



Friday 15th December 2023

Dear parents/carers,

As we finish for the Christmas holidays, I did wonder if we would fit in all of our festive fun for the children at school, but we have with thanks to staff, governors and the PTA.

We hope you have all been able to read our school SIAMs report which is now available [online](#). It highlights some wonderful aspects of school life here at St Nicholas and we are very proud of the result. We are proud to be a welcoming, inclusive and aspirational learning environment with our community at our heart. We are delighted that the inspectors recognised our many strengths. We will continue to do our very best for our pupils and our wider community. I wanted to say thank you so much to those of you who have stopped me to say well done or sent emails into school; your ongoing support really is greatly appreciated.

Working with children is such a fabulous and rewarding job but seeing them at Christmas time and providing additional festive events and activities that they can experience together with their friends in school is wonderful.

The festivities started early at the end of November with the school having their panto experiences, this was different for our KS2 children who went to the Marlowe Theatre this year to see Aladdin. It was lovely to see the joy on the children's faces – we will definitely repeat this next year. The school disco was a success and enjoyed by all – including the grown-ups!

Well done to our Year 4 children who took part in this year's 'Light up New Romney Lantern parade', as ever we give thanks to Caroline Wire and the committee for coming into school and supporting us with the school lanterns. The Choir also had the wonderful experience taking part and singing at the St Nicholas service at Canterbury Cathedral. It was a lovely service and one where the children sang with 12 other primary schools. The children sang beautifully.

We had the joy of two nativity productions this year. The EYFS Tableau at St Nicholas Church. The location made for an especially touching performance by the children, who did ever so well. We also had our KS1 Nativity this week. The children wrote the nativity themselves, with a little help from the original authors! They turned their work into a wonderful production with traditional carols and Christmas songs.

This week, we wore our Christmas jumpers to school and shared Christmas Dinner together. It was wonderful to eat and celebrate together. Thank you so much to Mrs Lucas and her team who cooked Christmas Dinner for over 370 people! It was delicious.



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Thank you for supporting the PTA Christmas Draw. We raised over £900. We would also like to thank all the local businesses for their support of the school for the raffle, including GK Roofing who donated our first prize of a Nintendo Switch! A list of all our sponsors can be found on the school's Facebook page. I look forward to the exciting things the PTA will plan and lead next year to raise funds for our children.

Thank you to all our families who contributed to our Reverse Advent collection, your donations have made so many of our families very happy to receive support at this time. I know that at this time of year there is pressure to ensure you buy the best toys and presents for your child and in the current climate this may be difficult. Just remember that when your child comes back after Christmas it isn't always the toys they talk about, they remember those days sat in front of the television snuggled up with their duvet eating popcorn and watching a festive film, they remember funny family games (the cereal box one is a great one- look it up and try it), decorating biscuits, building dens around the house and making up funny jokes like the ones in Christmas crackers.

Being the headteacher at St Nicholas over the last 9 years has, like any other role, has its ups and downs, but I feel so lucky to serve a wonderful community with the children at the heart of all we do. Thank you to the staff who are truly amazing and are totally dedicated to the children and the team. To you, our parents, for your continued support. Our governors who give their time freely to ensure St. Nicholas continues to develop and thrive. Finally, our children who really do make our school a very special place and I wish them all a truly magical Christmas full of love and festive fun.

We end the year by saying goodbye to Mr Hooper and wish him all the very best for the future. We welcome two new teaching assistants Miss Frampton and Mrs Dyer. I know you will give them both a warm St Nicholas welcome.

On behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

*In the spirit of Christmas, may you find Joy,
In the light of Christmas, may you find Hope,
In the hush of Christmas, may you find Peace,
At the heart of Christmas, may you find Love.*

See you on Wednesday 3rd January 2024!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C Dale', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Christopher Dale
Headteacher