



Friday 16th January 2026

St Nicholas CE Primary Academy Weekly Newsletter

Headteacher: Christopher Dale

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

From the Headteachers desk...

It's been a lively and exciting week here at St Nicholas, with every class fully involved in their Design and Technology projects. The school has been buzzing with creativity, problem-solving, and plenty of proud smiles as the children planned, made, tested, and improved their designs. DT is such an important part of our curriculum because it helps children learn to think things through, overcome challenges, and try out new ideas—even when things don't go quite right the first time! These are skills they carry with them far beyond the classroom.

We also wanted to share that **2026 has been named the National Year of Reading**, and we're really looking forward to getting involved. Reading regularly is one of the most powerful habits a child can develop. Children who read a little and often—and explore a range of books—tend to grow in confidence, broaden their understanding of the world, and make strong progress across the curriculum. We're asking parents and carers to support us by encouraging daily reading at home whenever possible. It doesn't have to be long—just consistent. Over the next few weeks, we'll be in touch with more information about the exciting reading events, challenges, and activities we'll be running throughout the year as part of this national focus.

A big "well done" also goes to our **Year 5/6 Basketball Team**, who took part in The Sports Trust Basketball Competition. Everyone showed great teamwork, determination, and enthusiasm taking the top spot in the competition! We are incredibly proud of how they represented the school.



Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We're looking forward to plenty more great learning and exciting moments in the weeks ahead.

Christopher Dale
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

January 2026

Mon 19th

Y4 Beech – Swimming

Week 2

Y3 NRAS Arts workshop

Wed 21st

Kav to work with

Y6 Handball – am

YR Multi-skills – 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 Marsh
Academy 9:20 – 11:30

Fri 23rd

Whole school – 6 Ways
to Wellbeing

Mon 26th

Y4 Beech – Swimming

Week 3

Y3 NRAS Arts workshop

After school clubs start

Wed 28th

Kav to work with

Y6 Handball – am

YR Multi-skills – pm

February

Mon 2nd

Y4 Beech – Swimming

Week 4

1:30pm Candlemass

Eucharist at School

**3:15 Whole School
OPEN CLASSES**

Tues 3rd

10am Governing Body
meeting



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!**

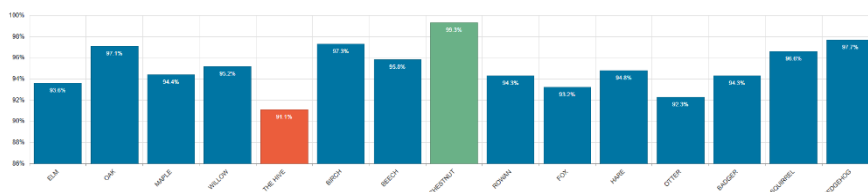
MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

As we start 2026 a reminder, consistent attendance ensures that your child fully benefits from the learning experiences and social interactions that school provides.

On the other hand, poor attendance can severely hinder their progress, leading to gaps in learning, diminished confidence, and social isolation. By prioritising attendance, you are actively supporting your child's right to learn and succeed, setting them on a path toward a brighter future. **Where is your son/daughter currently on the attendance ladder?**

Top attenders are:

Year	Class	%
3	Chestnut	99.3
R	Hedgehog	97.7
4	Birch	97.3
6	Oak	97.1
R	Squirrel	96.6



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: Jesse V **Badger:** Micheal O **Hare:** Oscar B **Rowan:** Jaxon M **Beech:** Eli B
Willow: Georgia I **Oak:** Layla D

This week's Birthdays:



Freddie C, Amelia D, Connor P, Gracie R, Cleo V, Freya I, Albie G, Aurora K, Daisy L and Hiram W – many happy returns to you all!

Policy reminders. We are a nut free school.



At St Nicholas we aim to be a Nut-Free school. The school aims to protect children who have allergies to nuts yet also help them, as they grow up, to take responsibility as to what foods they can eat and to be aware of where they may be put at risk. We do not allow nuts or nut products in school lunch boxes.

Our "Nut-Free Policy" means that the following should **not** be brought into school:

- Packs of nuts
- Peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Any home cooked meals for packed lunches that are made from nuts
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Cakes made with nuts
- Sesame seed rolls



ONLINE SAFETY UPDATE - For Parents - Playstation Family App



The Playstation Family App came out in September 2025 and it is a great way to help parents set up and manage their children's Gaming experience. Features include:

- Manage playtime.
- Activity report.
- Visibility into what children are playing.
- Approving playtime requests.

On this web page you will find detailed instructions to guide you through setting up a child account, get notified what game your child is playing in real time, approve or decline a request for extra playtime, apply content filters, privacy settings and more.

Webpage: [Playstation Family App](#)

For Parents - Family Gaming Database

When it comes to app and games reviews one of the resources I consistently share during parents talks is [Common Sense Media](#) who have thousands of unbiased and up-to-date reviews which can be really helpful for parents over and above age ratings. But when it comes to games specifically there's an equally great site which is often overlooked called [The Family Gaming Database](#). This is a fantastic resource with a plethora of information for families and currently 3,485 video games and 197 board games already reviewed.



Operation Encompass is a police and education early information sharing partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support for children experiencing the impact of domestic abuse. Information is shared by the police with a school's trained Key Adult (DSL) when officers have attended a domestic abuse incident. Children experiencing domestic abuse are negatively impacted by this exposure; with domestic abuse identified as an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE).

Operation Encompass aims to mitigate this harm by enabling immediate support and thus making the child's day better.



Kent Emotional Wellbeing Teams
Medway Emotional Support Teams

Below are the details of online parent workshops taking place over the next 3 months by the NELFT team who work with our school.

These workshops are designed to support families and provide helpful guidance around children's mental health and emotional wellbeing. Each poster now includes a **QR code**, which parents can use to register quickly and easily for any of the sessions.

Please feel free to look through the information, and if you know anyone who may benefit from attending, do pass it on.





FAMILY FIRST AID

Essential skills to equip parents and children with life-saving skills.

Feel ready and confident to handle emergency situations, practise CPR and learn how to provide care and support until medical help arrives on this practical and informal course.

Where:

New Romney Family Hub, Craythorne Lane TN28 8BL

Date::

Tuesday 20th January 2026

Time::

1pm-3pm

To book a place please contact:
folkestoneandhythe@kent.gov.uk



For more information scan the QR code

kentadulteducation.co.uk
FREE, Fun & Informal



Online Parent Workshops

Aimed at parents of children in
Primary school



Understanding your Child's Behaviour

19/01/2026 10:30 -12:30pm

[Understanding Your Child's Behaviour | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)



Supporting Your Child with Worries & Fears 02/02/2026 10:30 -12:30pm

[Supporting Your Child with Worries & Fears | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)



Autism and Sleep

09/03/2026 12:30 – 13:30pm

[Autism and Sleep | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)



Understanding Neurodiversity

24/03/2026 10:30 -12:30pm

[Understanding Neurodiversity | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)



DON'T LET YOUR CHILDREN BECOME THE NEXT STATISTIC

Every child deserves the knowledge to be safe around the railway

Is your school Rail Safe Friendly?
To find out more about the Rail Safe Friendly programme visit our website on railsafefriendly.com



Marsh Community Theatre
presents

PETER PANTS

Return to NeverLydd

FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2026

Thursday 19th & Friday 20th
Doors Open 6.00pm | Show Starts 7.00pm

Saturday 21st
Matinee – Doors Open 1.30pm | Show Starts 2.00pm
Evening – Doors Open 6.00pm | Show Starts 7.00pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
LYONS, CORONATION SQUARE, LYDD

www.marshcommunitytheatre.com | 07521 035344



2022-2025

