



Friday 27th March 2026

St Nicholas CE Primary Academy Weekly Newsletter

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

From the Headteachers desk...

It has been wonderful to see so many families in school this week. Thank you to all the parents and staff who came along to support our football team at the start of the week. The team played brilliantly, fighting hard in a very evenly contested match to secure a well-deserved win over the local school, Greatstone.

My thanks also go to the parents who attended the Stay, Read and Count sessions in KS1. Your involvement genuinely makes a positive difference to your children's learning, and it is greatly appreciated. We were equally delighted with the excellent turnout for the Year 1 *Mastering Number* workshop. Both Mrs Pursey and Mrs Lee were full of praise for how well the children worked alongside their parents.

We look forward to welcoming the Year 2 parents to their session on Wednesday next week at 2pm.

Across the school, there has been a real buzz of activity. Many of you will have noticed the fantastic impact the gardening club has had on our grounds over recent weeks. The planters are looking better than ever, and we hope to see the fruits of their hard work as spring progresses.

In PE, Kav has been working with Year 1 on developing their ball skills, while Year 3 have been focusing on basketball techniques. It has been great to see the children so engaged and enthusiastic.

Sad news for us but exciting news for Mrs Spencer-Rogers, she will be leaving us at the end of the term to take up an exciting new role as a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter in a local school. This is something she's incredibly passionate about and we have been lucky enough to have had Mrs Spencer-Rogers teaching sign language at St Nicholas through her BSL sign language after school club.

Mrs Spencer-Rogers has worked at the school for nearly 12 years but before then was a committed volunteer, over that time she has been a real asset and her dedication to Early Years has enabled pupils to not only settle well into school life but blossom and grow. I know that you all wish her well and miss her as much as the staff and children will.

A quick reminder that the clocks **spring forward by one hour this weekend.**

As always, thank you for your continued support
Christopher Dale

Headteacher

Dates for your diary

March 2026

Sunday 29th

Don't forget the clocks
Spring Forward 1 hour



Mon 30th

9:30am iRock concert to
parents
Swimming – Y4 Birch
class week 3

Tues 31st

2:45pm Y4 class
assembly to parents

April 2026

Wed 1st

2pm Mastering Number
workshop for Y2 parents

Thurs 2nd

Easter breakfast

LAST DAY OF TERM

Mon 20th

**Children return to
school**

Tues 21st

Easter service at St
Nicholas Church 9:15am

Wed 22nd

Year 6 Sailing

Mon 27th

KIC Theatre in –
Year 4 in morning
Year R in afternoon

Year 5 - NRAD in for the
afternoon



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!**

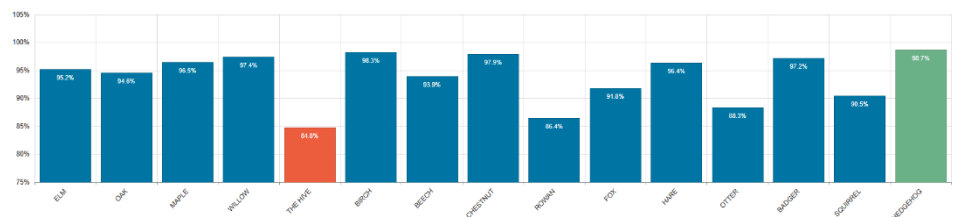
**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

A Message About the Importance of Attendance

*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	%
R	Hedgehog	98.7
4	Birch	98.3
3	Chestnut	97.9
5	Willow	97.4
1	Badger	97.2



Congratulations to all the classes above with their super attendance

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

Star Award -



Star of the week awards went to:

**Hedgehog: Remy P Otter: Bethany H Fox: Leif F Chestnut: Jessa B
Birch: Bella C Willow: Teddy D Elm: Lola S**



This week's Birthdays:

Arley R, Lenny C, Peyton C, Joshua S, Frankie W, Harrison B and Xinyi L – many happy returns to you all!

Clocks Spring forward - March 29 at 1:00 AM GMT

The clocks will **spring forward** on **March 29 at 1:00 AM GMT**, marking the start of **British Summer Time (BST)**. This change means that the time will move forward by one hour, resulting in **lighter evenings** and **darker mornings**. The clocks will return to standard time in **October**.



Parent workshops



We have our Stay and Read workshop for **Year 1** parents to come in and read with their children every Wednesday and In **Year R** on the same day we have a Stay and Count session.

These are wonderful ways for parents to see how we structure reading and maths in the formative years in school and hope you will gain something from them as well as working with your child in their class.



It will be great to see as many Year 1 and R parents at these events supporting your child!

Online Safety - For Parents - New YouTube Feature

One of the most common concerns from parents when it comes to YouTube is the lack of parental management features, in other words the videos their children can and should not see. Many parents I speak to don't know that there are features within both the main YouTube app and the YouTube Kids app. As such I have shared these features in this newsletter a few times in the past.



But Google have now released another feature, specifically this allows a parent to set up a Supervised Experience account on the parent's device. This is important because many younger children will watch YouTube videos on their parent's device, where it is likely there are no restrictions in place. So, this new feature is a welcome addition.

To tie all these features together I have produced an article explaining Supervised Experience (on the main YouTube app) and Parent Allowlisting (on the YouTube Kids app) Link: [YouTube Settings for Parents](#)

Mr Young – Computing Lead

SEND at St Nicholas



Special educational needs, often referred to as 'SEN' or 'SEND' (Special educational needs and disabilities), is a term used to describe learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for a child to learn compared to children of the same age.

All children may experience challenges with their learning at some point and for most children, these difficulties overcome with support from teachers and home. However, children with SEND are likely to need extra or different help to be able to learn.

How do you know if a child has SEND?

A child or young person has SEN if:

- They have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of other children and young people the same age
- They have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 provisions

A child or young person has a disability if:

- They have a physical and mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out day-to-day activities.

What types of difficulties are SEND? - Children may have difficulties in one or more of these areas:



Cognition and Learning - A child may find all learning difficult or have difficulties with specific activities such as reading or spelling. A child may have trouble understanding instructions and carrying out tasks. A child may have memory difficulties.

Communication and Interaction – A child may have difficulty in talking to others or understanding what others are saying to them. A child may have difficulty with interactions with others, such as not being able to take turns. A child who has speech and language needs will be classed as having communication and interaction needs.

Physical and Sensory – A child may have hearing or vision loss. A child may have difficulty with sensory processing, being under or over-sensitive. A child may have a medical condition which affects them physically.

EASTER FUNDRAISING

Just a reminder that for our Lent Charity fund raiser we have an Easter Egg raffle. Raffle tickets are 20p each.

We are also doing a 10p race, where classes try to create the longest line of 10ps.

Thank you for all your support.



Mexican Day is coming!



We're hosting a special themed lunch on **Thursday 21st May 2026**, featuring mild chilli, rice, nachos, and a delicious chocolate cake for dessert!

Important Info:

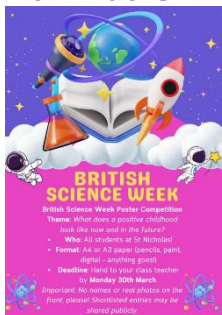
Deadline: All orders must be placed by 9am on Monday 27th April.

How to book: Log in to your MCAS account > Dinners > Week 18/05/2026. Make sure to select and confirm for each child!

Note: This lunch must be booked in advance. If no order is placed, please ensure your child brings a packed lunch from home.

Don't miss out—get those orders in!

Reminders



Are you planning to enter the British Science Week Poster Competition? There is still time to get your entries in!

This year's theme is: What does a positive childhood look like now and in the future?

How to enter:

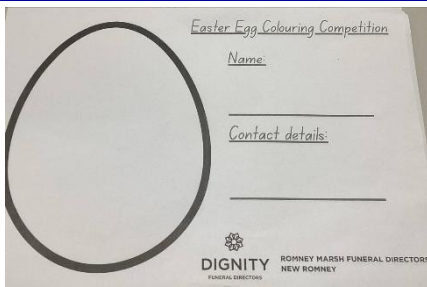
◆ Create an A4 or A3 poster to match this year's theme.

🎨 Use anything—paint, pens, collage, or even digital tools!

📅 Hand it to your class teacher with your child's name on the back by **Monday**

30th March.

Important: Please don't include names or photos of real people on your poster, as the winners may be featured online by British Science Week!



Easter Egg Colouring Competition 🐰

There have been some lovely entries for this competition so far! Please make sure your entry is brought into school and given to your child's class teacher by **Tuesday 31st March**. Winners will be announced after the Easter Holidays.



PTA - EASTER BONNET COMPETITION

We have already started to receive entries for the Easter Bonnet competition this weekend is your last chance to get an entry into school.

- The Prizes:** There will be a winner for every single class!
- Deadline:** Please bring all Bonnets into school by **Monday 30th March**.
- Judging:** Winners will be announced during the final week of term.

School Group Photo Reminder

Have you ordered your school group photo yet? A polite reminder that the closing date for free delivery back to school is Sunday 19th April 2026. Orders can be placed through the Tempest website using the unique link sent to you via MCAS.

If you need any help with ordering, please contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 5).

