



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025

St Nicholas CE Primary Academy

# Weekly Newsletter

Headteacher: Christopher Dale

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*From the Headteachers desk..*

## Celebrating Black History at St Nicholas

This week, our school community has been focusing on Black History as part of our learning and worship reflections. Across the school, pupils have explored the lives and legacies of inspirational figures such as **Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and Nelson Mandela** — learning about their courage, leadership, and determination to create a fairer and more just world. Through stories, discussions, and creative activities, children have been encouraged to think deeply about equality, respect, and the importance of standing up for what is right.

Incorporating Black History Month into our curriculum is an important part of our ongoing commitment to promoting diversity, inclusion, and understanding. By learning about individuals who have challenged injustice and inspired change, our pupils gain a greater appreciation for the contributions that people of African and Caribbean heritage have made to society — not only in history but also in science, art, politics, and everyday life. These lessons encourage our children to reflect on the values of fairness, resilience, and compassion, helping them grow into thoughtful and empathetic members of society. You can explore more through the [Black History Month resources - BBC Teach](#), which provide excellent opportunities for family discussion and learning at home.

## National Award Success

We are also thrilled to announce that **St Nicholas** has been awarded the **Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM)** — a national accolade recognising excellence in science leadership, teaching, and learning. Only **310 schools across the country** have achieved this distinction, and we are immensely proud to be among them. This award highlights the hard work and dedication of our staff in creating a science curriculum that inspires curiosity, creativity, and a lifelong love of discovery. It reflects our school's commitment to giving pupils a strong foundation in scientific thinking and problem-solving, nurturing the next generation of innovators and critical thinkers. Please take a moment to read the full press release on this exciting achievement in this week's newsletter.



## EYFS Survey

Finally, I would like to thank all the parents and carers who completed our recent **Early Years survey**. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and reflects the strong partnership we share with families. It is wonderful to know that so many of our youngest pupils are **happy, confident, and excited** to come to school each day. Your comments and suggestions are invaluable as we continue to refine and enhance our Early Years provision, ensuring every child gets the very best possible start to their learning journey.

Have a great half term all – Best wishes

Christopher Dale

Headteacher

## Dates for your diary

### OCTOBER

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup>**  
End of term

**Mon 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Children return to school  
Y6 Swimming Elm class  
KS1 Parent teacher consultations

**Wed 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Attendance officer in school  
Y6 parents - Secondary school selection meeting with Mr Dale online at 6pm

**Thurs 30<sup>th</sup>**  
NELFT workshop – 9am  
Anxiety in your child  
Y3 to F51 – grp 1  
KS2 Parent/Teacher consultations

**Fri 31<sup>st</sup>**  
AM & PM - Sponsored active wall in school

Y6 Parents Secondary school choices close at midnight

### November

**Mon 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Y6 Oak Swimming 1/6  
Y2 with NRAS – arts group

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup>**  
School Bonfire dinner

**Thurs 6<sup>th</sup>**  
NELFT – Understanding Autism 9am – 11am

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Shepway sports in for Cheerleading



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

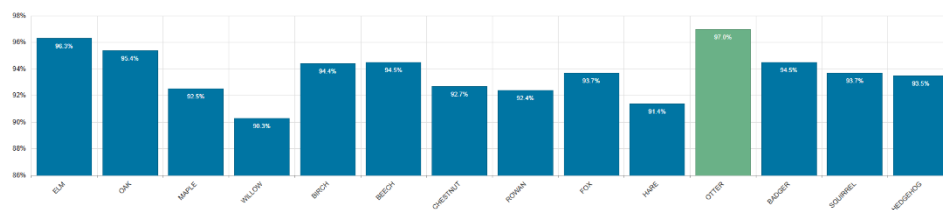


## Attendance every day counts.

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

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

| Top attenders are: |       |      |
|--------------------|-------|------|
| Year               | Class | %    |
| 1                  | Otter | 97   |
| 6                  | Elm   | 96.3 |



*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:** Finley B **Otter:** Peyton C **Hare:** Eli T **Rowan:** Aurora D  
**Beech:** Elouise B **Maple:** Sophie H **Elm:** Vinnie T

## This week's Birthdays:



Ollie E, Wolf F, Taylor E, Archie H, Rosie J, Albie M, Archie W, Nellie W, Sophie H and Brooke R – many happy returns to you all!

## Policy reminders. Mobile Phones

Please be reminded that **only Year 6 pupils** are permitted to bring mobile phones to school. These must be handed directly to the class teacher at the start of the school day and will be stored securely until home time.

This policy is in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils. We appreciate your support in reinforcing this with your child



## Half term holiday reminders



As we approach the half-term break, we encourage all pupils to continue engaging in a little learning each day by reading regularly and completing their maths, spelling, and handwriting activities. Continuing these routines over the holiday helps to **reinforce key skills** and prevent the “learning dip” that can sometimes occur after a break. Reading together or independently not only strengthens comprehension and vocabulary but also nurtures imagination and a lifelong love of stories. Regular maths practice helps

children keep essential number facts and strategies fresh in their minds, supporting confidence and fluency when they return to class. Likewise, practising spellings and handwriting ensures that children maintain accuracy, presentation, and pride in their written work.

These short, focused tasks don't need to take long — just a few minutes each day can make a real difference. Whether it's sharing a bedtime story, solving a few number problems, or writing a postcard to a friend, every little bit of learning helps to keep brains active and skills sharp.

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## **Online Safety Update: Online Safety Training Video – Final Notes (Video Length: 5 Minutes)**



We're onto the final online safety video of the term and this is just a bit of a wrap-up with some advice. Throughout the previous videos, there have been tips and links to other useful information and below the video link you will find a few more.

**Video Link:** <https://vimeo.com/1113541168/00f721db20>

### **Useful Links:**

Internet Matters is a fantastic resource built for parents and carers, there is a tremendous amount of online safety information that is useful, such as:

- All the most common risks and issues, along with accompanying advice according to the age of your children.
- Setting up parental controls on all the devices your children use.
- Gaming advice hub.
- Social media advice hub.
- Advice hub for children with special educational needs.
- Screentime.
- And much more.

### **Internet Matters**

<https://www.internetmatters.org>

**Common Sense Media** – this is a one-stop shop to find further, useful information for parents. Whether it's an app, a game or a book there's a good chance it's here. Just use the search bar at the top of the page.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org>

**Are you worried about the way someone has been communicating with your child online?**

You can make a report to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre:

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

**Kids, Puberty and Tech** – conversation starters for 8–12-year-olds.

<https://parents.thorn.org/situation/>

**Guides on a range of topics suitable for 7-17 year olds**, from device access, consent, making friends and more.

<https://parents.thorn.org/discussion-guides/>

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## **St Nicholas CE Primary Academy Awarded Primary Science Quality Mark**

We are proud to announce that we are one of 310 schools that has been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) this month, a nationally recognised accreditation that celebrates a commitment to developing excellence in science leadership, curriculum design, teaching and learning.



Led by the University of Hertfordshire, for over a decade the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) has been setting children on a path to a life filled with exciting possibilities and opportunities, by giving them access to a strong foundation in quality primary science education. Over 5,800 Quality Marks have now been awarded, impacting on the learning of over 1,000,000 children.



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**PSQM is a comprehensive, year-long professional development programme** that equips primary science subject leaders with the knowledge, capability and support needed to raise the quality and profile of science across the whole school. At the heart of the programme is a structured development cycle that embeds critical reflection and promotes a culture of continuous improvement.

**Helen Sizer, PSQM Director said:** *'By achieving The Primary Science Quality Mark, the Academy has shown commitment to raising the profile and quality of science education through the development of effective science leadership, visionary curriculum design and excellent teaching practice which is positively impacting on children's learning across the school. Such success is only possible through the collective effort of the whole school community, and all those involved should be incredibly proud of this achievement and the positive difference this is making to children's learning and understanding of the world around them.'*

### **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**

- **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November** | 9:45am and again at 1:30pm
- **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:office@st-nicholas-newromney.kent.sch.uk)**

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



**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*



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