



Friday 21st November 2025

St Nicholas CE Primary Academy

Weekly Newsletter

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From the Headteachers desk...

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an exceptionally busy week at school, and I would like to thank all families for their continued support. I hope you have now had time to read the SEND letter I sent this week. As outlined, schools are facing unprecedented challenges in securing the funding required to meet the growing needs of pupils. The pressures around staffing and support have never been greater, and we find ourselves at the sharp end of some very difficult decisions. Unfortunately, these challenges are likely to continue for **all schools** across the county in the foreseeable future, and your understanding during this period is greatly appreciated.

Despite these pressures, there have been many uplifting moments that remind us of the strength of our school community. This week, we welcomed three visiting schools to The Hive, our Specialist Resourced Provision for pupils with an EHCP for Autism. The praise for Mrs Butler and her team has been overwhelming and richly deserved. Their dedication to creating a nurturing and inclusive environment is a true credit to the school, and we remain privileged to support the wonderful pupils who attend The Hive.

We are also delighted to share some exceptional news: **St Nicholas has been selected as a White Rose Education Champion School for Primary Science** - a prestigious recognition awarded to schools demonstrating innovation, high-quality practice, and a commitment to shaping the future of science education nationwide.



The White Rose specialists praised the academy for its exemplary practice, noting how teachers promote the confident and accurate use of scientific vocabulary, use adaptive teaching strategies to ensure every child can succeed, and deliver engaging lessons that bring science to life. This new role places our academy within a national network of schools influencing and refining White Rose resources, contributing directly to the development of primary science across the country.

As I shared with White Rose: *"Science is at the heart of our curriculum. We believe that curiosity, problem-solving and hands-on exploration help children develop the skills and confidence they need for the future. These awards celebrate the dedication of our staff and the enthusiasm of our pupils, and we are incredibly proud to see our work recognised nationally."*

Science remains a powerful tool for helping children understand their world, develop critical thinking, and discover their own potential. We look forward to continuing this important work.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support!

Christopher Dale
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

NOVEMBER

Mon 24th

Christmas DISCO
Consent forms close – no consent no attendance.
Y6 Oak class Swimming week 4 of 6

Wed 26th

6 Ways to Wellbeing Day – Whole school

Thurs 27th

Y3 to F51
KS2 Advent Eucharist at 1:30pm

Fri 28th

Christmas Dinner order deadline – no order no dinner

Staff Development Day, School Closed to Children

DECEMBER

Mon 1st

Y4 Advent service at St Nicholas Church 9:15am – Y4 parents welcome
Y6 Oak class Swimming week 5 of 6

Thurs 4th

Year 1, 2 & 3 Disco 5pm-6pm
Year 4, 5 & 6 Disco 6:30pm-7:30pm

Fri 5th

KS2 To Marlowe Theatre Panto
KS1 Panto at 1:30pm

Mon 8th

Whole School St Nicholas Day Service

Y6 Oak Swimming week 6 of 6



*"St Nicholas CE Primary Academy,
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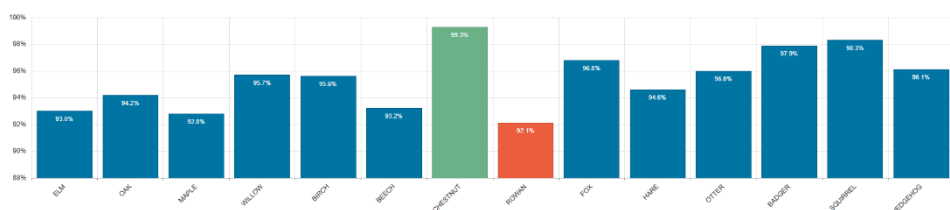


Attendance every day counts.

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	%
3	Chestnut	99.3
R	Squirrel	98.3
1	Badger	97.9
2	Fox	96.8
1	Otter	96.0



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: Arthur J **Otter:** Rosie J **Hare:** Reggie H **Rowan:** Charlie N
Beech: Charlie C **Maple:** Jacob H **Oak:** Charlie C



This week's Birthdays:

Mia H, Kelsey K, Henry P, Archie A, Olivia-May F, Alan S, Harry T, Hugo W, Alby A, Amelia C, Eddie E, Layla H and Katie H – many happy returns to you all!

Policy reminders. Nut allergies - *We would like to remind you we are a nut free school.*

Children who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.

If someone has a nut allergy it is not just eating nuts that can cause a severe reaction, just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts can trigger anaphylactic shock (which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties).

First aid staff in the school are trained to use the Epi-pens (an injection of adrenalin) which is required immediately if this happens. **We cannot have nuts in school in any form. So please can we ask that you have no nut products in lunch boxes or brought into the school as treats.**

We appreciate that this is an additional thing to check and we know that you recognise the importance of it. We do have to insist we are a nut free school. I know if this was your child you would expect that we all help, especially as it is a life-threatening condition.



Xmas for schools online ordering is open

Ordering links have been sent out and the Xmas4Schools online ordering portals are open – simply follow the link you were sent to order your child's Christmas products!



We need to clarify something important regarding the children's artwork and related products.

The school is currently working with an external art company as part of an agreed fundraising initiative. This partnership means that when families purchase items featuring their child's artwork **through the official school process**, a portion of every sale comes back to the school to support resources and opportunities for all pupils.

Any unofficial reproductions or private offers currently being made on FACEBOOK to produce items—however well-intentioned—unfortunately undermine this fundraising effort and breach the agreement we have in place with the company. **If purchases are made elsewhere, the school receives no funding from those sales.**

We kindly ask that all families support the school by using the official ordering channel only, so the children and the school community can benefit as intended. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sugary snacks and drinks



Providing children with sugary snacks and drinks on the way to school is a bad habit - it can lead to a range of health problems in the future, such as, weight gain; type 2 diabetes; heart disease, and poor dental health. **Sugary drinks cause rapid spikes and crashes in blood sugar, which can impact mood, concentration, and lead to a child feeling hungry again quickly.** For a healthier start to the day, opt for water, milk, or a piece of fruit instead.

Why sugary snacks and drinks are harmful

- **Weight gain and long-term diseases:** Excess sugar provides empty calories, which can lead to fat build up. This increases the risk of being overweight or obese later in life and contributes to serious conditions like type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and some cancers.
- **Dental health:** The sugar in these snacks and drinks is a direct cause of tooth decay. Tooth decay was the most common reason for hospital admissions for children aged 5 to 9 in England.
- **Energy and mood swings:** Sugary drinks cause a quick spike and then a crash in blood sugar levels. This can result in a sudden drop in mood and energy, making it harder for children to concentrate and learn at school.
- **Increased hunger:** The rapid rise and fall in blood sugar can actually make children feel hungry again sooner than they would after a more balanced snack, potentially leading to them eating more later on.
- **Caffeine issues:** Some drinks contain caffeine, which can disrupt a child's sleep and lead to headaches or stomach aches.

Healthier alternatives for the school run

- **Water:** The best choice for hydration and energy.
- **Milk:** A good source of calcium and protein.
- **Whole fruit:** Provides natural sugars along with fibre, vitamins, and minerals.
- **No-added-sugar squash:** If your child prefers juice, choose a version that clearly states "no added sugar" on the label and serve it diluted with water.

Tips for making a change

- **Plan ahead:** Pack a healthy snack and drink the night before so you're not tempted to buy something sugary on the go.
- **Establish boundaries:** Be consistent with your rules. Your child may not like it, but it's important to establish clear boundaries for their health.
- **Talk to your child:** Explain in simple terms why you are choosing healthier options. You can say something like, "We are eating this fruit so we can have more energy to play and learn today".
- **Lead by example:** Let your children see you making healthy choices, too. This helps to normalize the behaviour and make it a family effort.

Online Safety Update:



Cyberbullying Advice – This is something which Mr Dale has had to write to parents of older children on more than one occasion this academic year.

Children being bullied online, particularly in games and via messaging apps, remains one of the top concerns of many parents and their children. Internet Matters have a range of guides and articles to support parents and carers which are listed below:

- Talking to children and conversation tips for ages 6-10, 11-13, 14-17 and vulnerable children - [HERE](#)
- What is cyberbullying and what are the signs - [HERE](#)
- Helpful ways to prevent cyberbullying - [HERE](#)
- How to deal with cyberbullying - [HERE](#)
- Parents experiences of cyberbullying - [HERE](#)
- Useful resource - [HERE](#)

Christmas Disco consent forms



Consent forms for the Christmas Disco close on Monday 24th

November. If you have not yet completed the form - please complete the link below so your child can attend.

Year 1, 2 & 3: <https://forms.office.com/e/HpBYEqLup0>

Year 4, 5 & 6: <https://forms.office.com/e/Xid3U6GMuY>

🎄 CHRISTMAS DINNER – WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER 🎄

Our whole-school Christmas Dinner will take place on **Wednesday 17th December**, complete with Christmas crackers and festive music.

Menu:

- Traditional Roast or Vegetarian Roast (Quorn)
- Roast Potatoes, Vegetables, Stuffing & Gravy
- Biscuit & Ice Cream

No other meal options will be available.

Children who do not want the Christmas Dinner will need a packed lunch from home.



Ordering Information

Christmas Dinner **must be ordered in advance** and **cannot** be booked on the day.

Please log in to **My Child at School**, go to the '**Dinner**' tab, and select Christmas Dinner for the week beginning **15/12/2025**.

Order deadline: Friday 28th November 2025. - No orders can be accepted after this date.

Payment (Years 3–6)

If you book a meal, the **£2.25 charge applies** even if your child brings a packed lunch on the day. We look forward to a fun and festive lunchtime for all!

Fundraising efforts - We are delighted to share the fantastic fundraising total our school community has achieved so far this term.

Thanks to your generosity and support, the **PTA Bingo Night** raised an impressive **£1,351**, shared with Abacus Nursery, while our **Macmillan Coffee Morning** brought in **£158.91**. Our **Children in Need efforts last week** raised **£379.40**, and the recent **sponsored event totalled an outstanding £1,609.98**. This brings our family fundraising to a remarkable overall amount, & we are incredibly grateful to every parent, pupil & member of staff who contributed. Your kindness & community spirit continue to make a real difference to our school & the charities we have worked to raise fund for.



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SEND COFFEE MORNING

THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER
8:45AM – 10:30AM



An informal social event for parents and carers
of children with SEND to connect, share
experiences, and learn about support resources.
Held in the Music Room with Mrs Gunn & Mrs
Starmer-Smith.

Program CHRISTMAS EVENTS

FROM 1ST DECEMBER TO 19TH DECEMBER

Event	Date	Hour
Y4 Advent service at St Nicholas Church	1st December	9:15am
Christmas Disco KS1 KS2	4th December	5pm-6pm 6:30pm-7:30pm
KS2 Marlowe Theatre trip / KS1 & The Hive panto at school	5th December	
Whole school St Nicholas Day service at St Nicholas Church	8th December	9:15am
EYFS Christmas Tableau to parents	12th December	9:30am & 2pm
KS1 Nativity to parents	16th December	9:30am & 2pm
Christmas dinner day & Christmas jumper day	17th December	
KS2 Christingle service at St Nicholas Church	19th December	9:30am



Brockhill Young Farmers invite you to

Carols with the Animals

Join the animals around the Christmas Tree,
down on the farm, for a traditional celebration
of Christmas

Monday 8th December
at 7pm

**Brockhill Park Performing Arts
College**

Sandling Road, Saltwood, Hythe, Kent CT21 4HL

*Raffle * Christmas Decorations Stall *



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