



Friday 9th October 2020
St Nicholas CE Primary Academy
Newsletter

Headteacher: Christopher Dale

Dear Parents and Carers,

A No Phone Zone – can you help us?



Research has shown that the more interactive conversation and play children are involved in the more they learn. Reading books, singing, playing word games, and simply talking to children will increase their vocabulary while providing increased opportunities to develop listening skills. We want to encourage this; however we need your support. We want to adopt a “no phone zone” in the school grounds. Instead you can have a conversation with your child about their day and plans for later. These few minutes giving your child your undivided attention will support their development and vocabulary.

Here some ways you can help boost your child's communication skills:

- **Talk** about the day's activities; ask open ended questions such as “What did you enjoy most today?”
- **Talk** with your child about the books you read together.
- **Talk** with your child about the TV programmes and videos you watch together.
- Keep books, magazines, and other reading material where children can reach them without help.

Vocabulary and Communication Patterns

As children gain language skills they also develop their conversational abilities. Children 4 to 5 years old can follow more complex directions and enthusiastically talk about things they do. They can make up stories, listen attentively to stories and retell stories.

At this age children usually can understand that letters and numbers are symbols of real things and ideas, and that they can be used to tell stories and offer information. Most will know the names of family members and other personal information. They often play with words and make up silly words and stories.

Their sentence structures may now include five or more words, and their vocabulary is between 1,000 and 2,000 words. Speech at this age should be completely understandable, although there may be some developmental sound errors.

We want our children to have the best possible start and this requires your help. By putting your phone away for ten minutes and chatting to your child it will greatly support their learning.
Thank you for your continued support.

Antoinette Starmer-Smith
Head of inclusion/SENCO

Dates for your diary

October

Tues 13th

Individual Pupil Photos – all day

Wed 14th

Governors meeting 5 – 7pm

Thurs 15th

The Kent Test (11+)

Week beginning 19th

Maths Week – whole school

Thurs 22nd

Virtual Harvest Festival

Parent/Teacher

Consultations 3.30pm to 8pm – This will be strictly by appointment only

Fri 23rd

END OF TERM

November

Mon 2nd

Children return to school

The Immunisation team will be attending for the FLU nasal sprays.

Year 6 Parents - secondary school applications for your child to start secondary school in 2021 close at 23.59hrs.

Mon 9th

Blue Monday – start of Anti-bullying week

Fri 13th

Children in Need Day – watch out for more details

For all of our most up to date information on term dates please see the school website

www.st-nicholas-newromney.kent.sch.uk



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 many additional interventions are also scheduled for this time, which may include your child as part of our 'catch-up' programme.



This term's collective worship focus is:
AMBITION

Our whole-school attendance this week was **93.7%**.

Class attendance rates this week			
Hedgehog	93.2%	Chestnut	90%
Squirrel	97.5%	Birch	93.3%
Badger	93.8%	Beech	98.6%
Otter	90%	Maple	95.5%
Fox	89.6%	Willow	93.5%
Hare	96.8%	Oak	91.4%
Rowan	94.3%	Elm	98.2%

Well done this week to

- Squirrel
- Beech

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

READING

In school we are really trying hard to improve the children's attitudes towards reading.

At home your child needs to read a minimum of 4 x a week.

Reading Plus in Year 4, 5 & 6 will count as 1 read. If they read 4x a week they will be entered into a prize draw to win a range of different books. This will be drawn before each half term.

The class teacher will keep a tally and will also award badges and certificates in class.

Please help us to encourage this.



Parent/Teacher Consultations - Important

As you will be aware Parent/Teacher Consultations are due to take place on **Thursday 22nd October** unless Government guidance changes.

Please be aware we require all parents to wear a face mask to this event. Parents will also be asked to sign into school on the evening using the NHS Track & Trace app with the schools QR code.

Teachers will be provided with a face visor and parents will be seated at an appropriately social distance from the teacher. We would appreciate it if children remain at home on this occasion. Anyone not able to follow the systems outlined above will not be able to attend.

Harvest Festival

This year our Harvest Festival will be very different to previous years, however we are not letting that stop us sharing this special time in the school calendar.

On **Thursday 22nd October** we will hold year group services. We would be grateful if children could bring in tins and packets of non-perishable goods for us to share with the needy of the Parish. Thank you in advance for your support.



Pupils Individual Photographs

Please remember that we have whole school individual photos on **Tuesday 13th October.**

Due to the current Government guidelines unfortunately this year there will be no sibling photos and family photos.



Handwashing

Some parents have asked if their child can bring in their own soap for handwashing from home. In short, the answer to this is no.

As a school we are required to keep H&S guidance sheet on the different products on our site and the potential for so many bringing different products from home would clearly not be practical for us to manage.

Often the issue surrounding any intolerance of soap is due to children not rinsing all the soap from their hands effectively. With so many children having to wash their hands so frequently, it is difficult to monitor what every child is doing, so we do need them to know what effective hand washing looks like and parents can help us with this.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>



Turn it off !

It is a scene replicated on roads outside many schools in the winter: rows of stationary cars with their engines running to keep parents in the driving seat warm as they wait to pick up a child. At morning drop-offs too, engines are left running as schoolbags are extracted from car boots, or parents chat through rolled-down windows. Please think about our children's health and switch off your engines.

