



Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

St Nicholas CE Primary Academy

# Weekly Newsletter

Headteacher: Christopher Dale

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Dear St Nicholas Community,

Welcome back to Term 4! I hope everyone had a wonderful half term, finding time to relax and enjoy moments with family and friends.

As we dive into this new term, I'm excited to share that we've hit the ground running with a flurry of engaging activities across the school. Our Year R pupils have been captivated by the story of "Mr Wolf's Pancakes". Imagine their delight when they watched a video of Mr Wolf himself, exploring our school kitchen in search of ingredients for more of his delicious pancakes! It's heartening to see our youngest learners so enthralled by storytelling and imaginative play.

I'm also thrilled to report on the success of our family maths meeting at the end of last term. It was fantastic to see parents there, eager to support your children's mathematical journey. We were able to provide free resources to help build up our pupils' maths knowledge, reinforcing the vital partnership between home and school in nurturing our children's education.

This week also saw the conclusion of our parent-teacher consultations. I trust these meetings were useful, offering not just a glimpse into your child's progress, but also valuable guidance on how to further support their learning. Your partnership in your child's education is invaluable, and we appreciate your engagement.

Our Year 3 pupils have embarked on an exciting new adventure, visiting F51 in Folkestone for bouldering wall and climbing taster sessions. These experiences not only promote physical fitness but also build confidence and problem-solving skills. Speaking of physical activities, I'm pleased to announce that our swimming lessons will be starting again next week at St Nicholas. This comes as a welcome solution following the closure of swimming pools at local leisure centres, ensuring our pupils don't miss out on this crucial life skill.

The creative arts have been in full swing too. Both Year 2 & Year 3 have had the privilege of working with Ian from KIC Theatre. These sessions have been instrumental in using drama to enhance writing skills and spark creativity, demonstrating the power of cross-curricular learning.

Looking ahead, I'd like to remind our **Year 6 parents** about the upcoming **SATs meeting on Tuesday 4th March at 6:00pm**. This will be an invaluable opportunity to discuss how you can best support your children through their upcoming tests, we hope to see as many of you as possible at this informative event.

Lastly, I'm sure you're all aware of the exciting Book Week events planned for next week. Please make sure to check your child's ClassDojo pages for detailed information about the activities taking place. It promises to be a week full of literary adventures and celebrations of the joy of reading.

As always, I'm immensely proud of the vibrant learning community we've cultivated here at St Nicholas CE Primary Academy. The enthusiasm of our pupils, the dedication of our staff, and the support of our parents continue to make our school a truly special place.

Yours sincerely

*Christopher Dale*  
Headteacher

## Dates for your diary

### March 2025

#### Mon 3

- Whole school **Book Week** festival
- Gary Parsons - Book illustrator in school all day
- **Year 6** bikeability, day 1 of 3

#### Tues 4

- **Year 6** bikeability, 2<sup>nd</sup> day
- Shrove Tuesday Dinner special
- **Year 6** Parents SATs Meeting 6pm in main hall

#### Wed 5

- World Book Day – Book Swap morning
- **Year 6** bikeability, 3<sup>rd</sup> day
- **Year 5** Ash Wednesday Service 9:15am at Church
- **Y5 / 6** Football tournament 10am – 3pm

#### Thurs 6

- **World Book Dress up day**
- 1pm World Book Day Cosy Story Time – whole school.

#### Fri 7

- World book day; Mrs Munn – Local artist working with the children on illustrations

#### Mon 10

- Whole school science week



**“Learning, loving and encouraging through Christ.”**



**“St Nicholas CE Primary Academy,  
a place where pupils always come first.” - OFSTED**

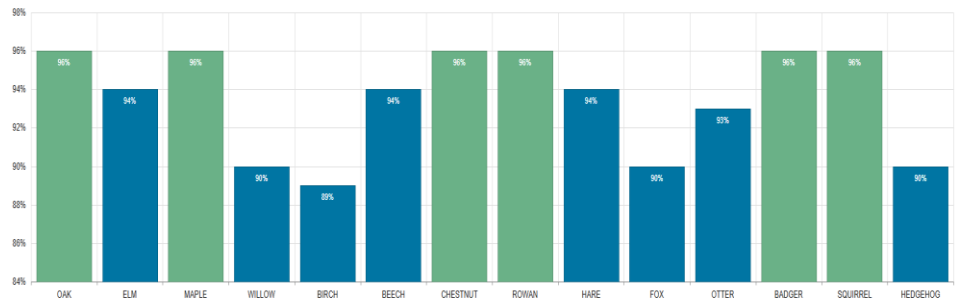


## Attendance every day counts.

It is essential that your child comes to school on time every day. Learning starts when the class doors open at 8:30am with SODA (Start of Day Activities), some interventions start at this time and this **WILL** include your child at some point!

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

Top attenders are:		
Year	Class	%
6	Oak	96
5	Maple	96
3	Chestnut	96
3	Rowan	96
1	Badger	96
R	Squirrel	96



*Congratulations to all the classes above with their super attendance*

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

### Star Award



**Star of the week awards went to:**

**Squirrel:** Archie C **Badger:** Cooper L **Fox:** Finley G  
**Chestnut:** Hudson S & Ted S **Birch:** Evie M  
**Willow:** Darcie H **Elm:** David A



**This week's Birthdays:**

George E, Emily L and William Richardson – many happy returns to you all!

**Nicholas Bear was awarded to – EYFS for their wonderful behaviour at The Marsh Sporting event this week. Well Done!**



This term's worship focus is on our value:

**RESPECT**

[1 Thessalonians 5:12-13](#)

We ask you, to respect those among you and are over you in the Lord, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

### Next week's Suave words?

A **suave word** is our fun name for a sophisticated or ambitious vocabulary. We use **SAUVE** words to give our children a greater exposure to some ambitious vocabulary and enrich their word power. This week's word is:

#### **SUAVE WORD OF THE WEEK**

**quell**

**DEFINITION** End, often by force, or silence someone.

**EXAMPLE** The teacher had to quell the rowdy class.

**ACTIVITY** Use the word in three different sentences.

Having a varied bank of vocabulary is crucial for pupils to express themselves.

### Fountain Pen awards

A big 'Well done' to all the children who visited Mr Dale this week for their Pen Licences and Fountain Pen Awards.



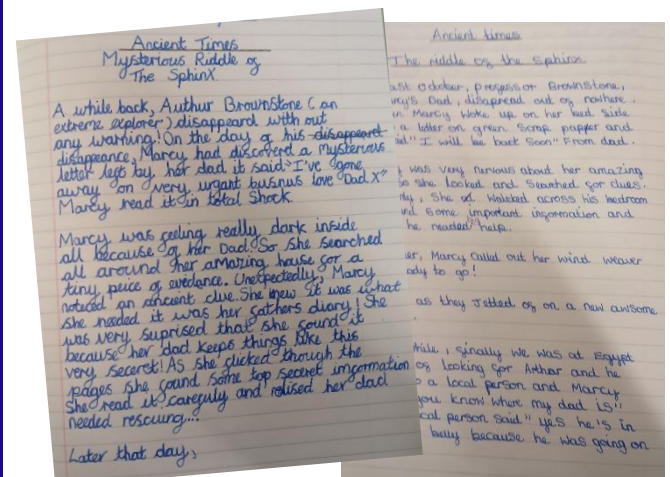
*"St Nicholas CE Primary Academy,  
a place where pupils always come first."* - **OFSTED**



Please help us each week by promoting our Suave words.

(What are Suave words by Ros Wilson – Top tips for teaching)

People often ask what is the quality of handwriting like where a child is able to attain a Fountain Pen from Mr Dale. Well, see below - **What's even more amazing is, these children are in Year 4!**



**World Book Day events** - World Book Day is almost here! The day was first celebrated in 1996, encouraging children from all backgrounds to read for their own enjoyment.

Reading can have an amazing effect on us and how we interact with others. Through books, we explore and learn to understand other people's emotions and experiences. This can help us to feel empathy for others in real life. Do your best and be a role model for a child by showing you read over the next week.

Next week from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March we will have a range of host of literary events taking place across school which will include, our dress up day on World Book Day.

There will also be a special competition this week where children will be able to design their own book mark. See the flier below which will be going out with children. The winner will have their book marks published and turned into book marks for children in their Phase as well as a book token for the winners.

#### Book week events:

**Mon 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Gary Parsons Book Illustrator in all day

**Tues 4<sup>th</sup>** – Year R, 3 & 6 Shakespeare presentations

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup>** – Year 2 and 5 Shakespeare presentations – watch this space!

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup>** – Whole school Book Swap Morning

**Thurs 6<sup>th</sup>** – World Book Day – Come to school dressed as a book character

**Thurs 6<sup>th</sup>** – Cosy Afternoon – cosy down for a shared book with a teacher.

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup>** – Music with Mrs Sullivan – stories told through music and the children creating their own stories through music.

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup>** – Year 1 and 4 Shakespeare presentations

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup>** – Children working with local artist Mrs Munn on book illustrations

**WORLD BOOK DAY COMPETITION**

To celebrate World Book Day, we will be running a **design a bookmark competition**. Your bookmark should be around the **theme of reading/books**; it could celebrate your favourite author, book, character or something else related to books or reading.

There will be 2 winners from each phase (Year 5/6, Year 3/4, Year 1/2 and EYFS) who will **receive a prize** as well as having their bookmarks printed to put in our library for other children to use.

The bookmarks will be judged by a team of our staff who will be looking for **originality and eye-catching design**; please use the template provided, but ensure that your bookmark doesn't have anything stuck on it otherwise we won't be able to print/photocopy it.

If you would like to enter, please bring your design into school by **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March**. The winners will be announced in our World Book Day Assembly.

**Have fun!**

Mrs Bader



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## **Online Safety** – This week we are sharing tips with parents on Screen time and AI

Welcome to the next video in our online safety series. Screen time is a very subjective area, different people will have different opinions. In this 7 -minute video, Alan gives you his opinion about screentime along with some advice. Below the video link, there are also some links which you should find useful.

<https://vimeo.com/847287882/3659f7a74d?share=copy>

### **Useful Links**

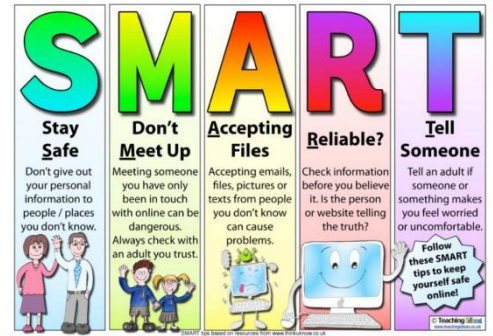
#### **The debate about screentime**

Professor Sonia Livingstone is one of the most knowledgeable people in the UK when it comes to screentime and other issues that affect children. In this article she shares some useful insights:

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/parenting4digitalfuture/2019/02/08/from-policing-screen-time/>

**Screentime** – getting the balance right for different ages of children

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/screen-time/>



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### **Artificial Intelligence (video length: 9 minutes)**

Artificial intelligence isn't new, but what is new is Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) and, whilst this can be used for enormously positive outcomes, there are negatives too which need to be understood.

In this video, Alan will take a brief look at artificial intelligence along with a few examples of risks.

<https://vimeo.com/1005106449/2ffc2cd388?share=copy>

### **Useful Links**

- A parent's guide to artificial intelligence

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-to-artificial-intelligence-ai-tools/>

- Using artificial intelligence as a family

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/parent-stories/one-parents-experience-using-artificial-intelligence-as-a-family/>

- How might AI impact children's digital wellbeing?

<https://www.internetmatters.org/tech-and-kids-digital-futures/using-artificial-intelligence-safely/>

For further information and advice on online safety issues, please check the school online safety page

>>> [\*\*Online Safety – St Nicholas CE Primary Academy\*\*](#)

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Photos of things taking place this week at school.

### Year 3 at F51 Folkestone



In Year R their first story this term is Mr Wolf's Pancakes!

They watched a video of Mr Wolf looking through our school kitchen trying to make more pancakes! We have been making our own masks to re tell the story, using ingredients to make our own play dough pancakes with different toppings and writing wanted posters to help find Mr Wolf.

### Year R Having Fun in their Literacy

