



Friday 7th January 2022
St Nicholas CE Primary Academy
Weekly Newsletter

Headteacher: Christopher Dale

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! A warm welcome back to school and to all those families who have joined us at the start of this term.

Are you making a resolution in the new year? Warning: More than half of all resolutions fail, but this year, they don't have to be yours. Quite often, with a new year comes 'the turning of a new leaf.'

I spoke with the children at the start of the week about how adults are often motivated to make the changes they've been talking about all year long and how sometimes our new starts are not always as easy as they should be.

This year I would like to ask **all** parents at our school to engage in a new year's resolution of a different kind. One in which I would like **all** parents make a commitment to supporting their child in reading, no matter which year group they are in.

I would like to create a community in which all children are reading their way to a better life. Research shows that reading for pleasure can promote better health and wellbeing, aids in building social connections and relationships with others and is associated with a range of factors that help increase the chances of social mobility.

A child with good reading habits is more likely to succeed in education than those who do not. To support parents, we have a variety of events at the start of the school year to assist parents in supporting their child as a way of developing these new habits.

The start of our new year of reading has seen the following put in place;

- Library cards for children
- Adult education courses for parents
- Online support videos for parents – these are available on Class Dojo from today and the links are available for the next 10 days.
- Parent Teacher sessions, our next planned events are for Year 2 & Year 6 on 13th January – see Class Dojo for further information.

One of our core aims at St Nicholas has been to ask parents to listen to children read at least 4 times a week for 10 to 15 minutes a time. My question is, is this really too much to be able to support children?

Yours sincerely

Christopher Dale
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

January

Wed 12th

Prospective Parent
Tours at 9:45am

Thurs 13th

Y2 and Y6 SATs
presentations to parents
5:30-6:30pm (see info on
Dojo class page)

Fri 14th

Y5 & Y6 Dance at 3pm –
please ensure the consent
form is completed

Mon 17th

After school clubs start

Tues 18th

Y5 Swimming (week 1 of 8)
Y1 Tag rugby

Thurs 20th

Y1 & Y5 Astrodome
workshop

Fri 21st

Y5 Hockey
Y5 & Y6 Dance at 3pm –
please ensure the consent
form is completed

Tues 25th

Y5 Swimming (week 2 of 8)
Y1 Tag rugby

Fri 28th

Y5 Hockey
Y5 & Y6 Dance at 3pm

February

Tues 1st

Y5 Swimming (week 3 of 8)
Y1 Tag rugby

Tues 8th

Y5 Swimming (week 4 of 8)
Y1 Tag rugby

Fri 11th

LAST DAY OF TERM



Star of the Week & Reading Awards



Star of the Week Awards go to:

Hedgehog: George E, **Badger:** Neive R, **Fox:** Oliver M, **Rowan:** Dolly D,
Beech: David H, **Willow:** Lilly M, **Oak:** Brylie H

Reading Awards go to:

Hedgehog: Sophia G, **Squirrel:** Alfie N, **Otter:** Pixie G, **Hare:** Omar R, **Chestnut:** Tommy W, **Birch:** Rory B, **Maple:** Harley D, **Elm:** Neil S

Well done to Otter class with 75% of the class reading 4 times a week and well done to Beech class with 90% of the class reading 4 times a week.

Meeting the St Nicholas Team .



Mrs Starmer-Smith is Head of Inclusion here at St Nicholas.

As SENCo she coordinates the provision for children with additional needs and is Designated Teacher for Looked after Children. She is also Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school. Since taking on her role, Mrs Starmer-Smith has improved provision and outcomes for children with additional needs here at St Nicholas. She has secured extra funding, which has enabled us to employ additional staff to directly support our children. As part of the Senior Leadership Team, she influences all decisions relating to Special Educational Needs. Mrs Starmer-Smith is currently using her expertise to support another school locally with their SEND provision. Over her 17 years in education, she has been particularly passionate about improving outcomes for children with autism and has training in this area in addition to lived experience.

Mrs Starmer-Smith also has a play therapy background and a clear understanding of the importance of wellbeing and supporting the whole child and family. She is excited to be involved in our current project which will result in our new Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) opening in September 2022 this year!

If you have any questions regarding your child's educational or health care needs, do not hesitate to contact her. Email: astarmer-smith@st-nicholas-newromney.kent.sch.uk

PE Kits in School

As we have returned to school after the holiday period we have noticed that not all children have a PE kit in school. At St Nicholas, physical activity is a very important part of our school day. Traditionally as a school, we have provided an array of different activities and sports to appeal to everyone and this term we will continue to have members of the Shepway Sports Trust coming in to teach the children alongside their normal PE lessons. Please help us by ensuring your child has their PE kit in school. Please find below the days on which each year group takes part in PE lesson. Years 5 & 6 – Wednesday, Year 4 – Monday, Year 3 – Friday, Year 2 – Tuesday, Year 1 - Thursday

Many thanks in advance with your support with this.

100% Attendance Tea Party

Yesterday (Thursday) we had the December attendance tea party for those children who had their names drawn from their class raffle ticket pots. 13 children joined Mr Dale, Mrs Turner and Clair, our attendance officer, to celebrate their excellent attendance.

If your child would like a chance to take part they need to be present for 100% of the week and they will receive a raffle ticket. The more times they are in for 100% the more chances they have of winning. Our thanks also to Clair for her wonderful cake baking. Thank you, Clair.



WE NEED YOU!

We are restarting St Nicholas PTA

Just over 2 years ago we tried to get a Parent Teacher Association started at St Nicholas. The last 22 months of the pandemic has very much hindered any progress on that front but we have decided the time is right to start again and we would like to call on the support of families and school colleagues to support us in setting up a new PTA.

We have always been very fortunate as a school to have the support of our families. In the past your financial contributions have supported pupils with subsidised outings, pantomime events and more recently the addition of a MUGA to our community.

The main function of our PTA will be to support the school by raising as much money as we can to enhance, enrich and improve learning experiences for the children. We would like to be able to provide those 'little extras' that make school memorable. It is our aim that ALL parents would be members of our school PTA, but as with all events there needs to be a core group who plan events and assist in making sure they get off the ground and get other community members involved to make our planned events successful.

The more people who become involved, the more we can achieve and the easier it will be.

Even if you have younger children at home, or only a small amount of time, could you come to a meeting, help set up an event, serve food or design a poster? Perhaps you have a professional skill you could help us out with? You don't have to come into the school; many of our volunteering tasks can be done from home.

If this is something you are interested in and would like to be part of our relaunch group please come along on **Wednesday 19th January at 6pm** (we will plan future meetings at a time more suitable to those who wish to be involved).

Free School Meals Support

We have been informed that Kent County Council will continue to support children eligible for Free School Meals with food vouchers throughout the holiday periods until **Easter 2022**.

If you believe your child may be eligible for free school meals and you get any of the following benefits, please apply on line at www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent/

If your child/children are already eligible and receiving free school meals you do not need to reapply. If you are not sure whether your child/children are on the school's free school meal list please contact the School Office who will be able to assist you.

- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

The benefits at the moment are not just for school meals – vouchers are available to families during the school holidays and over the Christmas period this year families were able to get support for them and children with public transport. There may also be support for families who register with summer holiday clubs in the future.



St Nicholas Day Celebrations & Stations of the Nativity - Please find attached articles published in this month's parish magazine.

St Nicholas Day Celebrations and Stations of the Nativity

The children of St Nicholas CE Primary Academy always celebrate St Nicholas on 6 December but, this year, that celebration started early as the choir were invited to sing in what was a beautiful service at Canterbury Cathedral on the Sunday.

On St Nicholas Day, the whole school went to church where Reverend Jacky and the Reverends Chris Hodgkins and Chris Maclean led a special service for the children reminding them why St Nicholas is so special to us. One of the children was made bishop for the day; seated in the chair and wearing the cloak and mitre in the ceremony.

Following on from the children's Stations of Cross they had made at Easter, every class has created scenes based on the Stations of the Nativity which are being



The combined children's choirs at Canterbury Cathedral. The St Nicholas CE Primary School choir is bottom left.



The children of St Nicholas CE Primary Academy at Canterbury Cathedral.

displayed in the church throughout the Christmas period. As one of our worship leaders said, "It's a really good we get to show

our work to everyone in New Romney. I hope it brings them as much happiness to see them as we had making them. Individually they are

all great but when you see them altogether they look awesome, a bit like the children at our school - we are like a big family".

December also saw a return to nativity plays being shown in school - unlike last year - as well as carol singing out in the community and the community coming in for carols and cake, reverse Advent to support the homeless, making cards and writing messages to CALM

and of course celebrating Christmas to raise money for the Children's Society. Children know that although Christmas is a time for great joy and happiness as families get together, they need to remember those in our community who are less fortunate and lonely.



Lantern prayers and poems by pupils of St Nicholas CE Primary School



Dear Creator,
Thank you for the light you have created to guide us through our lives.
Thank you for sending your son to forgive our sins and lead us out of temptation.
You have made me understand that if you were not there to defeat the dark and foolish of the world and make it peaceful, then we would be filled with greed, not trust.
Guide me to carry your torch forward and bring light, kindness, righteousness.

Aarna

Who am I? Who am I?
Light - Bringer Earth - Bringer.
Sin - Hater Heavenly Father.
Earth - Saviour Big - Lover.
Human - Healer Hell - Hater.
Demon - Beater Heaven - Creator.
Angel - Flyer Life - Beginner.
Path - Shower.

Elliott W

Dear God,
Today I am carrying a lantern to remind me of Jesus the light of the world.
Thank you for the light to guide us through the darkness and the pain.
Every night I look up and see the stars that remind me of the night the three wise men followed the star to the stable where the new king was born.
As we push off the light, we remember you, your love and how you light up the world. Amen.

Tobella

Dear God,
Thank you for always being in the dark places of the world, bringing joy and happiness with your light.
As we light up New Romney, we will remember our Saviour, born in a stable to bring peace to our lives, and the bright stars that guided people to him.
We will remember that you will be here with us. Amen.

Madison

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Lantern Prayers & Poems continued from page 35

Light
Light guides us where we are going.
Jesus and God are the light of the world.
God is creation of light telling us what to do.
Light makes us warm and happy.
Our Father is the light telling us where to go.
Light is an eternal flame that doesn't burn out.

Mason

Dear God,
Let the light guide us through life even in the bad times.
You are our light, you keep us company when we are lost and lonely.
You shine bright in the sky.
When we light a candle, you are with us and you always will be. Amen.

Taylor

Dear Jesus Christ,
Thank you for shining in the darkness when we need you the most.
You summon us to spread the word, to shine our own little lights together, to work as one.
Thank you for guiding us to the right path of life.

Jude

Dear God,
Thank you for sending our Holy Saviour, Jesus Christ to save us all from war and free us from sin.
We thank you for showing love and forgiveness to us.
Help us to learn to be sin-free and a sharing person.
Lead us through the light and out of the darkness.
You created us to live on earth and have a chance to bring light to others around. Amen.

Ava

Dear God,
Today I carry a lantern to remember that Jesus is the light of the world.
While we light up New Romney, we remember the star that guided Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.
There is no darkness with your Son Jesus, You guide us through the hard times and you make the world a better place and lead us to our goals.

Archie

The Poem of Light
God is light,
He guides us through life.
On the days we need him most, he will be there.
During our worship,
when we light a candle,
God will be there watching over us and protecting us.

Georgie

Light
Jesus is the light of our world.
Light is God's creation.
It guides us during rough times.
Light is an eternal flame.
The warmth that surrounds us is the world's light.
Amen.

Our Father Leo

Your light guides us everywhere.
Your light has created the magnificent world of glory.
Your faith reflects upon us, and we should do the same.
Shine your light to guide all of us when we are stuck.
We thank you for being here with us. Amen.

Light
Jesus is the light of the world.
The light helps us see.
God's creation guides us around the world.
The sun keeps us warm and happy.

Ava

New Intake visits – is your child starting school in September 2022?

St Nicholas CE Primary Academy
Is your child starting school in September 2022?
Parents and families are welcome to visit our school and wonderful grounds by appointment.
Please see website for details of the school process
www.stnicholasceprimaryacademy.com
Contact: Office 01622 820000 or 01622 820001
01622 820002

Visit from the school bus:
Monday 19th November at 9.45am & 1.30pm
Wednesday 23rd November at 9.45am & 1.30pm
Monday 27th November at 9.45am
Wednesday 30th January 2022 at 9.45am

"The school's work to promote pupils' personal development, welfare and behaviour is outstanding" - OFSTED

On Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 9:45am we will be holding the last of our open sessions for parents looking for a Reception place for September 2022. This is an opportunity to meet the Headteacher, tour the school and see our Reception classes in action. Please contact the school if you would like to attend on this date.

"Learning, loving and encouraging through Christ"