

The St Nicholas Post

Dear Parents and Carers,

10th March 2023

Well, so much for Spring coming! I do hope you are all keeping warm and well. The children have had a great few weeks in school with much to celebrate and report on! Please do follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see all the exciting things going on in school.

Mrs Kennedy

Quex Cross Country

Thank you to everyone who took part in the cross country at Quex at the weekend. It was a pleasure to watch every child putting in the hard work required to pass the finish line! These events require us all to dig deep, and builds our resilience. Truly essential qualities for modern life. So not only are you all better runners, you have developed strength of character too!

Thank you to Mrs Adams—her last Cross country—we will continue your legacy and mantra of ‘My one rule is, everyone crosses the line with a smile on their face’ Mrs Adams 2023



Y3 Boys		Y3 Girls		Y4 Boys		Y4 Girls	
Fred	6.21	Amelia	6.07	Ollie	4.49	Ellabelle	7.11
Joshua	6.02	Hannah	5.30	Ernie	4.46	Taylor	5.17
Rowan	6.09	Charlotte	6.21	Thomas	4.25	Judel	6.01
Austin	5.03	Ella	5.22	Jack	7.17	Delilah	7.07
Harry	5.20	Esmee	6.06	Roma	6.03		
Hugo	5.07	Rosie	7.17				
Jackson	4.54						



Y5 Boys		Y5 Girls		Y6 Boys		Y6 Girls	
Sammy	9.01	Sophia	8.20	Alex	6.20	Priya	7.30
		Freya	9.39	Harry	8.31	Emelia	7.46
		Rosie	9.32	Rocky	6.15	Chloe	7.21
		Phoebe	12.17				
		Zlata	8.21				

World Book Day



Book week turned out to be a huge success. The children got involved in every aspect of the week, thank you for supporting this event. Thank you for making sure the children came in dressed up, thank you for coming into school to share your children's reading books, thanks to the dads and uncles and grandads who came in to read to the children, thank you to the wonderful team of staff at St Nicks who really do get into the spirit of things! Of course thank you to Miss Kent for the meticulous organisation of this. Events like this enrich our curriculum and ensure that reading and a love of books stays in the front of all of our minds.

Keep Reading Everyone!



The **MORE** that you
READ, the more things
 you will **KNOW**.
 The **MORE** that you
LEARN, the more places
 you'll **GO**.

Going back, Way Back, Back to ancient Egypt

Year 5 and 6 were transported back in time to 3000BC at the start of term, where they were transformed into Egyptians. First they dressed in appropriate attire, complete with eye make-up, to conduct their day to day activities, including making flour using a rotary quern, weaving straw mats using reeds from the Nile, playing the board game senet, writing spells on papyrus, learning some Egyptian dance moves and designing and making amulets.

In the afternoon, they travelled back to the future, where years five and six went to head in the Valley of the Kings game, where they had to excavate areas of the Egyptian desert in search of hidden treasures in ancient tombs. It was neck and neck throughout but year 5 pipped year 6 at the last hurdle, finding the 'Boy King', Tutankhamun's tomb putting them in the lead.



Athlete Visit

On the 25th April a professional athlete will be visiting our school. They will lead an inspirational assembly and each child will participate in a fitness circuit with the athlete. This afternoon your child received a sponsor form. 60% of the money raised will go towards our school and 40% will go towards supporting the athlete with their training. We hope that your child enjoys the experience and let's all try our best to try and raise as much money as possible for our school.

Holiday Requests

Having written in previous Newsletters about the importance of attendance, I am writing to remind parents that, as a headteacher, I do not have the power to authorise holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances or for families in the services. Regretfully, we have had a high number of requests during school time. Moving forward, the school will have to refer these absences and they will attract a fine. This is such a difficult area for schools to navigate, my priority is to build strong relationships with parents and I have been reluctant to pass these requests on for risk of jeopardising this partnership. However, the educational impact is significant and school days are school days. Thank you :)



You are the most important people in your child's life—so a strong positive relationship between us is crucial in making sure children are happy and thrive at school. A few tips:

1 Listen to them read

This is so important - even if it's a book they've already read, or you read some, they read some.

Share books together, make it enjoyable.

Model reading: It is so vital



2 Try to find out about their day

You'll be met with the inevitable 'nothing'.

Ask questions around it:

What sound did you do in phonics?

Who did you play with? What made you proud

today? What did you learn in maths?



3 Don't push if they won't tell you

Try feeding them before you ask them. Wait a while a try a different question later. They may need some down time before they talk to you about their day.



Chose your time :)

4 Home work—if it's a battle, stop

It doesn't help anyone to have a screaming session regarding homework. If it is causing your child to be upset—stop and talk to the teacher about it. It can be hard enough fitting it into busy family life without tears—sometimes from both parties!



5 Get both sides of a story

If your child has come home upset, of course you want to know why. Ask the school for their view.

Children don't always tell it exactly how it was.

When we work together we will more likely have all the information.

6 Use our website

Our website has lots of resources for you to support your child. Like the calculation policy, reading suggestions and questions to support reading. Videos, links and dates for you to attend workshops.

<https://www.st-nicholas-birchington.kent.sch.uk/>

7 Raise a concern early

Don't let it fester! We don't want you to have a niggle that could grow. Talk to us straight away, a 5 minute chat could save a lot of worry later. We want to resolve issues as much as you—but we need to know them.



8 Ask how you can help

We are always happy to pass work your way! Be specific, ask about a particular subject, how can I help with their spelling? What can I do to help their adding? What vocabulary do they need for this topic? What sounds are they finding hard...

9 Don't moan in front of the children

We are all allowed to have a moan—I know I did about my children's schools (only occasionally)

Don't let the children hear, they listen to everything and it shapes their view of school. We must be a team and be seen to be a team.



10 Remember...

We want the same as you! Happy, safe children who learn and work hard. A school where kindness is the default and our school family is united.

We may not always get it right, but we never, ever set out to get it wrong.