



Friday 10th October 2025

St Nicholas CE Primary Academy

Weekly Newsletter

Headteacher: Christopher Dale

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

From the Headteachers desk...

Another Busy Week at St Nicholas!

It's been another lively and productive week here at St Nicholas, with lots happening behind the scenes to strengthen the support we offer our pupils. We've been busy interviewing for several key staff roles, all aimed at enhancing the learning experience and wellbeing of our children.

We're delighted to announce the appointment of a new Speech and Language Teaching Assistant, who will be working closely with pupils to support their communication development. In addition, we're welcoming apprentice Teaching Assistants to our KS1 phase, helping to ensure that our youngest learners receive the guidance and encouragement they need to thrive. We've also added two new lunchtime assistants to our team, helping to make lunchtimes safe, happy, and well-supervised for all.

A heartfelt **thank you to everyone who attended our Harvest service this week**. It was a wonderful celebration of community and gratitude, and we truly appreciate your support in making it such a special occasion for the children.

Looking ahead to next week, we're preparing for our Parent-Teacher Consultations. These meetings are a vital part of our partnership with families, offering a chance to discuss your child's progress, celebrate achievements, and identify areas where further support may be needed. We encourage all parents and carers to attend—your involvement makes a real difference in your child's education.

This week's newsletter also includes important information on **online safety and safeguarding**. We urge all parents to take a moment to read through these updates carefully. With children increasingly using phones and digital devices, it's essential to stay informed and vigilant. Please don't assume you know what your child is doing online—check in regularly, ask questions, and explore the apps and platforms they're using. Open conversations and active supervision are key to keeping children safe in the digital world.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and engagement with school life. Together, we can ensure that St Nicholas remains a nurturing, inspiring, and safe environment for every child. Wishing all our families a restful and enjoyable weekend!

Christopher Dale

Headteacher

Dates for your diary

OCTOBER

Mon 13th

KS2 Parent Teacher Consultations – 3:30pm

Tues 14th

9:30am - Y5 sports crew training at The Marsh Academy
2pm – Attendance tea party

Wed 15th

Flu vaccinations for **Years R to 6**. All day

Thurs 16th

PESE assessment letter to Y6 parents
9:45am New Intake meeting
3:30pm – **KS1** Parent Teacher consultation meeting
6:00pm – New Intake meeting

Fri 17th

End of term

Mon 27th

Children return to school

Y6 Swimming Elm class
3:30pm - **KS1** Parent teacher consultations

Wed 29th

Attendance officer in school

Thurs 30th

NELFT workshop – 9am
Anxiety in your child
3:30pm - **KS2** Parent/Teacher consultations

Fri 31st

AM & PM - Sponsored active wall in school



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

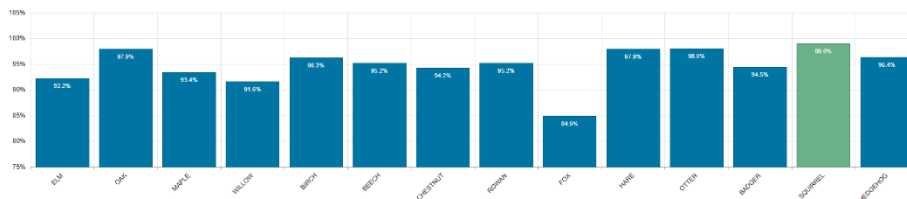


Attendance every day counts.

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

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Top attenders are:		
Year	Class	%
R	Squirrel	99
1	Otter	98
2	Hare	97.9
6	Oak	97.9
R	Hedgehog	96.4



Congratulations to all the classes above with their super attendance

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

Apply for free school meals

In Kent, 21% of children receive free school meals. **If you are eligible & your school will get £1550 per child & your child will get:**

- a choice of delicious, healthy hot meals every school day at no cost - this is worth £470 a year per child and recognised to improve behaviour and learning
- meals to cater for cultural, dietary, and religious requirements
- the chance to develop social skills by sitting with friends for a school meal.

Follow this link to see if you are eligible - [Free school meals - Kent County Council](#)

Star Award –



Star of the week awards went to:

Hedgehog: Max S **Badger:** Guy D **Fox:** Stefan T **Chestnut:** Gaia C
Birch: Esme D **Willow:** Pixie G **Oak:** Maia J



This week's Birthdays:

Shelby F, Maisie E, Mia H, Luke L, Sarah A, Bruno S, Billy B and Isabella O – many happy returns to you all!

Policy reminders. Parking and Drop off

Please Park considerately near the school and avoid blocking driveways or using the staff car park. Safety is our priority—use designated drop-off zones where available and **do not park on our ZIG ZAGS outside the school – The message is clear.**



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



Online Safety Update: Online Safety Training Video – Artificial Intelligence - AI (Video Length: 12 Minutes)



Artificial intelligence isn't new, but what is new is Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) and, whilst this can be used for enormous possibilities, there are many negatives too. In this week's video, we will take a brief look at artificial intelligence along with a few risk examples.

Video link: <https://vimeo.com/1113539948/b84ca842f4>

Useful Links:

A parents guide to AI

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

Me, myself and AI - chatbot research

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/research/me-myself-and-ai-chatbot-research/>

AI companion bots - understanding the risks posed to young users

<https://voicebox.site/article/ai-companion-bots-and-explicit-images-understanding-risks-posed-young-users>

● IMPORTANT COMMUNITY WARNING FOR PARENTS ●

Dear Parents, we are becoming increasingly aware of issues arising from the WhatsApp group **"Every Kid U Know"** and others like it. Many children under the age of 13 are active in these chats, despite WhatsApp's age restriction. This is a **growing concern in our community**. These groups can expose children to:

- Inappropriate content
- Bullying or peer pressure
- Unsafe or unknown contacts
- Conversations that parents are unaware of

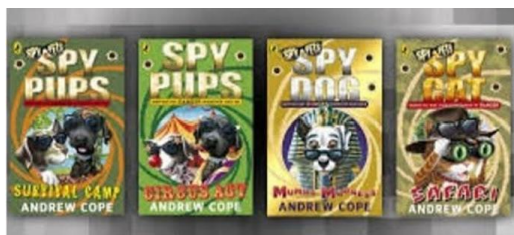
What you can do:

- **Check** which WhatsApp groups your child is part of
- **Know** who they are messaging and what's being shared
- **Talk** to them about respectful and safe online behaviour
- **Monitor** their usage regularly — WhatsApp is **not suitable for under-13s**
- **Report** any harmful or concerning activity to the appropriate adults or authorities

This is not just about screen time — it's about **safeguarding our children**. Let's work together to ensure they are protected, supported, and guided in their digital lives.

Thank you for your attention and action

Safeguarding Information: Children's "Spy" Books



We want to make you aware of a report of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the Spy Dogs, Spy Cats, and Spy Pups series. Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been

taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books.

They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

What this means for you as a parent:

- If your child has any Spy Dog, Spy Cat or Spy Pups books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the sites.
- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.
- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

🏠 Open Sessions for Prospective Parents

We warmly invite prospective parents to visit our school and experience the welcoming, nurturing environment we offer. Our **Open Sessions** are a great opportunity to meet staff, explore our facilities, and learn more about our curriculum and values. *If you know someone looking for a place for their child in September 2026 pass on these details.*

📅 Upcoming Open Event Dates – 2025

- **Thursday 16th October** | 9:45am and again at 6:00pm
- **Monday 10th November** | 9:45am and again at 1:30pm
- **Wednesday 12th November** | 9:45am

If you would like to attend one of these events, please contact the school office to book your place.

📞 T: 01797 361906

✉ E: office@st-nicholas-newromney.kent.sch.uk



ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY ACADEMY
"A place where children come first." - OFSTED

"Learning, loving and encouraging through Christ."

Is your child starting school in September 2026?
Parents and families are welcome to visit our wonderful school and grounds. Join us for an open session - Contact us on: 01797 361906 to book a place.
Thursday 16th October 2025 - 9:45am & 6:00pm
Monday 10th November 2025 - 9:45am & 1:30pm
Wednesday 12th November 2025 - 9:45am

"The schools work to promote personal development, welfare and behaviour is Outstanding." - OFSTED

We look forward to welcoming you & sharing what makes our school a wonderful place

🎵 Bringing Music to Life on the Marsh – A Local Success Story

Eleven years ago, a passionate group of parents and musicians from Folkestone, Hythe, and the Romney Marsh came together to address the lack of music education in local schools. Their solution? The creation of a **charity-run music academy** offering free brass instrument tuition to children aged 8–18. Starting with just a few students, the academy has grown to over **50 young musicians**, divided into three bands: beginners, training, and senior concert band. As students improve, they progress through the levels—giving them clear goals and a sense of achievement. Thanks to generous support from local Rotary Clubs and fundraising efforts, instruments and music are provided, and children pay just **£3 per week** to participate. The academy welcomes children from all backgrounds and is currently seeking new members from the Romney Marsh area.

🎵 Upcoming Concert

Join us for a special afternoon of music at **St Nicholas Church, New Romney**, on **Saturday, October 11th at 3:00pm**, led by new Director of Music **Steffan Hughes**.

- **Tickets:** £5 (Under-18s go free!)
- **Proceeds:** Split between the Band and the Church's youth outreach work

Last year's concert raised over £1,000—let's beat that this year! Come and enjoy a wonderful celebration of local talent and community spirit. **Thank you - Peter Woodward-Bailey** children to learn and grow.



SHEPWAY BRASS ACADEMY
SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2025 @ 3:00 pm

We welcome you to join us in a concert of ten brass instruments played by our training band and senior concert band consisting of young people ages from 8 years to 18 years.

During the interval there will be tea, coffee, juice, cake and chocolate available.

There will be a raffle with great prizes.

The ticket price is £5.00 for adults and children will be admitted free and the money raised will be shared equally between the band and the church.

This is a concert not to be missed - we look forward to seeing you there.

SBA
Shepway Brass Academy

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH
Church Lane
New Romney
TN28 8AS



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

