



Friday 22nd May 2025

St Nicholas CE Primary Academy

Weekly Newsletter

Headteacher: Christopher Dale

Email: headteacher@st-nicholas-newromney.kent.sch.uk

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of Term 5, I find myself marvelling at how swiftly this academic year has flown by. It's hard to believe that we're already on the cusp of Term 6, which is traditionally our busiest and most exciting time of the school year.

Looking ahead, we have a plethora of events and activities to anticipate. Our calendar is brimming with school trips, sports days, and the ever-popular summer fayre. We're also eagerly awaiting the 'Party in the Park' event, which promises to be a highlight of the term. Amidst these festivities, we'll be maintaining our focus on academic pursuits, with the Year 1 Phonics Screen check and the Year 4 Multiplication Check taking place. Our teachers will also be diligently preparing end-of-year reports to provide you with a comprehensive overview of your child's progress.

I'm also delighted to share some wonderful news from this week. Our Year 3/4 footballers participated in the district football tournament, and I'm proud to report that they put in a stellar performance, emerging victorious in one of their group stages. Their achievement is commendable, but what truly warms my heart is the feedback we received from another school. They noted that our pupils were *"a real credit, kind and courteous"* to their players, even as the opposing team struggled. The other school specifically asked me to convey to our children that their kindness was noticed and appreciated.

This feedback exemplifies the values we strive to instil in our pupils at St Nicholas CE Primary Academy. It's one thing for me to report on our children's exemplary behaviour at tournaments, but it's particularly gratifying to share direct quotes from other schools that highlight our pupils' character and sportsmanship.

As we look towards the upcoming half-term break, I'd like to remind you of a few important points. Pupils return to school on Monday, 2nd June. For our Year 4 pupils, please remember that swimming lessons will resume on this date. I'd also like to draw the attention of Year 5 parents to the fact that registration for the 11+ process opens on the same day.

I hope you all have a wonderful and restful half-term break. It's a perfect opportunity for our pupils to recharge their batteries before we embark on the exciting journey that is Term 6. We look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for the final push of the academic year. Best wishes.

Christopher Dale

Headteacher

Dates for your diary

MAY

Fri 23rd

- End of term

JUNE

Mon 2nd

- Return to school
- **Y5** Registration for 11+ test opens
- **Y4** Swimming - Beech Class
- **Y1 & 2** Tennis at Hythe
- **Y4** Multiplication screen check starts for next 2 weeks - ends 13th June

Tues 3rd

- **Y3 & 4** Girls Football at Three Hills
- New intake - Stay & Play (week 1)

Wed 4th

- **Y6** group 1 water sports – sailing

Thurs 5th

- New intake Stay & Play (week 1)
- **Y5** Secondary school & 11+ information evening at 5:30pm

Mon 9th

- **Y4** Swimming
- Pentecost service at school
- **Y5/6** Girls football @Marsh Academy 12:30pm to 2:30pm

Tues 10th

- **Y4** Ancient Egyptian Day
- New intake Stay & Play (week 2)

Wed 11th

- St Barnabas Day
- **Y6** Watersports



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a place where pupils always come first."* - **OFSTED**

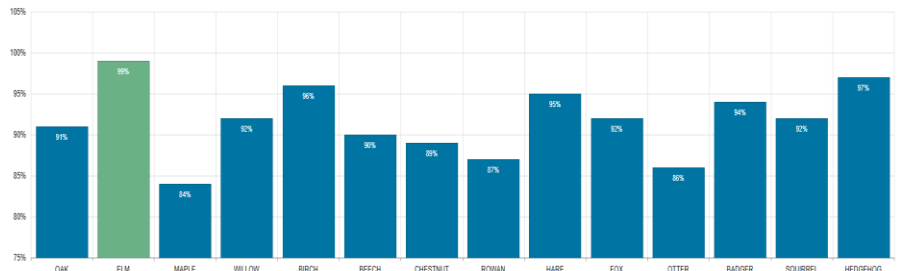


Attendance every day counts.

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	Elm	99%
R	Hedgehog	97%
4	Birch	96%
2	Hare	95%



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:

Hedgehog: Darcie-May G **Otter:** Ralph R
Fox: Matilda K **Chestnut:** Sophia G **Birch:** Albie D
Willow: Olivia-Jay D **Elm:** Evie H



This week's Birthdays:

Brihanna B, Holly H, Teddy S, Jack O'C, Lola S, Darcey B and Rosie L – many happy returns to you all!



This term's worship focus is on our value:

PERSEVERANCE

1 Chronicles 16:11

"Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!"

Nicholas Bear was awarded to: Year 4!

Advanced Notice - reminder



Please be advised that on **Wednesday 11th June 2025** only before school care (ie breakfast club) will be provided. There will be no after school care on this date, however, after school clubs, run by the school will take place as normal.

Parents are asked to make their own arrangements if their children attend after school care on this date. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

STAYING SAFE ONLINE - Minecraft

Following on from our #WakeUpWednesday post on ClassDojo earlier this week about Minecraft, this week's update looks at other guides to help you keep your child safe on when using this popular and highly creative game.



Internet Matters have a whole page dedicated to Minecraft which can be found here >>> [What is Minecraft? Parent guide | Internet Matters](#)

The guide explains...

- What is Minecraft?
- How it works
- Educational version
- Minecraft parental controls
- Benefits of Minecraft
- What to watch out for



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In addition, Internet Matters provide detailed information on the parental controls available in the game to help you keep your child safe. Further information can be found here >>> [Minecraft parental controls guide | Internet Matters](#) or download a PDF copy of their guide here >>> [Minecraft parental controls guide \(Internet Matters\).pdf](#)

For further information and advice on online safety issues, please check the school online safety page >>> [Online Safety – St Nicholas CE Primary Academy](#)

ST NICHOLAS SEND SUPPORT



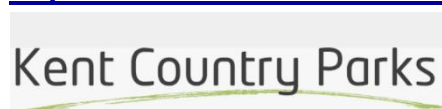
In response to requests from parents for more expert advice in this newsletter, we're pleased to share an article by Chloe Gray, Assistant Psychologist at NELFT NHS Foundation Trust.

Chloe explores why sleep can be especially challenging for autistic children and young people. The article shares real experiences from autistic individuals and their families, showing how things like anxiety, sensory issues, and changes in routine can make sleep harder. It also offers simple, helpful tips - like keeping a regular bedtime and creating a calm environment - to support better sleep.

Read the full article:

[**Sleep and Autism: Challenges, Strategies and Insights from Those Who Matter**](#)

Explore the outdoors at Kent Country Parks



This May half-term, Kent Country Parks are hosting a variety of fun, family-friendly events. Set sail with a pirate-themed fun at Brockhill Country Park, get up close with birds of prey or try pond dipping at Shorne Woods, and explore Trosley's goat trail.

As always, they aim to be as inclusive as possible and welcome people to get in touch with accessibility requirements. Take a look at the [**Country Parks event calendar**](#).

Accessibility guides

There are detailed accessibility guides for these parks:

- [**Brockhill**](#)
- [**Lullingstone**](#)
- [**Shorne Woods**](#)
- [**Trosley**](#).



If you need more information you can email:

[**kentcountryparks@kent.gov.uk**](mailto:kentcountryparks@kent.gov.uk) or call **03000 413500**.

Family Fund - Helping Disabled Children



Family Fund deliver grants for families raising a disabled or seriously ill child or young people on a low income across the UK. To see if your family is eligible for a grant, they will need to assess your income and the impact of disability on your child. Grants are also dependent on available funding. For more information, [**Visit Family Fund website**](#)



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