

The St Nicholas Post

Dear All,

7th July 2023

This is the penultimate letter of the year, time passes so quickly! We are really proud of the enormous resilience the children are demonstrating in these last weeks of term—we know they are tired but they are still working hard and being the best they can be! I walk round every class every day, and each classroom is purposeful and productive. **There is no count down for summer at St Nicholas, every minute counts!**

Mrs Kennedy

Transition Day



We are pleased to report that the children had a really successful day meeting their new teachers; the children came in with a great attitude and left excited about their new classes. Transition is always bittersweet, teachers and children say goodbye, but there is a buzz excitement for new beginnings. Our primary aim as educators is to prepare children for their next steps, academically and personally, whether that is within school or preparing them for secondary and beyond! We are proud of how well the children responded to the change and challenge.

Resilience

Courage

Open Doors

We would like to invite you into school on **Tuesday 18th July at 2:30pm** This will give you an opportunity to see the children's books and celebrate all that they have achieved over the course of the year. The teacher will be available if you have any questions about their end of year report. Please feel free to take your children home when you are ready to leave.



What a DISCO!



Thank you to the PTFA for a super disco! The children had a wonderful time—it is always so lovely to see the children outside of a classroom environment seeing them let their hair down and express themselves.

Sorry there are no KS2 photos, truly it was just too hot and sticky for me to enter the hall! Well done to the PTFA who were thankfully supervising :)

Courage, Resilience, Honesty, Kindness, Be the best you can be... It's who we are!

The Tri- a-Theo-lon



Theo has completed his level 5 swimming badge - he has got his next belt at kickboxing. He also has received four trophies for football. He received a medal for his team winning his age group at the tournament, for player of the tournament out of 60 children, for taking part in this years' football season and his final trophy was for getting manager's player of the season! He has worked so hard and his commitment is outstanding. What a values champion! We are super proud of you Theo.



Jolly Hockey Sticks at St Nicks!

The children really enjoyed themselves at the hockey tournament on Tuesday, they all tried their best and didn't give up, always showing courage and resilience.

Well done team—you make us proud! Well done to Miss Patterson for getting our children involved in so many sporting opportunities. It is no surprise we have a gold mark award!



Raffle Tickets

If you would like any extra raffle tickets they are available from the school office

**Draw is at the summer fair on 14 July.
Lots of great prizes on offer!**



Thank you to you all for returning books—we have increased our library collection enormously which will really benefit the children. Please keep them coming if you have any hidden on the shelves!



Home and school—A perfect partnership

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.