



**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018**  
**St Nicholas CE Primary Academy**  
**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Headteacher: Christopher Dale**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last term staff at St Nicholas attended a training day to improve our English teaching.

The session was very informative and has provided the staff with a lot of practical ideas about improving the teaching of English. The approach known as 'Talk for Writing' (TFW) which was developed by Pie Corbett, is powerful because it's based on the principles of how children learn. It centres on developing children's ability to learn and tell stories, enabling children to imitate the language they need for a topic orally before reading and analysing it and then writing their own version.

These high-quality key texts are learnt as a class - complete with actions - and deeply embedded in every child's working memory. This is then used as a frame on which to innovate and create new and original stories. For those less confident writers this approach gives an increased exposure to the language, plot and rhythm of a successful story. For our more confident writers these stories provide a rich launch pad from which to explore more advanced grammatical structures and develop the love of composing stories.

Already all classes have started a new English unit using this approach. Your child should be able to retell the class story with confidence. Please encourage your child to have a go at retelling the story and let the class teacher know how they get on.

If you would like to know more about Talk for Writing please use this link - [www.talk4writing.co.uk/](http://www.talk4writing.co.uk/)  
Yours sincerely

Mr Christopher Dale  
**Headteacher**

**Physical Education.**

As you know St Nicholas values PE very highly. Please ensure your child has the appropriate PE kit in school on the days that their class has PE. We would like to take full advantage of our school's outdoor facilities. The weather is very unpredictable at this time of the year so please pack both shorts and jogging bottoms. That way your child will be a little more comfortable whatever the weather.

Sometimes children have the opportunity for PE with an outside provider so it would be useful for your child to have their PE kit in school for the whole week. Spare PE kits are not available to those who forget and as such they may be unable to participate in the lesson.

**Dates for your diary**

**January 2018**

**Mon 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Year 5 Hockey coaching  
**Parent Council Meeting**  
**6.30pm**

**Wed 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Year 5/6 Tag Rugby 1-3pm at Marsh Academy

**Thurs 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Year 2 Parents Meeting**  
Phonics and KS1 SATs  
2.15pm in school hall

**February 2018.**

**Mon 5<sup>th</sup>**  
E-Safety Week all week.  
Year 5 Hockey Coaching

**Tues 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Safer Internet Day

**Thurs 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Whole School Parent Teacher Consultations**  
**3.30pm—8pm**

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup>**  
End of Term

**Mon 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Children return to school**

**Wed 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Year R Sports Fun Day at the MAC

**Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Year 1 Rugby Tots for next 5 weeks

**Mon 26<sup>th</sup>**  
Book Week all this week—more details to follow.  
Book Character Day

**Tues 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Book Week - Guest Author visit

**March 2018.**

**Thurs 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Year 6 Sailing - Group 1  
**Year 1 Parent meeting**  
on Phonics 2.30pm

## Lunchtime Supervisor

We are seeking to appoint a mid-day supervisor who will have the ability to work effectively and enthusiastically as part of a team and be able to engage with the children whilst ensuring their safety & wellbeing. You will need excellent communication skills, the ability to create a positive environment, good time management & an ability to use your initiative.

The post is from 12 noon to 1.15pm daily during term time only with opportunities for overtime to attend staff training and development. This post is temporary in the first instance until July 2018.

For further details please follow this link; [www.kent-teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/VacancyDetails.aspx?VacancyId=57828](http://www.kent-teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/VacancyDetails.aspx?VacancyId=57828)



This term's collective worship focus is:

**PERSEVERANCE**

*'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.'*

**PHILIPPIANS 4.13**

## Attendance – Every Day Counts

It is essential that your child comes to school on time every day. Learning begins immediately at 8.50am after Early Morning Work when the class doors open at 8.35am, when many additional interventions are also scheduled for this time.

If you received a score of 90% in a test, you would be rightly pleased with your achievement. However, in terms of school attendance, **a child with 90% attendance is missing 1/2 a day of school a week. Every week!**

If your child is absent from school, you must report their absence by 9am on the first morning. This can be done via Parent Mail under Notify Absence or by telephoning our absence line on **01797 363118** and leaving a message with your child's name, class and reason for absence. Please do not call the school's main number to report absences.

**Our whole-school attendance last week was 95.5%.**

Class attendance rates last week.			
Hedgehogs	94.5%	Rowan	96%
Squirrels	96.7%	Chestnut	93.9%
Badgers	98.6%	Birch	97.0%
Otters	97%	Maple	91.5%
Fox	94.3%	Willow	98.2%
Hare	97%	Oak	96.9%
Beech	93.9%	Elm	81.7%

The classes with the best punctuality rates are:

## STAR AWARDS



**Star of the week awards went to:**

**Hedgehog:** Mason L, **Badger:** Lehel K, **Fox:** Tula F, **Birch:** Ashleigh R, **Willow:** Casey-Jo G, **Oak:** Jessica G



**Nicholas Bear was awarded to... ROWAN! Congratulations to them.**

## Reading Plus – for parents of Year 4, 5 & 6 pupils

St Nicholas is using Reading Plus to help pupils become better readers. Reading Plus is a web-based program that helps children further develop the skills they need to be proficient readers and independent learners. Through regular Reading Plus practice, your child will begin to read faster with better comprehension. Parents will receive letters from their class teacher this evening detailing how your child can have access at home. To learn more about Reading Plus visit [www.readingplus.com](http://www.readingplus.com)

## Parent Teacher Consultation – Have you booked your slot yet?

Parents are now able to book their Parents Teacher Consultation appointment via Parent Mail. Parent teacher consultations for the spring term will take place on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018 3.30pm to 8.00pm** for **ALL** year groups. Book your appointment now.