the year. Leave can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

Are **YOU** following us on Twitter?

We now have **58 followers**  
**@St\_Nicholas\_CEP**



Sign up and find out what **YOUR** school is up to.

## 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! Over the Christmas period and throughout the school year, apart from posting what events are taking place, the school also posts access to 5 a day maths challenges and 'Did you know pages?' – all of which can be useful in helping support your child, as well as keeping in touch with what's happening at school. Simply go to, [twitter.com/St\\_Nicholas\\_CEP](https://twitter.com/St_Nicholas_CEP) and click Follow

## Messy Church

The next Messy Church at St Nicholas Church is on **Friday 29th January at 3.15pm**. Please join us. All ages are welcome!

## New Year's Resolutions

As part of our act of worship at school we started the year by considering what our resolutions will be. As adults we know how difficult this can be. At school we have made a focus on; trying to read more regularly and getting to know our tables confidently. The children have all been asked to think about what they may resolve to do better this year. We focused on the life of David and how as a Shepherd he had to resolve to work hard to ensure the safety of all his sheep. Perhaps you could ask your child what they might, with Gods help, resolve to do better this year.

## Open Classes – To look at pupils work

These will be taking place again this term for parents in year 6, 2 and R and I hope that as many parents as possible will be able to attend. These sessions are always 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 but longer and more detailed conversations are probably best left to the end of the school day.

**Year 6 Open Classes – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 3.00pm**

**Year R & 2 Open Classes – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 3.00pm**

## Learning Links – At New Romney Children's Centre. Starts 21<sup>st</sup> January, 9.30 – 11.30am

**Would you like to understand more about how your child learns and what makes them tick?**

**Join us for this fun, exciting programme of workshops to explore children's play patterns and how you can tap into their world.**

An exciting and fun 10 week programme looking at promoting your child's self-esteem and self-worth, understanding more about how your child learns through play and how you can support their play and learning at home.

**Free crèche provided, please contact the centre on 03000 420000 to book your place!**