



Friday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 has been a rather unusual week for me, as I've found myself watching the school from afar while recovering at home from minor surgery. I'm pleased to say that I am recovering well and look forward to my return on Monday.

This unexpected pause has also given me the chance to reflect on the many wonderful activities and opportunities our children have enjoyed this term. We were delighted to welcome the KIC Theatre group and Astrodome into school recently, and we have several more exciting visitors and events planned for the weeks ahead. Experiences like these play an important part in shaping children's understanding of the world.

As a school, we remain committed to ensuring that these **in-school enrichment experiences do not come at a cost to families**. We believe strongly in giving children access to these valuable opportunities that build cultural capital and broaden their learning. To help manage costs overall, we only request parental contributions for larger, off-site trips. This approach is not something all schools adopt, but we feel it provides the right balance between offering a rich curriculum and keeping things affordable for parents.

Over the coming weeks, you may see more information on Class Dojo about our strong and growing partnership with NEFLT. They have already visited several times this year to support our parent community, offering guidance, workshops, and insights on a range of topics. There are more sessions planned — some in person and some online — and I would encourage you to take a moment to explore what's available. I know that some workshop titles can look a little daunting, and it's natural to worry about being judged for attending. Please don't let that stop you. Speaking as both a teacher and a parent, I know how valuable these opportunities can be. Parenting comes with no manual, and the more support networks we build, the more confident we become. You are always welcome.

We are now approaching our Parent Teacher Consultations, which will take place on either side of the half-term break. If you haven't already booked your appointment, please do so via the MCAS app before **Thursday 5th February 2026**, when booking closes. These meetings are a really important opportunity to discuss your child's progress and next steps.

Before Parents' Evening, we also invite you to our **Open Class Sessions on Monday 2nd February**, from **3:15–3:45pm**. The children have been working incredibly hard, and this is a lovely chance to pop in, look through their books, and see for yourself how much they've achieved this term.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Christopher Dale  
Headteacher

## Dates for your diary

### February 2026

#### Mon 2<sup>nd</sup>

Y4 Beech – Swimming  
Week 4  
1:30pm Candlemass  
Eucharist at School  
**3:15 Whole School  
OPEN CLASSES**  
3:15pm Herald Cup  
training

#### Tues 3<sup>rd</sup>

10am Governing Body  
meeting

#### Wed 4<sup>th</sup>

Kav to work with  
Y6 Handball – am  
YR Multi-skills – pm

#### Thur 5<sup>th</sup>

Parent teacher  
consultation online  
booking closes

#### Mon 9<sup>th</sup>

Y4 Beech – Swimming  
Week 5  
**KIC Theatre in**  
Year 4 - am  
Year 1 - pm  
**3:30 – KS1 Parent  
Teacher consultation**

#### Tues 10<sup>th</sup>

**Whole school** - Internet  
Safety Day



## 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.**

### A Message About the Importance of Attendance

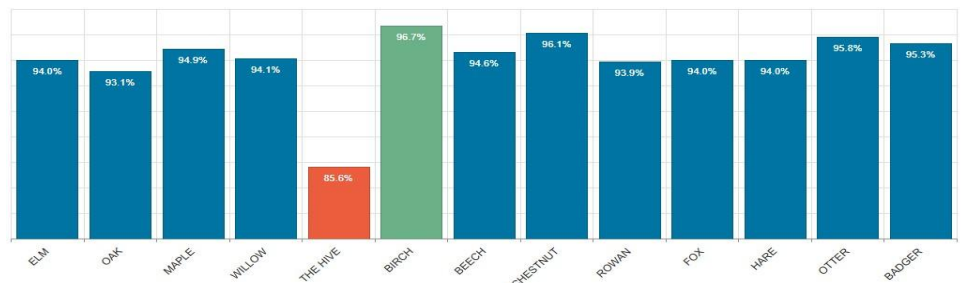
Good attendance is essential for every child's learning, wellbeing, and long-term success. At present, our level of Persistent Absence (pupils missing 10% or more of school) is **16.71%**, meaning **68 pupils** are currently missing significant amounts of learning time.

#### Every day in school matters.

When children are frequently absent, they not only miss lessons but also the daily routines and relationships that help them feel secure and connected. Friendships can drift, confidence can drop, and small worries can grow into bigger challenges when a child feels out of touch with school life. **These issues are much harder to rebuild the longer a child is away and engrain into longer term behaviours at secondary school if not addressed.**

Please support us by ensuring your child is in school every day they are well enough to attend. If you are experiencing difficulties with attendance, we are here to help. Working together, we can make sure every child feels settled, supported, and ready to succeed.

| Top attenders are: |          |      |
|--------------------|----------|------|
| Year               | Class    | %    |
| 4                  | Birch    | 96.7 |
| 3                  | Chestnut | 96.1 |



*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:** Luca H **Hare:** Matilda C **Rowan:** Vinnie H **Beech:** Ollie B  
**Willow:** Freya C **Oak:** Maia J



### This week's Birthdays:

Lucas L, Joshua N, Ava R, Ada T, Ryder H, Remy P, Everly A, Richie W, Bailey V and Lucas W – many happy returns to you all!



## Online Safety

### For Parents - What I Wish My Parents or Carers Knew



The Children's Commissioner has put together a fantastic guide for parents and carers. At around 26 pages it goes into a lot of depth including:

- Screen time.
- When bad things happen.
- Artificial intelligence.
- Conversation starters.
- Actions to take checklist.
- And much more.



Download the [Children's Commissioner - What I wish my parents and carers knew guide](#), at the bottom of the page you will find a PDF download and an activity pack.



Kent Emotional Wellbeing Teams  
Medway Emotional Support Teams

As outlined at the start of the newsletter, please find the details of up and coming NELFT meetings here at St Nicholas as well as those online.

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

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

### Parent Workshop

Aimed at parents of children in primary school

#### Understanding Your Child's Behaviour

Wednesday 25th February 2026  
08:45-10:15

Are you currently experiencing difficulties with your child at home? Would you like to come and meet with other parents and carers and learn about ways to enjoy your time more with your child?

You are invited to a workshop about understanding and communicating with your child. It will help you consider factors which influence behaviour. We also discuss techniques that you can use at home for behaviours that you feel are difficult to manage.

This workshop will be held at  
St Nicholas Church of England Primary Academy.

If you have any questions please speak to Mrs Gunn.

We look forward to meeting you

www.nelft.nhs.uk

### Parent Workshop

Aimed at parents of children in primary school

#### Understanding Sleep and Autistic Children

Wednesday 18th March 2026  
08:45-10:15

Are you currently experiencing difficulties with your child's sleeping patterns? Maybe your child has received a diagnosis. Would you like to come and meet with other parents and carers and learn about ways to support your child?

You are invited to a workshop about understanding sleeping patterns and autism. We also discuss helpful strategies that you can use at home to help support your child.

This workshop will be held at  
St Nicholas Church of England Primary Academy

If you have any questions, please talk to Mrs Gunn

We look forward to meeting you.

www.nelft.nhs.uk

### Online Parent Workshops

Aimed at parents of children in Primary school

#### 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](#)

## Vacancies at St Nicholas.



### Lunchtime Supervisor - Advert Close Date: 06/02/20

We are looking to appoint a temporary (up to a year) Lunchtime Supervisor.

The successful applicant will have the ability to work effectively and enthusiastically as part of a team and be able to engage with the children whilst ensuring their safety and wellbeing. You will need excellent communication skills and the ability to create a positive environment. Good time management and the ability to use your own initiative is essential.

If you are interested then please click on the link below for more details and to apply.

<https://www.kent-teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/VacancyDetails.aspx?VacancyId=152454>





## SEND Administrator - Advert Close Date:27/02/2026

Are you an organised, people-focused administrator who wants to make a genuine difference to children's lives? Do you thrive in a busy environment where no two days are the same? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

We are seeking a SEND & Inclusion Administrator to provide high-quality administrative and clerical support across our SEND and Inclusion teams. This is a vital role at the heart of the Academy, supporting pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), their families, and the professionals who work with them.

For more information and to apply please click on the link below:

<https://www.kent-teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/VacancyDetails.aspx?VacancyId=152845>

## ST NICHOLAS UNIFORM PROVIDERS:



### Exciting news for St Nicholas families! 🎉

We are delighted to announce that we have added a third official uniform provider - 🍌 Top Banana Services, to give you more options and convenience. 🏠 ✨

You can now purchase your school uniform from:

🏠 County Print & Embroidery

🍌 Top Banana Services

🏠 PMG Schoolwear

## Parking Safely at the School Gate

Over the last two weeks, parents will have noticed the new signs positioned at the school gates during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. These signs are there to remind drivers of the importance of not parking on the yellow zig-zag lines, which must be kept clear to ensure the safety of all children and families.

I am very pleased to report that the response from the overwhelming majority of parents has been extremely positive. Many of you have shared supportive comments at the gate, and it is clear that most families understand why keeping these areas clear is so important.

We will, however, continue to challenge drivers who do not park safely or responsibly. In line with guidance from the Highways Team, we will also photograph the number plates of vehicles that deliberately ignore the road signs, with these being passed on to the Penalty Notice Team where appropriate.

Thank you to everyone who continues to help keep our school community safe at the start and end of the day.







# The Princess and The Frog

A Pantomime by Cameron J Ruby

Box office  
**07434 895113**

In person at The Clipper Barbers & Beaux at  
19 Littlestone Road, TN28 8LN

**[Ticketsource.co.uk/nradpanto](https://ticketsource.co.uk/nradpanto)**

Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 7:00pm

Thu 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 7:00pm

Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 3:00pm

Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 7:00pm

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 3:00pm

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 7:00pm

The Marsh Academy Theatre  
Station Rd  
TN28 8BB



Sponsored by  
The Clipper Barber & Beaux

SCAN ME



Wellbeing Award  
for Schools

2022-2025

