

Friday 20th April 2018
St Nicholas CE Primary Academy
Weekly Newsletter

Headteacher: Christopher Dale



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a wonderful break and that Easter was full of fun and that it was a happy, family time. It was a great rest and we now look forward to the next two terms! The hard work will continue with SATs for children in Years 2 and 6 while children in Year 1 will undertake the Phonics Screening. Do watch out for more information on this.

This year is flying by and there is much to do, learn and experience! The children do love the summer months as the weather improves and they have more space to play; as well as many fun learning opportunities!

This term our school value is Friendship. Friendship involves:

- caring for each other
- sharing ideas
- respecting each other
- having fun

Values underpin our school ethos. We teach children about values through Acts of Worship, lessons, by being active role models and recognising children who show the values.

Parent Council

The next Parents' Council meeting will take place on Monday 30th April at 6.30pm at the school. You are all very welcome.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Dale
Headteacher

Measles

Public Health England (PHE) South East is urging people in Kent and Medway to check they are up-to-date with two doses of MMR vaccine. The call comes following 5 confirmed cases of measles since mid-March 2018 in the Medway and Swale areas.

PHE is working closely with NHS and local authority partners to raise awareness of how the public can play their part in protecting themselves and their families and prevent further cases.

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness that can be very unpleasant and lead to serious complications especially in people with immune problems, pregnant women, and in babies younger than one year.

Symptoms of measles typically include:

- high fever (temperature of 39°C or higher)
- sore, red, watery eyes
- coughing
- aching and feeling generally unwell
- a blotchy red brown rash, which usually appears 2-4 days after the initial symptoms.

For more information about measles see the NHS Choices website.

Dates for your diary

April 2018

Tues 24th

Fun Factory Yr R & Fox Class

Wed 25th

SST Hockey League wk 2 of 2

Fri 27th

Yr 5/6 Pop Lacrosse

Mon 30th

Yr R hearing & vision screening

Parent Council 6.30pm

May 2018

Wed 2nd

KSG Hockey qualifiers

Thurs 3rd

2.15pm Yr 1 Phonics meeting for parents

Mon 7th

Bank Holiday – school closed

Tues 8th

Year R hearing & vision screening

Wed 9th

Tri-Golf for Yr 3/4

Mon 14th

KS2 SATs week all week – for Yr 6

Thurs 17th

KSG Netball qualifiers

Term 5 dates

Starts:

Monday 16th April 2018

Ends:

Friday 25th May 2018

School holidays:

Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June 2018

Bank holidays:

Monday 7th May and Monday 28th May 2018

Attendance – Every Day Counts

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

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 term was 96%.

Class attendance rates last term			
Hedgehog	93.6%	Rowan	97.9%
Squirrel	95.4%	Chestnut	96.6%
Badger	95.1%	Birch	95.4%
Otter	95.5%	Maple	94.5%
Fox	91.7%	Willow	97%
Hare	96.5%	Oak	98%
Beech	95%	Elm	97.2%

Well Done last term to

- Oak
- Hare



This term's collective worship focus is:

FRIENDSHIP

I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

JOHN 15:15

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

Star Award



Star of the week awards went to:

Squirrel: Alfie T, **Badger:** Thomas W, **Fox:** Phoenix M, **Rowan:** Keeley G, **Chestnut:** Paul O, **Willow:** Harry D, **Elm:** Charlie S

The eligibility criteria for free school meals have been changed. This explains the changes and how they might affect you.

What are the new eligibility criteria?

Children are entitled to receive free school meals if they or their parents or guardians receive any of the benefits below.

- Universal Credit, provided they have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190 as assessed by HMRC
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

I don't currently claim free school meals – what does this mean for me?

If you think you might be eligible for free school meals submit a claim to your local authority.

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

The information you provide will be used to check if you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit and, if you are on Universal Credit, that your earnings do not exceed the threshold. If you claim Universal Credit, your earnings will be assessed from up to three of your last Universal Credit assessment periods. If you are eligible your school will be notified. Your child will receive free school meals and the school will receive extra funding.

I am currently claiming free school meals – what does this mean for me?

Most people won't be affected by the new criteria. If you're currently claiming free school meals but don't meet the new criteria, your child will continue to receive free school meals until the end of the Universal Credit rollout period. This will apply even if your earnings rise above the new threshold or if you stop being entitled to Universal Credit. The rollout period is currently scheduled to end in March 2022.

Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, your child will keep their free school meal until the end of their current phase of education, i.e. primary or secondary.

Where can I get more information?

If you need any further information, please speak to a member of school office staff or the local authority. You can also visit the Kent County Council free school meal website:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

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20th April 2018

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing to you as part of a collaborative effort for all Marsh schools (secondary and primary) to support those parents who may not always feel comfortable coming in to school on their own, or addressing concerns they may have without support. All Marsh schools value positive advocacy support for parents/carers and when used in the right way, it can be incredibly valuable. However, when it is not conducted well, it can unfortunately make difficult situations even more challenging. To support parents/carers in this situation and avoid difficulties, we are issuing some guidelines for advocates and giving details below of where independent advice can be sought. Of course, building good working relationships with schools is the best way to support students, but we acknowledge this is not always easy.

Our expectations of advocates when they accompany parents/carers to meetings at school

- Advocates should maintain an emotionally neutral position; they are there as a professional and their conduct should reflect that.
- Advocates should not openly criticise other organisations or schools, when they have no opportunity to respond.
- Advocates should have an up to date understanding of the SEN Code / HNF if they are setting expectations for what a student is entitled to. This has changed much in recent years and it is counter-productive to give parents/carers unrealistic expectations of what is offered in a mainstream provision.
- Advocates are not placed to lead a meeting that is the role of the school staff with the parents/carers. Advocates are there to support parents/carers to express their views, not to give their own views.

Advocates are also expected to let schools know in advance if they are attending a meeting. This can be for logistical reasons, many school meeting rooms are small and cannot accommodate unexpected people and also as a courtesy to the member of staff holding the meeting.

All school staff are instructed that if these guidelines are not followed or if they feel in their professional opinion that any meeting is not progressing in the best interests of the school and the child, they are to stop the meeting until any issues are resolved, though we think these are not unreasonable expectations so do not anticipate difficulties.

We are also signposting parents/carers to the advocacy service iASK as a neutral support service. <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/who-to-contact/Information-Advice-and-Support-Kent/about-Information-Advice-and-Support-Kent>

We hope that all visitors to our schools will respect these guidelines, but as a group of schools we feel that modelling respectful behaviour to our students is so vital, that if any visitor to our schools does not act appropriately, we would consider withdrawing their privilege of entering all of the Marsh schools.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Dale
Headteacher