

The St Nicholas Post

Dear Parents and Carers,

8th November 2023

Welcome to term 2 and all its festivities. Children have come back into school with a great attitude and are really relishing the challenges of school life. I am currently showing prospective new families around the school, showing our school off is easy! Every classroom is full of involved children and excellent teaching, the school feels productive and happy and I am always full of pride as I take them round our wonderful school.

We are so pleased with the response to the October reading challenge, it really does highlight the enormous effort you put into your children's learning too. More about this below from Mrs Bullard.

This is a busy term so we will use the text system to keep you informed of the events taking place. They are also on the school calendar on the website, but please do see the office if you have any queries at all.

Mrs Kennedy

Autumn Reading Challenge

We had an amazing response to our Autumn Reading Challenge which took place over the half term holidays. 88 children word-searched, wrote poetry, carved pumpkins and read their way through the holidays. We also had some excellent instructions for making toffee apples, bread-baking and how to carve a pumpkin.

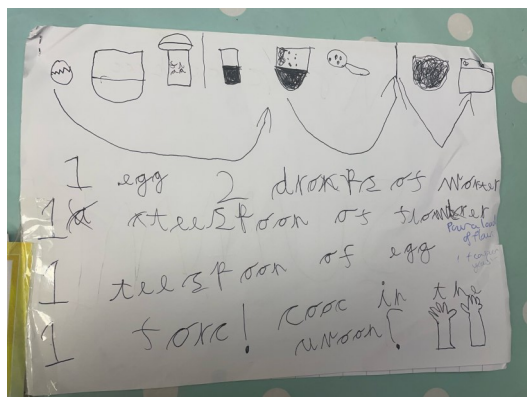
We are extremely proud of all those who took the time to join in with the fun. All participants were awarded 5 house points and were entered in a draw to win a National Book Token. Do look out for our next reading challenge which will take place over the Christmas holidays.

Happy reading!

Mrs Bullard



Summer's challenge was to write a set of instructions, so she made up her own recipe for 'potato bread' which she then followed, baked it and then ate it! Well done Summer, it looks delicious!



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Social Media



We keep our Facebook Page and Instagram up to date—please follow us. These are both a great way to keep up with all the great things that happen in school. So don't forget to give us a follow and a like!



Attendance update

We are currently at **96%**, let's move this up to 97% by the end of the term! Polite reminder that we have added three INSET days to the end of the May half term, this is in the hope of reducing the amount of holidays taken during term time. Holidays taken during term time will not be authorised.



Please can we ask that you park safely. Our school is a special place to be, it is a village location and a truly village school in ethos. With this comes a beautiful setting and small roads with limited space to park. I understand that this can be difficult but we need to be mindful of putting children in danger as well as considering the community.

Please do use the Pub car parks that the owners have kindly offered up and surrounding quieter roads. We have a new village police officer who is going to try to be present as much as possible too, this is to ensure safe parking, as there was an accident last week—this luckily didn't result in serious injury.

A huge thank you to Freddie, Marnie, Bella, Sacha, Rosie, Loui, Phoebe and Sophia who gave up their Saturday morning to show perspective new parents around our school. I can't tell you how proud I was :) Every adult commented on their conduct—they were polite, informative, kind and showed the St Nicholas Way. Hearing them talk so passionately about our school and the values made my heart smile!





Key dates—Terms 2 and 3

3rd Nov	Primary school applications open
4th Nov	New Intake Open Day 10am-12pm
6th Nov	Flu immunisations for R-6 children
9th Nov	Y6 Parent Meeting in classroom—Digital Reading Log
10th Nov	Non-Uniform for PTFA Christmas Fair donations
10th Nov	Basketball Tournament at Ursuline (invite only)
14th Nov	Y1 and Y2 Reading and Writing Parent Workshop at 2.30pm
15th Nov	Y3 and Y4 Football Festival at Margate Football Club (invite only)
16th Nov	Y6 Mayan Day at Kent Life
17th Nov	Children in Need (Non-Uniform day)
17th Nov	KS1 Disco 3.15-4.15pm KS2 Disco 4.30-5.45pm
20th Nov	Reception and Year 6 NCMP and Vision and Hearing Screening
1st Dec	PTFA Christmas Fair from 2pm—please come along and support :) All children to be collected at 2pm
6th Dec	Christmas Dinner Day
10th Dec	St Nicholas Day at Canterbury Cathedral
11th Dec	Infant Nativity 9.30am and 1.30pm
12th Dec	Years 2-6 Aladdin Pantomime at the Marlowe Theatre
12th Dec	Reception and Year 1 Christmas Quex trip
14th Dec	Junior Carol Concert in the church—6pm
15th Dec	End of Term—2pm finish
Term 3	
2nd Jan	INSET Day—School Closed
3rd Jan	Start of Term 3
15th Jan	Primary school applications close
9th Feb	End of Term 3

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.