

Monday 16th March 2020
St Nicholas CE Primary Academy
Weekly Newsletter

Headteacher: Christopher Dale



Dear parents and carers,

Apologies for the delay in sending out this newsletter but we were busy preparing for many of the issues contained within this newsletter and other letters which you will be receiving tonight.

Last week we had another fantastic week of learning here at St Nicholas. The week was full of events across the school with our Science Week starting with an assembly full of surprises. I have included the photos from this and other events at the end of the newsletter.

As parents have become aware we now produce our daily updates with the government response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) on the Class Dojo pages. We have over 327 parents registered on Dojo but I am aware not everyone accesses their child's class pages. I know this, as I am able to see which families have read each post published.

If we are asked to close the school, CLASS DOJO will be used as a remote teaching platform. Please check that you can access this platform at home and let us know if there are any issues (so we can make sure we're well prepared for remote learning if the school does need to close at some point). Teachers will be sending home access code for everyone who has not signed up to Class Dojo at this time. Please make sure you follow the instructions you are provided or your child will not have access to work for their learning.

We will only close if we are either officially advised to do so or if we don't have enough staff to run the school.

In either case we will:

- Inform parents of this decision by ParentMail or post details on our ClassDojo/School Twitter page
- We will also notify parents via the Kent Schools Closure website (<https://www.kentclosures.co.uk>)

We will also use these platforms to advise parents when the school has re-opened. Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. Currently there are no plans to close.

Finally I would ask everyone in our community to make sure they have read the letter sent out this evening and remind everyone if they have any questions they should consult the GOV.UK website for all of the Government's different advice pages.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Dale
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Dear parent/carer, please note many of our dates may have changed or will change due to the schools response to Government advice surrounding COVID-19

March

Wed 18th

Tri Golf after school club
3:15-4:15pm (Group 1)

Mon 23rd

Pop Lacrosse after school club 3:15pm-4:15pm

Tues 24th

Herald Cup vs Lydd
KO 3:45pm at the MA

Wed 25th

Y6 Sailing Group 1
Tri Golf after school club
3:15-4:15pm (Group 1)

Mon 30th

CLASS PHOTOS
Pop Lacrosse after school club 3:15pm-4:15pm

April

Wed 1st

Y6 Sailing Group 2
Tri Golf after school club
3:15-4:15pm (Group 2)

Fri 3rd

LAST DAY OF TERM

Mon 20th

TERM BEGINS

Wed 22nd

Y6 Sailing Group 3
Tri Golf after school club
3:15-4:15pm (Group 2)



Attendance – Every Day Counts

It is extremely important that children are on time for school so that they have a settled and productive start to their morning. When children are frequently late for school this adds up to lost learning time.

Arriving 5 mins late every day adds up to over three days lost each year

Arriving 15 minutes late every day adds up to two weeks absence a year

Arriving 30 minutes late every adds up to nineteen days absence a year

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.

Please be in school on time - lateness affects everyone's learning



This term's collective worship focus is:

FRIENDSHIP

"Do to others as you would have them do to you."

Luke 6:31

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

Letting us know if a child is absent

It is vital that we are informed as soon as you know that your child will be absent from school. Please ensure that you telephone the office before 9:30am on the day of any absence (please leave a message on the answerphone 01797 361906 Option 1 or via the ParentMail app. We need this information for your child's protection so we know that they are safe. In addition parents or other adults bringing in children late or taking children out of school early are asked to complete our signing in/out book as a safeguarding procedure.

Star Awards



Star of the week awards went to:

Squirrel: Oliver M, **Otter:** Charlie B, **Fox:** Brooke N, **Chestnut:** Jasmine C,

Birch: Jasmine S, **Willow:** Lottie L, **Oak:** Megan M

Nicholas Bear was awarded to Elm Class for their wonderful writing this week

School events

As a result of the letters you received today regarding the school response to COVID-19 I am cancelling the Mother's Day Service and the KS1 Mother's Day Celebration in the afternoon of Friday 20th March. I realise this may be upsetting for some but my prime concern is that as a school we must be seen to do everything to protect the well-being and safety of the pupils without putting un-necessary risks in place to the most vulnerable within our setting.

I also have to inform Year 5 parents of the decision to cancel the Year 5 visit to our partner school in Lille, France in line with current Government advice. I apologize for this, but I am sure you will agree this is the best course of action under the current circumstances.

With regard to all other visits, these will be considered on a case by case issue, but if the visit is not considered necessary, then it will not take place.

LENT CHARITIES

During the period of Lent, it is traditional to raise money for Christian charities so they can help and support those in need. School council have met and discussed fun ways in which we can raise money and discussed and voted on the charities they wished to support this year which are The Salvation Army and Operation Noah (a Christian charity that is doing scientific research and campaigning about climate change).

One of the events we are running is an Easter egg raffle with prizes donated by staff. Tickets cost 20p each and can be bought from your child's teacher. The raffle will be drawn on the last day of term. Remember the more tickets you buy, the greater your chance of winning.

We will also be running a 10p line race. Please donate 10p pieces between now and the end of term and on the final day instead of counting the money all the classes will make the longest line possible in the playground and the class with the longest line (the most 10p's) will all receive a small prize.

If you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals please apply for your child on the KCC website:

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

British Science week – March 2020

Please see below the Photos for our amazing Science week across the school. Its not too late to send in your donations of £1 for the Crazy Scientist Day if you forgot to do so, as these much needed funds will go towards the resources used across the week.

