



Friday 19th March 2021
St Nicholas CE Primary Academy
Weekly Newsletter
Headteacher: Christopher Dale

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy week at St Nicholas. This week has seen the start of our programme to hear every child read every day. Reading with the daily book, in guided reading or using the common words reading cards which are sent home regularly with younger children.

In my letter to parents last week I asked parents to help us by reading with their child every day for just 10 minutes. Trying to fit this in to a busy work life can be challenging at times and as a result become stressful to do. However, we should not be making this a stressful activity.

Reading, being read to, and sharing books in the home helps to build a child's vocabulary and understanding of the world. Research shows children who start school with good vocabulary and communication skills make friends more easily, have fewer behavioural issues and are more likely to do well academically. A strong, early foundation in language has even been linked to better mental health as children get older.

Reading with your child or encouraging your child to read independently for just ten minutes each day can make all the difference. Here are some tips to help children of all ages to enjoy reading and to get reading more often.

1. **Take breaks while reading.** Your child doesn't have to read an entire book in one go! Any time spent sharing or talking about a book is beneficial, even if it's just a couple of minutes at a time.
2. **Build reading into your child's routine.** Find a regular time for reading in your child's day, so that they can begin to expect it as part of their routine. This can be any time of day. Some children enjoy reading before bed, but others can just be too exhausted at night. It might be better for some children to read just after dinner, or in the morning after breakfast.
3. **Encourage your child to follow their interests.** Let your young children choose the books they read. You can do this by keeping books on a shelf they have regular access to, or presenting them with two to three books and letting them choose.
4. **Play with letters, sound or words.** Engage children in games and activities that help them learn new words. For older children, these could be crossword puzzles, word searches or word hunts. They can cut out words in magazines related to a particular theme to create a word map. For younger children, focus on playing with letters and sounds. You can use Play-Doh or alphabet magnets.

I hope you find some of the tips helpful.

Best wishes
Christopher Dale
Headteacher



Find us on Twitter & follow us! - check out @St_Nicholas_CEP and see our sporting achievements on @cep_sport

Dates for your diary

Below are key dates for your diary which have been set as reminders via the Class Dojo Events pages;

March

Mon 29th

Start of Holy Week – Rev John will be in school each day this week for services.

April

Thurs 1st

Whole school Easter Breakfast

Term Ends

Mon 19th

Children return to school

Wed 21st

Whole school class photographs

Year 4 Group 1 Stand Up Paddle Boarding

Fri 23rd

St Georges House – non-uniform day

26th April to 30th April

Science Week

Wed 28th

Year 4 Group 2 Stand Up Paddle Boarding

May

Mon 3rd

Bank Holiday – school closed

Wed 5th

Year 4 Group 3 Stand Up Paddle Boarding

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:
FRIENDSHIP

Our whole-school attendance this week was **97.5%**.

Class attendance rates this week			
Hedgehog	98.4%	Chestnut	98.1%
Squirrel	98.7%	Birch	96.8%
Badger	97.1%	Beech	99.5%
Otter	95.8%	Maple	97.9%
Fox	98.5%	Willow	95.4%
Hare	99.2%	Oak	97%
Rowan	97.4%	Elm	97.4%

Well done this week to

- Hare
- Beech

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

Easter Fundraising



As part of our Lent fundraising for the Quiet Garden Trust and developing our own sensory garden area we are holding an **Easter Breakfast on the last day of term, Thursday 1st April.**

Breakfast will be a hot cross bun and a hot chocolate.

The breakfast will be held in year group bubbles and the children will be fully supervised by members of staff from their year group bubble. We will open the gates at **7:55am** and **close them at 8:05am** so that children have time to eat their breakfast before we reopen the gates at the normal time for the other pupils. Having a breakfast together will give the children the chance to have a chat before we break up and maybe do some Easter break activities.

Breakfasts MUST be pre-booked and paid for by Wednesday 24th March so that we know how many children to cater for. The Easter breakfast will cost £1 each. By booking a breakfast for your child/children we are expecting parents to take responsibility for considering any allergies or intolerances your child may have.



Thursday 1st April will also be the last day to buy Easter Egg Raffle tickets at 20 pence each. The raffle will be drawn in class that afternoon.

Star of the Week & Reading Awards

Congratulations to all our Star of the Week and Reading Award winners this week.

Star of the Week goes to:

Squirrel: Albert L, **Hedgehog:** Zahra C, **Otter:** Blake C, **Badger:** Beau F, **Fox:** Darcie E,
Hare: David A, **Chestnut:** Elliot B, **Rowan:** Albert C, **Beech:** Harley D, **Birch:** Ava A,
Willow: Archie B, **Maple:** Jacob R, **Oak:** Sophie L, **Elm:** Florence R.

Reading Awards go to:

Squirrel: Ellie N, **Hedgehog:** Vinnie M, **Otter:** Faith K, **Badger:** Jack N, **Fox:** William R,
Hare: Alphonse J, **Chestnut:** Riley B, **Rowan:** Lacey-Lou R, **Beech:** Kain R, **Birch:** Alfie R,
Willow: Aiden R, **Maple:** Leo L, **Oak:** Sam M, **Elm:** Sophie L.

Well done to Hare class with 64% of the class reading 4x a week and well done to Chestnut class with 81% of the class reading 4x a week.

Reading Plus Leader board – Beech Class 79%