



Friday 9th January 2026

St Nicholas CE Primary Academy Weekly Newsletter

Headteacher: Christopher Dale

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

"St Nicholas Academy... a place where pupils always come first." - OFSTED

From the Headteachers desk...

Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

We hope you all had a wonderful festive break and are feeling refreshed as we begin the new school term. It's lovely to see the children back and ready for learning. Thank you for your continued support as we start 2026 together.

It's been a slightly unusual first week with the unexpected breakdown of our boiler. We are still waiting for the necessary parts to arrive, and I appreciate everyone's patience during this time. I will provide an update early next week to keep you informed on progress.

Yesterday, we were delighted to host our SEND coffee morning, which had a fantastic turnout. Thank you to all the parents who joined us—it was great to see so many of you engaging and sharing ideas. Please keep an eye out for details of the next coffee morning, as well as the many NELFT parent support groups scheduled over the coming weeks. These sessions are a wonderful opportunity to connect and learn more about supporting your child's wellbeing.

We also welcomed our RWI (Read Write Inc.) reviewer yesterday, and I'm thrilled to share that he was extremely impressed with the quality of teaching and the outcomes achieved by our pupils. This is a real testament to the dedication and hard work of our RWI team, who consistently set high standards and provide excellent learning opportunities for your children. I am incredibly proud of their achievements and the progress being made across the school.

In staffing news, I'm pleased to announce that we have appointed a new Learning Mentor, Mrs. Kirsty Smith, who will be working alongside Mrs. Gunn as part of our wellbeing team. We are also delighted to welcome Leanne Etherington to our Teaching Assistant team this term. Both bring valuable experience and enthusiasm, and we are excited to have them on board to support our pupils.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. We look forward to a successful and positive term ahead, filled with learning, growth, and community spirit.

Christopher Dale
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

January 2026

Mon 12th
Whole school DT Week

Y4 Beech – Swimming
Week 1
Herald cup trials second session

Wed 14th
Kav to work with
Y6 Handball – am
YR Multiskills – pm

Thurs 15th
KIC Theatre in
Y3 am
YR pm
Y5 & 6 Basketball at The Marsh Academy 9:30am – 2:30pm

Mon 19th
Y4 Beech – Swimming
Week 2
Y3 NRAS Arts workshop

Wed 20th
Kav to work with
Y6 Handball – am
YR Multiskills – pm

8:45 Parent workshop
– NELFT –
Understanding resilience
Y2 resilience workshops

Thurs 22nd
Wonderdome in
Space workshops for **Y1**
– am and **Y5** – pm
Y2 Infant agility at The Marsh Academy 9:20am – 11:30am

Fri 23rd
Whole school – 6 Ways to Wellbeing



2022-2025



Attendance - Every Day Counts!

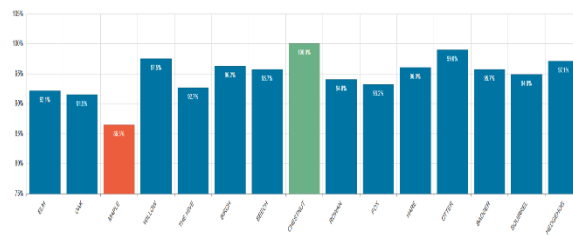


It is essential that your child comes to school on time every day. **Learning starts when the class doors open at 8:30am with SoDA (Start of Day Activities),** some interventions start at this time - **this WILL include your child!**

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Top attenders are:

Year	Class	%
3	Chestnut	100
1	Otter	99
5	Willow	97.5
R	Hedgehog	97.1
4	Birch	96.2



Congratulations to all the classes above with their super attendance

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



HUGE Congratulations to our two-star classes for their super attendance last term – **Hedgehog (EYFS) in KS1** and **Maple (Y5) in KS2** they got to visit the cinema have a drink and popcorn in their visit!! Well done guys.

I wonder what our award will be for the top classes this term?

This week's Birthdays:



Gracie L, Joshua T, Frankie H, Willow U, Zion C, Finley P and Arthur E – many happy returns to you all!

Policy reminders. Yellow Zig-Zags



Parking, stopping, or dropping off on the yellow zig-zag lines outside the school is **strictly prohibited.**

These markings are there to protect children by ensuring clear visibility for pedestrians and drivers. Stopping on these lines creates a serious hazard and significantly increases the risk of an accident. We have already witnessed near misses caused by vehicles ignoring these rules.

If you cannot find a space nearby, you must park elsewhere - even if that means a short walk. **Convenience is never worth a child's life.**



Folkestone Junior Chess Club

Meets at St John's Hall, 2 St Johns Church Rd, Folkestone, CT19 5BQ
 fortnightly – Saturdays 10-12:30
 folkestonejuniorchessclub@gmail.com
<https://folkestonejrchess.wixsite.com/juniors>



January 2026

Dear Head, Secretary, School Administrator

Enclosed is the flyer for **Folkestone Junior Chess Club (FJCC)** – would you promote it to your families, parents and children and file the flyer somewhere for future reference – before discarding this letter.

Chess is called the *incomparable game* and is a perennial favourite with children so I am sure you will have many children at your school who will enjoy or are enjoying the game. I believe the game of chess will be the game of the 21st century as it promotes concentration in the young and preserves mental health in the elderly. Children on the mental health spectrum often thrive in it. For the right child chess can make a huge contribution to their development. Chess is a game of learning, logic, and imagination. Parents appreciate the game for improving thinking and concentration and is one of the few computer games they do approve of! It uniquely allows dad to play son, grandad to play granddaughter and boys to play girls, and, as the first international game, for anyone to play each other from any corner of the globe.

This year an 11 year old girl beat a grandmaster at the British Championships – no other game has that!

The FJCC is the *only dedicated junior chess club* in the area and is for any aspiring chess player, aged 5 upwards. The club supports local secondary schools in their chess tournaments, whilst providing in-house tournaments for its members which are quick and convenient and provide a competitive test of their skill without huge expense or an expedition to the other end of the county. When at the Folkestone Sports Centre the club was famous for its annual water pistol fight! The FJCC is first and foremost a place of fun.

It is also where the innovative Morphy Board was developed – see flyer, reverse side.

I myself, Matthew Cussens, have run the club now for more than 10 years, and also teach chess in a local school, (for which I have a DBS), and I can draw upon huge amounts of experience. I am also a member of Hythe Tennis Club.

Thank you for your assistance in promoting chess to the next generation, please add our details to your clubs and activities page or newsletter, keep the laminate with our details somewhere safe, and look out for the email promoting the club from time to time – by all means send an email to the address below and I will update my records.

Matthew Cussens

Matthew Cussens
 FJCC

EMAIL: folkestonejuniorchessclub@gmail.com
 WEBSITE: <https://folkestonejrchess.wixsite.com/juniors>



2022-2025