

# The St Nicholas Post

Dear Parents and Carers,

15th December 2023

The Christmas break has arrived! It really has been a very busy time of year with fairs and, performances and concerts non uniform events etc... we have asked for your time, for your support and for your generosity and you have obliged willingly, at a time when you all have a huge amount of additional pressures from home life. We are truly grateful and we know how lucky we are to have such a great Parent body—thank you.

The children have continued to work hard this term, right up to the very last moment—and we are so proud of their attitude to make sure they are the best they can be. It's not easy when the excitement of Christmas is round the corner! Our job is so much more than teaching the academic curriculum—this is of course very important and something we do exceptionally well but we also value deeply personal development, each child is braver now, knows how to work together better, is prouder and has enjoyed your pride, has learnt patience, can accept applause and praise and knows that recognition and value comes in so many different guises. I could go on...

On a personal note, thank you for all your Christmas wishes, I hope you all have a fabulous Christmas, enjoying time with the people that you love.

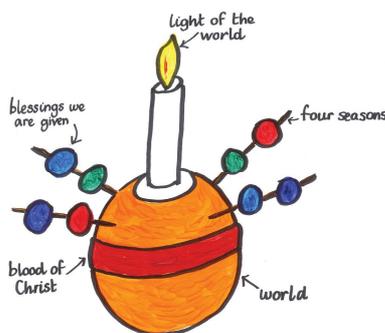
Mrs Kennedy

## Christmas English Challenge

Today your children will bring home our Christmas English Challenge. There are a host of fun Christmas themed activities to help keep your child engaged in learning over the break. Please return these to school on January 3<sup>rd</sup> Every returned challenge will receive 5 house points and we will select a winner from each class for the most effort put into completing it. Electronic copy can be found here: [KS1 challenge](#) and [KS2 challenge](#).

## Fire Pit Christingles

Our fabulous Buttercups each made a a Christingle and enjoyed a small gathering with parents around the fire pit where they enjoyed the story, 'Is it Christmas yet?' Then they got to light their candles, sing Christmas songs and told parents the meaning of the parts of the Christingle. Using the outdoor space we have to enjoy nature and reflect is so important to children's wellbeing so we like to make the most of it! As always it is lovely to welcome you parents in too!



**St Nicholas at Wade Church Crib Service:** This service will be held on Christmas eve at 4pm for any one wishing to attend. Why not make a Christingle at home to take with you—or if you can't go it's a really lovely activity and you have a special decoration over the holidays.

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

## Eco Ambassadors

Two initiatives from our Eco Ambassadors:




*Bring your empty biscuit, confectionary and cracker tubs into school by Friday 5th January 2024 to be recycled and help raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support too.*

### A Resolution for 2024

2024 Is OUR year to make a positive impact on our environment and world. Our New Years Resolution is to use less single use plastics with the introduction of WRAPPER FREE WEDNESDAYS.

### Wrapper Free Wednesday



**Together we can do it!**

Our aim is for lunches to be Wrapper Free on Wednesdays. You can help us by making sure that your child is not bringing wrappers to school which can not be recycled or reused. We would prefer not to send wrappers back home to add to your own rubbish. There are many alternatives to single use plastic that you could use such as containers for snacks and beeswax wraps for sandwiches.

TOGETHER we can have a bigger impact on our world.



### A winning Design!

Well done to Sophie who won the Canterbury Diocese Christmas card competition. Her lovely design of the advent candles was a perfect picture to send Christmas messages of love, hope peace and joy. Sophie's card will be being sent out across kent to friends of the Canterbury Diocese.

**A huge thank you to Mr Barnes for donating the Christmas books. Every child was able to receive a book to enjoy over the break, which is such a lovely gift!**

**Thank you to Mr Ternent who has jumped in to the rescue repairing play equipment and putting up boards without any fuss, he is always happy to help**



## See you on the 3rd January 2024!

## Some initial key dates:

Key dates—Term 3	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Start of Term 3
15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 6 Lancaster Model Questionnaire in School Primary Admission Applications Close
23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Year 3 Viking Day
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Safer Internet Day
9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	End of Term 3
Term 4	
19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Start of Term 4
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Reception Hearing & Vision Screening
5 <sup>th</sup> March	EYFS Dental Nurse Visit
7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Service End of Term 4
29 <sup>th</sup> March	BANK HOLIDAY

**Arts and Crafts Christmas Holiday Club**  
 Monday 18th – Thursday 21st  
 December 10:00–14:00pm  
 BAYPOINT, SANDWICH & THANET WANDERERS RUGBY CLUB BROADSTAIRS

**INCLUDES A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS VISIT TO QUEX PARK!**

**Activities include...**  
 Christmas arts & crafts – Christmas yoga – Christmas baking – Christmas party – Fun Games – Christmas dinner – presents – & much more

**FREE FOR CHILDREN IN RECEIPT OF A 'HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD' VOUCHER CODE OR £20 PER DAY**

**BREAKFAST CLUB & LATER PICK UP AVAILABLE AT BAYPOINT**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND BOOKING PLEASE VISIT WWW.WEAREBAYPOINT.CO.UK/NEWS**

## COPING AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas can be tough. That's why it's important to know there's always someone you can talk to.

0300 123 3393  
 Helpline  
 mind.org.uk

Text SHOUT to 85258  
 24/7 text service  
 giveusashout.org

116 123  
 24/7 helpline  
 samaritans.org

Text YM to 85258  
 24/7 text service  
 youngminds.org.uk

0800 58 58 58  
 Helpline for men  
 thecalmzone.net

0800 068 4141  
 Under 35s Helpline  
 papyrus-uk.org

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 and 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.**