



Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

St Nicholas CE Primary Academy

# Weekly Newsletter

Headteacher: Christopher Dale

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Dear St Nicholas Community,

As we approach the Easter break, I find myself reflecting on the whirlwind of activity that has characterised our final week of term. It's been a period brimming with excitement, achievement, and heartwarming moments that truly embody the spirit of our school.

I'd like to begin by extending my heartfelt gratitude to the many parents who reached out to share their appreciation for our Mother's Day activities. The outpouring of positive feedback – nearly 30 messages from mums and significant ladies in our pupils' lives – was truly overwhelming. Your words of delight and enjoyment mean the world to me and reinforce the importance of these special events in fostering our school community.

Yesterday brought a particular highlight, as I had the pleasure of accompanying our Year 1 pupils on their visit to Dover Castle. I couldn't have been more proud of our young explorers, whose exemplary behaviour drew praise from members of the public. It's moments like these that remind us of the wonderful pupils we have the privilege of nurturing here at St Nicholas.

Our sporting achievements this week have been equally impressive. Congratulations are in order for our Handball teams, who represented the school with distinction, securing both first and third place in their respective events. A fantastic result that speaks volumes about their skill and teamwork. Our Herald Cup boys also took to the field this week and, while the score line may not have been in their favour, their unwavering determination and sportsmanship in the face of adversity was truly commendable.

As we look ahead to the summer term, we're preparing for what is traditionally our busiest period. The calendar is already filling up with exciting events including trips, sports days, and transition activities, to name just a few. These next 12 weeks promise to be action-packed and full of opportunities for our pupils to shine.

Before we embark on this next chapter, however, I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved Easter break. It's a time for rest, rejuvenation, and perhaps a chocolate egg or two! Please remember that the school gates will reopen on **Tuesday, 22nd April 2025**, when we look forward to welcoming our pupils back, refreshed and ready for the adventures that lie ahead.

Have a lovely Easter, everyone. Stay safe, have fun, and we'll see you soon for what promises to be an exhilarating summer term.

Christopher Dale  
Headteacher

## Dates for your diary

### APRIL

#### Wed 16

- Offer day for EYFS places in Sept 2025

#### Tues 22

- Children return to school

#### Wed 23

- 9:15 Whole school Easter service at St Nicholas Church
- Y5 Water sports starts group 1

#### Wed 30

- Confirmation of Sept 2025 offer to be in.
- Year 5 Watersports group 2
- Sports Crew training at Marsh Academy
- KS2 x-country events info to follow

### May

#### Thurs 1

- Year 5/6 Pop Lacross

#### Mon 5

- Bank Holiday – school closed

#### Thurs 8

- VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations – more info to come

#### Mon 12

- Year 6 SATs week starts this week

#### Tues 13

- Year 4 Beech class at Kench Hill

#### Thurs 15

- Year 4 Birch class Kench Hill

#### Fri 16

- 6 Ways to Wellbeing Day – whole school



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



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

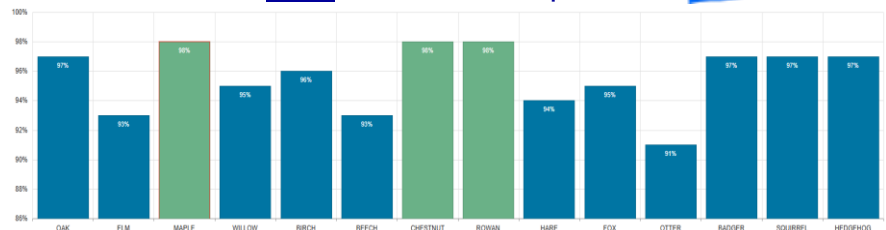


## Attendance every day counts.

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	%
5	Maple	98
3	Chestnut	98
3	Rowan	98



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

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

**Congratulations to the children who received their 100% attendance badges today and a super well done to the children who received their second badge of the year!**

## Star Award



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

**Squirrel:** Ava R **Badgers:** The whole class!

**Hare:** Charlie W **Rowan:** Albie G **Birch:** Beau W

**Maple:** Olivia E **Oak:** Logan P



## This week's Birthdays:

Sophia S, Betsy P, Summer V, Jessa B, Amelia P, Ronnie S and Joshua E – many happy returns to you all!



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.

## Whole School Photos



Have you ordered your school photos yet? A polite reminder that the closing date for **free delivery** back to school is **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025**. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit [www.tempest-orders.co.uk](http://www.tempest-orders.co.uk)  
If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3).

## Online safety

### WhatsApp – IMPORTANT FOR PARENTS TO READ

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with over 2 billion active users. It uses end-to-end encryption which only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and recipient – not even WhatsApp itself can read them.

Whilst end-to-end encryption protects information people send on the platform, it also allows cyber-bullying, blackmail and extortion to go unchecked. Apple were recently in the news when they dropped end-to-end encryption for UK users of their cloud services after a row with the UK Government.

The UK's Online Safety Bill will seek to end such encryption on private messages, but currently this controversial feature remains in place.



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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
**13+**

### EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

### CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

### VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

### FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

### VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's Live Location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution; get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

### ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except... Additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

### DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

### THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025>

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Check out this information poster for the latest information about the risks when using the platform along with advice for parents and educators >>> [2025-04-02 What parents and educators need to know about WhatsApp \(2025\).pdf](#)

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

<https://www.st-nicholas-newromney.kent.sch.uk/online-safety/>



Pick a better side by William Year 4

Hate has four letters but so does love

Enemies has seven letters but so does friends

Lying has five letters but so does trust

Failure has seven letters so does success

Cry has three letters so does joy

Negativity has ten letters so does positivity

You always have a choice, so pick the better side of it.



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