



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025

St Nicholas CE Primary Academy

# Weekly Newsletter

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*From the Headteachers desk...*

## Welcome Back!

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to the start of a new school year. The children look so smart in their uniforms and shiny shoes, and it has been lovely to see them settling back into school life. We kindly ask parents to make sure all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name and class. As things do occasionally go missing, having everything labelled makes it much easier for us to return items quickly.

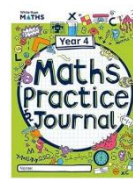
A very warm welcome also goes to the children and families who are joining St Nicholas for the first time this term. We look forward to working closely with you and building a strong and positive partnership throughout your child's time with us.

Our first school *Value* of the year is **Community**. At St Nicholas, we believe our school should be at the heart of the community: a place where diversity is celebrated, respect is shown, and every child feels safe, valued, and able to thrive. We want our pupils to take risks in their learning, to challenge themselves, and to support one another as they grow—not just academically, but personally too. Together, we will create a school we can all be proud of: one that provides children with the skills, confidence, and attitudes they need to lead happy and fulfilling lives.

Over the year ahead, we will continue to provide opportunities for parents to be actively involved in their children's learning. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries, concerns, or suggestions, or if there is any way we can support you in your child's education.

This first week back has been a busy one. Children have been reminded of our whole-school expectations and have worked together to create their own class charters and rules. Curriculum overviews and Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs) for maths are now available on *Class Dojo*, so you can see what your child will be learning this term and support them at home.

We are also excited to launch our new **KS2 Maths Homework Booklets** this term. These booklets are designed to help children practise and consolidate their learning at home. Inside the booklet, you will find a letter explaining how you can best support your child with their maths homework. We hope this will be a valuable resource for families to use together.



## Important update on attendance

From this term, all absences must now be reported using the **MCAS (My Child At School)** system. This will allow us to keep accurate and up-to-date attendance records and ensure that communication between school and home remains clear and efficient. Please make sure you are familiar with the system and use it whenever your child is unable to attend school. **Good attendance is vital for children's learning**, and we greatly appreciate your support in this.

*Have a lovely weekend*

Christopher Dale

Headteacher

## Dates for your diary

### SEPTEMBER

Sat 13<sup>th</sup>

Y6 Shepway test

Mon 15<sup>th</sup>

KIC Theatre in

Y6 Elm Swimming

Y6 Residential meeting  
via TEAMS at 6pm

Wed 17<sup>th</sup>

Y4 Grp 2

Paddleboarding

Sun 21<sup>st</sup>

Education Sunday @ St  
Nicholas Church

10:30am – **all welcome**

Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> – Wed 24<sup>th</sup>

Y6 to Kingswood  
residential

Wed 24<sup>th</sup>

Y4 Grp 3

Paddleboarding

Fri 26<sup>th</sup>

European Day of  
Languages

6 Ways to Wellbeing  
Day

Mon 29<sup>th</sup>

Y6 Elm Swimming

Tues 30<sup>th</sup>

PTA Meeting at 1:30pm  
– all welcome to attend

### OCTOBER

Wed 1<sup>st</sup>

Y4 Grp 4

Paddleboarding

Mon 6<sup>th</sup>

Y6 Elm swimming

Open classes for parents  
3:15 to 3:45pm



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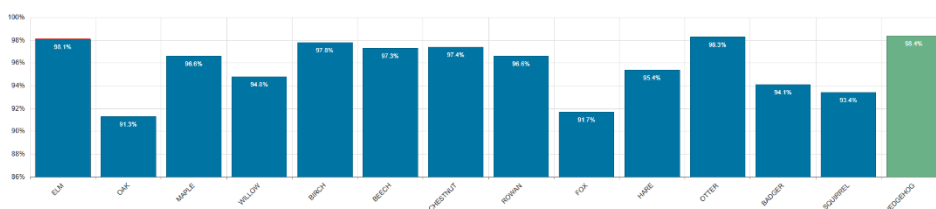


## Attendance every day counts.

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 - **this WILL include your child** at some point!

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

Top attenders are:		
Year	Class	%
R	Hedgehog	98.4
1	Otter	98.3
6	Elm	98.1
4	Birch	97.8
3	Chestnut	97.4



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

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

**Reporting your Child's Absence on MCAS - The information below shows parent how to report an absence via the MCAS app**

Go to - MyChildAtSchool > Dashboard > Attendance. Then Click on the Report an Absence button.

This button is also visible in the MCAS > Attendance screen.

After clicking on the Report an Absence button – you can enter details of the absence (for whole days only) and then press send to notify the school.

- ❖ Student: Parents can select one or more students.
- ❖ Date From: Parents will be able to select today's date or a date in the future.
- ❖ Date To: Defaults to the Date From. Parents will be able to select today's date or a date in the future.
- ❖ Time: Parents can tick this box if the Absence spans only part of a day to enter the start and end times for the absence.
- ❖ Time From: Enter the Start Time of the absence.
- ❖ Time To: Enter the End Time of the absence.
- ❖ Message: You will need to provide details of the absence. Please enter as to how your child is sick if you are reporting illness e.g. sickness/diarrhoea/high temperature.
- ❖ Attachments: You can attach multiple files up to 20MB each (PDF, JPG, Word, Excel, and XML) For example: include evidence of a medical appointment.
- ❖ Close: No action will be carried out and you will return to the previous page.
- ❖ Send: Will send the Absence Notification to the school.

After selecting Send, a Confirmation popup will appear. Click Proceed. A success message will appear. You will receive a confirmation email when the Absence Notification has been sent successfully.

We hope parents find this useful.

**Education Sunday - Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 10:30am**

We will be holding our annual Education Sunday service at St Nicholas Church.

We will be joined by families and members of the congregation from all over the Romney Marsh Benefice **and we hope that ALL our families will be able to join us for this special start of school year community service.**

The service will be led by Rev Chris Hodgkins, along with staff and pupils from St Nicholas School. It promises to be a special service and there will be refreshments after the service. We hope to see you there. Thank you.



This term's worship focus is on our value:

**COMMUNITY**



*"Where two or three gather in my name, there am I among them."*

**Matthew 8: 20**



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## Star Award –



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

**Badger:** Oliver J **Fox:** Sonny S **Chestnut:** Gracie R **Birch:** Samuel E  
**Willow:** Jayden M **Oak:** Charlie C



**This week's Birthdays:**

Blade E, Oakley H, Eloise B, Aser R, Bonnie C, Seb D, Oscar J, Jasper B, Eli Bostock and Storm C – many happy returns to you all!

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## New Romney Youth Club is Back!



The Youth Club – **aimed at Year 5 and 6 pupils**, was a huge success last year, and we're delighted to announce that it will be starting up again after the summer break. Sessions will run every **Thursday from 3:30–5:30pm** at the **Community Church**.

There's something for everyone to enjoy, with games including air hockey, pool, table tennis, table football — plus plenty of snacks and space to relax and chat with friends.

If you're attending for the first time, please note that parents will need to come along to complete an emergency contact form before children can join.

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## Policy reminders. Polite Reminder: Drinks in School



We would like to remind all parents and carers that **only plain water** is permitted for pupils to drink during the school day. Flavoured water, sparkling water, juice, and other drinks are not allowed, **as they may pose allergy risks** and do not align with our healthy eating and hydration guidelines.

We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe, healthy environment for every child. Thank you for ensuring your child comes to school with plain water only.



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## PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS -

We have two meetings for parent this week.

### RWI Meeting for EYFS Parents

### Year 6 PGL Online Information Meeting

Our first **Read Write Inc. (RWI) meeting** for EYFS parents will take place on **Monday 15th September in the KS1 Hall**, as advertised on Class Dojo.

We are running two sessions to make it easier for families to attend:

- **9:00am**
- **5:00pm**

This is a great opportunity to learn more about our exciting phonics scheme and how it supports children as they begin their reading journey.

Every attending family will also receive a **free RWI home pack**, full of useful resources to support reading at home.

We will be holding an **online TEAMS** meeting for Year 6 parents on **Monday 15th September at 6:00pm** regarding the upcoming Outdoor Adventurous Activity Residential.

This meeting will provide you with all the final details, including drop-off times, kit lists, and other important information to help you and your child prepare.

The meeting will take place via TEAMS — please check Class Dojo, Y6 class pages for the link to join.

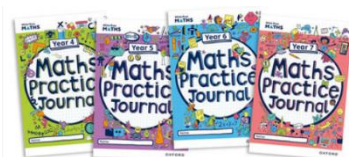


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## **HOME LEARNING - New Maths Homework Approach: White Rose Maths Practice Journals**



We are excited to let you know that we have introduced White Rose Maths Practice Journals as part of our weekly homework routine for **KS2 children**.

A letter has been sent home with the booklets for parent.

***These journals are designed to help children reinforce the maths they've learned in class.*** They are produced by White Rose Maths and Oxford University Press, and are carefully aligned with the national curriculum and the teaching sequence we follow in school. **We hope you like them.**

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## **INTERNET SAFETY – IT'S THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERYONE!**

### **Online Safety Training videos**

Over the next few weeks, we will be sending you Online Safety updates via 7 short videos (approx 6-15 mins each). These videos will cover topics such as online life, risk and harm, online influence, exploitation and artificial intelligence (AI). Here are our first two videos - an introductory video and information about online life.

#### **Introduction (Video length: 6 minutes)**

Whatever the age of your child they will receive good online safety education in school, from early years through to college. But as parents and carers we need to know about and keep up with the risks and issues our children may face online. Importantly, we also need to know where to go for extra support.

The video is hosted by Alan Mackenzie, a specialist in the ever-changing and evolving area of online safety, mainly working in schools all over England. In this first video, he will introduce himself and define what online safety means. Many people think that online safety means keeping children safe online, but it's more than that.

One of the most important messages we would like to get across is that you can't know everything, neither can you watch your child 24/7. But as parents and carers we should have natural curiosity; we know when something doesn't feel right or something has changed and that's when we investigate, mainly by talking to the child.

Although much of the information is okay for children, there is some information within the videos that may not be appropriate, so please take precautions when watching any of the videos (e.g. wear headphones or watch them when your children are at school or asleep in bed).

Over a period of time, you will receive another 6 emails from school, all with a link to a new video and some accompanying text. In most of the emails I will also include useful links, all of which will take you to free information and resources.

Please click here for the introductory video: <https://vimeo.com/1113522935/ac0e918b28>



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#### **Online Life (Video length: 10 minutes)**

In this video, we'll take a brief look at what children and young people are doing online and why.

Please click here for the video: <https://vimeo.com/1113523704/1f98207560>

#### **Useful Links**

-  Internet Matters family agreement  
<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/digital-family-agreement-template/>
-  YouTube Supervised Experience  
<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10314940?hl=en-GB>



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- ✚ A guide to the YouTube Kids app  
<https://www.youtube.com/kids/>
  - ✚ YouTube Kids - how to approve content  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NtrlvqztMcQ>



### **Safeguarding – Looking after ALL pupils**

We would like to share with you the academy's policy in ensuring that all our children are taught and encouraged to live healthy lifestyles and adopt safe practices. Policies are in place to ensure that there is a consistent approach to practices throughout the academy and that they are understood and adhered to by staff, governors and volunteers.

**Adults have a tremendous impact on young children and with this in mind, it is an expectation that all adults and visitors at St Nicholas:**

- Are good role models for students
- Enjoy their work and working with students
- Are conscientious and hardworking
- Welcome and support visitors to school
- Recognise and value strengths in each other and use these to support everyone.
- Work with the agreed policies of the school
- Promote a happy, caring and safe school
- Encourage students to think for themselves, ask questions and find answers
- Create an environment of trust whereby students are trusted to work seriously
- Challenge and support students in their learning.

There are numerous policies in place at St Nicholas to safeguard our children and they include:

### **Safeguarding Children and adults at St Nicholas Academy.**

All visitors to school are expected to pre-arrange their visit with the required member of staff at least 24 hours in advance of the visit.

**Unannounced visitors** - In the event of you or others attending a meeting in school, all visitors where they are unknown to the school are required to show proof of identity to our reception staff before the meeting takes place.

### **Child protection**

This is a sensitive area in which all staff receive regular training. Here, school and other services for children and families all work together to support the needs of students. At St Nicholas, **we have a Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mrs Turner, Deputy Headteacher**. We also have a named governor responsible for safeguarding & child protection – **Mrs L Edwards. (Chair of Governors)**. The child protection policy can be viewed on the school website.

### **Operation Encompass**



Our school is part of Operation Encompass which is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and Kent County Police forces. Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when where a police officer has visited the home of a child or young person where domestic violence has been recorded in



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the family home. As a school we have ensured that a member of our staff, (The Headteacher) known as the Key Adult, has been trained in the Operation Encompass procedures, allowing us to then use the information which has been shared, in confidence, to support the child/ren in our care.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identifies children who experience domestic abuse as victims of domestic abuse in their own right. We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

***Parents will be contacted by the school where the police have informed the school of such a visit.***

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