

The St Nicholas Post

Dear All,

21st July 2023

We made it! We have reached the end of the academic year, with so much to celebrate. The children have made us proud everyday - working hard to be the best they can be in every aspect of school life. They have shown kindness to others, they have shown courage in times of doubt, they know that no way through isn't true and they show resilience and they are honest when they have made mistakes. School is a happy, productive, purposeful place—but not a perfect one :) and I think this is the greatest joy of working in schools—we have the opportunity to help children practice who they are going to be. When we practise anything we inevitably make mistakes—in our academic and personal development—we are learning after all! What I am most proud of is the capacity that our community has demonstrated in understanding that we are all working together to get it right for our children. Thank you for working with us, communicating with us, sharing with us and being an integral part of school life—your involvement makes us better!

Enjoy a wonderful summer.

Mrs Kennedy

A Victory for Honesty...

A huge well done to Honesty House for taking the winners trophy this year! A well deserved win! Sports day really contributed to the final total and tipped them into the lead. Thank you to all the pupils who have worked hard to earn house points and to Rocky and Daisy who led the team so admirably.

I want to thank all the house captains who have represented their houses, the work they do to promote their houses goes such a long way in embedding our Values! Well done to Ava, Poppy, Leo, Sasha, Chloe and Ella!



Honesty, Courage, Kindness, Resilience, Be The Best You Can Be

School Dinners

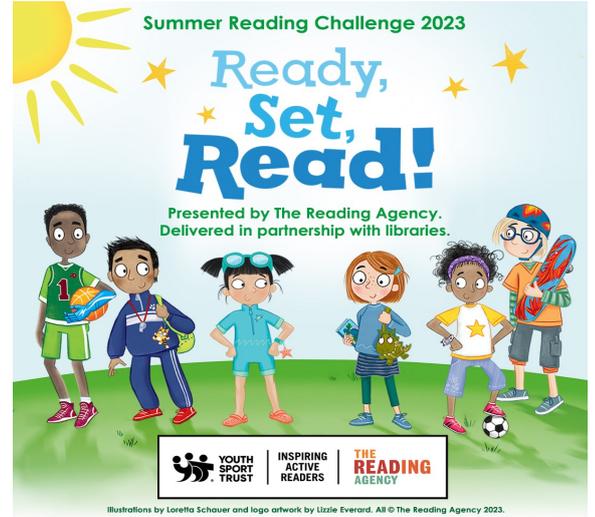
The cost of the school hot dinners has been raised to £2.68 per child from September.

The Summer Reading Challenge

Don't forget to take part in the summer reading challenge. Reading regularly over the summer will mean that the progress children have made will be maintained :)

Follow the link to find out more:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>



The Summer Reading Challenge

PTFA AGM will be held on Wednesday 20 September 2023 in the school hall. Everyone welcome.

Interested in Tuition over the Summer?

M.A.C. Tutoring
Lower anxiety to help your child achieve their best

Calling eager learners in search of academic excellence! If you're looking to boost your skills in Reading, Comprehension, Writing, Spelling, Maths, or Kent test, look no further!



Mr McPherson

- Flexible options to allow for holiday time.
- Choose your own dates in the summer holidays.
- Give confidence a rocket boost ready for the return in September.

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Register your interest: jmcperson96@hotmail.co.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/MACtutoring2023>

M.A.C. TUTORING
Kent Test Group Tuition!

FOUR TUESDAYS DURING THE SUMMER 10-11AM

Sessions are face to face.

Sessions will support your child to excel.

Sessions will be **M**emorable, **A**ssuring and **C**hallenging.

Lower anxiety to help your child achieve their best!

jmcperson96@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you to the entire St Nicks community who know exactly what it means to be a place to belong and a place to grow! Leading a school takes a village and you have all played such an important part in our growth this year.



Farewell Year 6—We will miss you!





Key dates—Terms 1 and 2

1st Sept	Inset day, school closed to children Applications to secondary school open
4th Sept	School starts for children years 1 –6. Reception home visits.
5th Sept	Kent test familiarisation test for registered year 6 pupils
7th Sept	Kent test for registered year 6 pupils
11th Sept	Reception children start (1/2 days)
11th Sept	Meet the Teacher Year 2 (3:15pm in classroom)
12th Sept	Year 4 oral hygiene workshop (within school day)
12th Sept	Meet the Teacher Year 5 (3:15pm in classroom)
13th Sept	Parent Reading Workshop for year R and 1 (2:30pm or 6pm main hall)
13th Sept	Meet the Teacher Year 3 (3:15pm in classroom)
14th Sept	Meet the Teacher Year 6 (3:15pm in classroom)
15th Sept	Meet the Teacher Year 1 (3:15pm in classroom)
18th Sept	Reception Children Full Time
19th Sept	Meet the Teacher Year 4 (3:15pm in classroom)
21st Sept	Year 5 Dover castle trip
26th Sept	Harvest Celebration at Church (10am—11am) Parents welcome.
29th Sept	School photos
18th Oct	Parents Evening (1:30pm—6:30 pm)
19th Oct	Year 1 and year 6 astrodome experience
20th Oct	End of term 1
23rd-27th Oct	Half term
30th Oct	Start of term 2
3rd Nov	Primary school applications open
4th Nov	New intake open day 10am—12noon
6th Nov	Flu immunisations for R-6 children
16th Nov	Kent Life trip
17th Nov	Children in Need (Non Uniform day)
12th Dec	Pantomime at the Marlowe Theatre years 2-6
15th Dec	End of term 2

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.