

St Nicholas CE Primary Academy

Fairfield Road, New Romney, Kent TN28 8BP

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Christopher Dale - Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all staying well and getting into a pattern of home education which is working for you. The government's guidance to parents mirrors our thoughts exactly when it says: *"No one expects parents to act as teachers or to provide the activities and feedback that a school or nursery would. Parents and carers should do their best to help children and support their learning while dealing with competing demands."*

It is hard to believe that the children have been away from school for 20 days, not including the Easter.

As a staff, we haven't all seen each other during this time and we are constantly reviewing what we are doing in this unusual time and looking to see if there are better ways of doing things as a result we have set up class email addresses. Each class email address is the class name followed by our usual contact e.g.; Class name@st-nicholas-newromney.kent.sch.uk

This is another way, in addition to Class Dojo that you can communicate with class teachers at this time. They will be active from Monday 4th May. Please note, you may not receive a reply on the same day.

Please, please keep sharing your photos/ work on Class Dojo - I do see everything posted and I love to see the children and their work.

It's keeping us going so please keep it up along with regular communication with your child's class teacher. Class Dojo is proving invaluable at this time and it has made the sharing of learning and communication so much easier.

Thanks for the lovely messages and support you are sending us at this time.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely
Christopher Dale
Headteacher

Primary School Offers;

If your child is due to start primary school in September 2020 you will need to accept or refuse the offer directly with the school. **The deadline for returning the primary acceptance/refusal form is 6 May 2020.** Places can be accepted via email:

enquiries@st-nicholas-newromney.kent.sch.uk

Schools Re-opening?

If we are instructed that schools can return to being open for all pupils next term, we are expecting that social distancing will still be required.

This means that we will not be able to have all of our children in at one time. We are beginning to think about how we might manage this, in terms of different year groups on different days or half classes in for half days.

This will clearly be very difficult for schools to manage, and also for parents to manage if they are returning to work.

Let's hope things become clearer this week!

More Important News

Free School Meals families.

We will distribute vouchers for Free School Meals families on **THURSDAY 7th MAY from 10.30am until 1.00pm**, from St Nicholas Academy main office reception.

Paper pack will be available on the same day. Please note that these copies are only for non-internet families; we cannot provide paper packs for all of our families.

ZOOM – video calling

As parents are aware, staff are trying to keep up to date with you and your children. To do this we are using Zoom. Below is an overview of when the teachers will be on Zoom in the week ahead:

Zoom Meeting times – Week beginning 4/5/20				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Birch @10am	Willow Guided reading group 10am	Willow Guided reading group 10am	Maple Guided reading group 10am	Rowan – morning see Dojo for times
Chestnut catch up 10am	Willow Guided reading group 10.30am	Willow Guided reading group 10.30am	Maple Guided reading group 10.30am	Squirrel – morning see Dojo for times
Otters @ 11am	Chestnut Learning pack help 10am	Maple Guided reading group 10am	Chestnut Learning pack help 10am	Chestnut Friday awards 10am
Fox @ 11am	Beech @11am	Maple Guided reading group 10.30am		Hare @ 11am
Willow drop in @1pm	Maple drop in @ 1pm	Chestnut Learning pack help 10am		Willow – whole class @ 1pm
		Badger @ 2pm		
		Elm @ 2pm		

When making the video call, please make sure the computer is in a suitable place, not in a bedroom or bathroom for example and the background is clear, showing just the wall perhaps. Thank you.

Key Workers

Although we are all unsure of what lies ahead, I can confirm that Key Workers Children will be able to use the Marsh Hub on the Bank Holiday – Friday 8th May.

What if I'm worried about my child or another child?

If you're finding it hard at home with your child and are struggling to cope, call **Family Lives** for free, confidential advice on **0808 800 2222**.

If you're worried about the safety of another child in our community, call Kent County Council Children's safeguarding services. Call 03000 41 11 11 or email social.services@kent.gov.uk
If you need to contact someone outside of normal office hours, for example during the night, call 03000 41 91 91, or alternatively call the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000.

If you think a child is in immediate danger call the police on 999.



Links for Families

Speedy Green Words

KS1

Speedy Green Word slideshows are a great way to help with children's reading fluency. Eight slideshows, covering all Read Write Inc. levels, are now available on Oxford Owl for Home: <https://bit.ly/2VPW9Ze>

Reading Plus

For Years 4 – 6.

Children should all know their passwords to access this site. This is an online Reading programme to improve children's reading skills & comprehension.
<https://login.readingplus.com/>

Read Write Inc – KS1 & Year 3

From Monday there will be Phonics & Spelling, for children to watch every weekday on [YouTube](#).

Each lesson is fifteen minutes long & available for 24 hours.

Set 1

- Set 1 Speed Sounds 9.30am
- Set 1 Word Time 9.45 am
- Set 1 Spelling 10.00 am

Set 2

- Set 2 Speed Sounds and Word Time 10.00 am
- Set 2 Spelling 10.15 am

Set 3

- Set 3 Speed Sounds and word Time 10.30 am
- Set 3 Spelling 10.45 am

Also on Monday there is **story time with Nick** at 2pm; films of well-loved stories read by Nick Cannon, a super storyteller.

Heroes Past and Present

As you know, VE Day, marking the end of World War II in Europe, was on 8th May 1945.

This year marks the 75th anniversary. We wanted to take this opportunity to focus on our citizenship curriculum and the themes of service, duty and sacrifice. Of course this is particularly important this year as we think about the men and women who are performing their duty in our NHS or are key workers who are serving our community in other selfless ways.

We know from working with the children of key workers in school that our pupils can be anxious and need to talk about the strange times we find ourselves in. We feel this citizenship focus is a good opportunity to have a conversation about our current situation, perhaps using the 'Heroes past and present' theme as a way in? We have found children are keen to talk, we just need to listen!

Teachers will be putting up some ideas for art and craft activities on their Dojo pages. We are asking children to share their work in your windows at home. We felt this was a way of our school community coming together, even when this is physically not possible. Children on exercise walks will see that their peers are doing, thinking and feeling the same as they are.

If you have signed up for a free 'twinkl' account, you will see lots more ideas and resources there, or it could be as simple as some VE bunting with some key words?

We hope that you will be able to take part and we look forward to seeing your photos!

TTRS

No doubt parents you will have seen over the last few weeks, Mrs Lee has been setting up TTRS challenges across the school. Last week was no different except this time it was against the teachers! 350 children against 14 teachers

Well done Students! You have beaten the teachers in what was a very close battle.

The highest scoring teacher was Mrs Firth. Macie W, Joshua R and Megan F were the top 3 highest scorers for the pupils.

Thank you to everyone who took part. The next battle is between the House Teams and starts today - Monday.

