



Friday 4th September 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 Headteacher's desk...

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to everyone at St Nicholas. It has been an absolute delight to have the children back in school this week, full of enthusiasm and ready for the year ahead. They have settled incredibly well, and I have been particularly pleased to see them looking so **smart and proud in their school uniforms**. Thank you to parents and carers for your support in helping us begin the year so positively.

As we start a new academic year, our focus remains firmly on working together to give every child the very best opportunities to **believe, achieve and succeed**. A strong partnership between home and school is so important and there are already lots of opportunities this September for you to become involved in school life.

Please take some time to read through this week's newsletter, which contains several important dates and reminders. Our **Parent Information Evenings and Phonics Workshops** begin next week, giving you the opportunity to meet staff, understand more about your child's learning and find out how you can support them at home.

We would also love to see families at **Education Sunday on 13th September**, our **PTA Welcome Meeting on 15th September**, our **Year 3 Parent Lunch on 16th September**, and our **Macmillan Coffee Morning** later this month. These occasions are an important part of what makes St Nicholas such a special community.

A reminder that **every school day matters**. Learning begins from **8:30am**, so good attendance and punctuality give children the strongest possible start.

Finally, please look at the information about **Free School Meals eligibility**, particularly as the criteria has changed this September. Registering, even if your child prefers a packed lunch, can bring valuable additional funding into school to support our children.

Thank you for such a wonderful start to the year. I look forward to all that we will achieve together.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Dale
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

September 2026

Mon 7th

- **Y6** Information evening 5:45pm

Tues 8th

- **Y4** Information evening 5:45pm

Wed 9th

- **Y5** Information evening 5pm

Thurs 10th

- **Y6** Kent Test (11+) all day
- **Y1** Phonics mtg at 9am & 2:30pm

Sat 12th

- **Y6** Shepway Test

Sun 13th

- **Education Sunday** – Whole School at St Nicholas Church – all family's welcome.

Mon 14th

- **Y6** PGL Residential
- **EYFS** Parents Phonics meeting at 9am & again at 2:30pm KS1 Hall

Tues 15th

- **PTA** meeting 6:30pm at school – All are welcome

Wed 16th

- **Y3** parents in for school dinners 12:30pm

Fri 18th

- **Y6** residential ends

Mon 21st

- **Y2** Parent Information evening 5:45pm

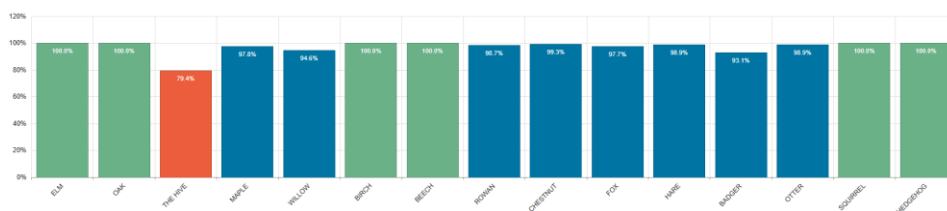


Attendance - Every Day Counts!

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	%
6	Oak	100
6	Elm	100
4	Birch	100
4	Beech	100
R	Hedgehog	100
R	Squirrel	100



Congratulations to all the classes above with their super attendance

🍎 Could Your Child Be Eligible for Free School Meals?

REMINDER -

Free School Meals eligibility is changing from September 2026, which means more families receiving Universal Credit may qualify.

Why should I apply?

Even if your child is in **Reception, Year 1 or Year 2** and already receives a free school meal, it is still important to register if you are eligible.

Your application could unlock valuable **Pupil Premium funding** for our school, helping us provide:

- ★ Extra teaching and learning support
- ★ Enrichment activities and opportunities
- ★ Additional resources
- ★ Wellbeing support

Eligible families may also be able to access **reduced-cost Kent Travel Saver passes** and the **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme**.

🍱 Prefer packed lunches?

That's absolutely fine! Your child **does not have to eat a school meal** to be registered.

✅ **Check & Apply** - Visit the **Kent County Council Free School Meals** page to check your eligibility and apply. <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

Need help? Please contact the school office – we're happy to support you with your application.



EDUCATION SUNDAY – Sunday 13 September 2026 – Living Well Together.

On **Sunday 13th September**, we will be celebrating **Education Sunday 2026**, and we would love our St Nicholas families to join us at church.



This year's theme, **"Living Well Together,"** feels particularly meaningful for us as we begin a new school year. It reminds us of the importance of **welcoming one another, caring for each other and recognising the part we all play in helping our community flourish.**

Education Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to bring our **children, families, school and church community together** to celebrate and give thanks. We are really looking forward to seeing lots of our parents and children there and sharing this special Sunday together.



Year 6 Parents – Secondary School Transfer 2027

KEY DATES TO REMEMBER	
Application for Secondary Transfer opens	Tuesday 1 September 2026
Test date for pupils in Kent Primary schools	Thursday 10 September 2026
Assessment decision sent to parents	Thursday 15 October 2026
National closing date for application forms	Monday 2 November 2026

IMPORTANT TEST INFORMATION	
The Shipway test takes place on Saturday 12 September 2026. Secondary Schools should have confirmed times directly with parents.	

HOW TO APPLY	SCAN TO APPLY
All registration and applications must be made via the Kent County Council website. Kent resident parents will be able to apply for their child's school place using a Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF) online at: www.kent.gov.uk/ola	Scan the QR code below to go directly to the Kent County Council Online Admissions page. 

Please see the key dates and important information for your child's transition to secondary school.

Put these into your diary now.

Kent parents should complete their Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF) online via the Kent County Council website: www.kent.gov.uk/ola

For your convenience, you can also scan the QR code on the left, to go directly to the online application page.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Parent Information Evenings & Workshops – September

We are always looking for ways to strengthen the partnership between home and school.

In our whole-school parent questionnaire, one of the most common requests was for more information about what your child is learning in school and how you can best support them at home. Alongside the information we send home throughout the year, we have therefore planned a series of Parent Information Evenings and Workshops for every year group.

These sessions are a fantastic opportunity to:

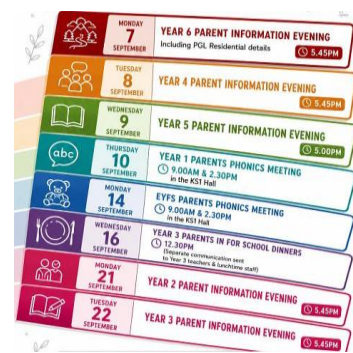
- Meet your child's teachers and members of our leadership team.
- Gain a deeper understanding of your child's curriculum.
- Find out about the key expectations for the year ahead.
- See examples of the work your child will be completing.
- Learn practical ways to support learning and build confidence at home.
- Ask questions and work in partnership with us to help your child thrive.

Details for each event have already been shared on your child's individual ClassDojo year group page, but for ease of reference, here are all of the dates

- Monday 7 September – **Year 6** Parent Information Evening – 5:45pm (inc PGL Residential information)
- Tuesday 8 September – **Year 4** Parent Information Evening – 5:45pm
- Wednesday 9 September – **Year 5** Parent Information Evening – 5:00pm
- Thursday 10 September – **Year 1** Phonics Meeting – 9:00am or 2:30pm (KS1 Hall)
- Monday 14 September – **EYFS** Phonics Meeting – 9:00am or 2:30pm (KS1 Hall)
- Monday 21 September – **Year 2** Parent Information Evening – 5:45pm
- Tuesday 22 September – **Year 3** Parent Information Evening – 5:45pm

We are incredibly proud of the curriculum and learning opportunities we provide at St Nicholas, and we hope these events will give you a valuable insight into your child's school journey.

We look forward to welcoming as many parents and carers as possible. **Working together gives every child the very best chance to believe, achieve and succeed.**



PTA Upcoming Events – please put them in your diary now.

St Nicholas PTA – We Need You!

A strong PTA makes a real difference to our children and our school. The more parents and carers who get involved, the more we can achieve together – from organising fun events to raising valuable funds.

You don't need you to make a big commitment – **every bit of help, every idea and every person who comes along counts!**

Please join us for our **Welcome to the New Year PTA Meeting on Tuesday 15th September at 6:30pm**. Come along, meet other parents and help us build a strong PTA for our children.

We'd love to see you there!



St Nicholas PTA

★ ★

GET INVOLVED – SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!



TUESDAY
15
SEPTEMBER

6.30PM
**A WELCOME TO THE
NEW YEAR
PTA MEETING**





FRIDAY
25
SEPTEMBER

QUIZ NIGHT
IN THE SCHOOL HALL





FRIDAY
6
NOVEMBER

BINGO NIGHT
**IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH ABACUS NURSERY**



📅 Year 3 Parent Lunch Invitation 📅

We are delighted to invite Year 3 parents to join their child for lunch at school on: **Wednesday 16th September from 12:30pm to sit and eat** – please be present from 12:15pm onwards.

This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy lunch together, experience our school dining hall and share part of your child's school day. 📅 **Save the date now!**

Booking is available via **Bromcom NOW!**

At that time, parents will be able to:

- Book their place.
- Choose their meal from the menu.
- Let us know how many adults will be attending.
- Book their child's school meal as normal.

 **Booking deadline: Tuesday 8th September**

We look forward to welcoming parents into school for what promises to be a lovely lunchtime with their child.



 **You are invited to Our Macmillan Coffee Morning!** 



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Parents, we'd love you to join us!

A chance to meet with new mums and dads from different year groups, enjoy a cuppa, and have cake served by our wonderful older children.

DATE
Friday
25 September

TIME
8.30 - 10.00am

WHERE
Here at
School

WHO
All parents
welcome!

Parents are welcome to stay for our
Friday Awards Assembly at 10.15am afterwards if they wish.

Raising funds
for cancer.

Everyone's support helps Macmillan
be there for people living with cancer.
Thank you.

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT
RIGHT THERE WITH YOU

TOGETHER
WE CAN
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

EVERY CAKE
AND EVERY CUP
MAKES A BIG
DIFFERENCE

THANK YOU

We'd love for you to join us on **Friday 25th September from 8:30am – 10:00am** for a relaxed morning of coffee, cake and conversation as we raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet parents from across the school community, enjoy some delicious homemade treats, and be served by our fantastic older pupils.

✨ **Plus, you're warmly invited to stay for our Friday Awards Assembly at 10:15am if you'd like to celebrate our children's achievements with us.**

Every cup of coffee and every slice of cake will help make a difference to people living with cancer.

We look forward to welcoming you for a morning of community, kindness and fundraising!   

