

The St Nicholas Post

9th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are at the half way point in the school year, half a year that has been purposeful and productive and full of learning. While it seems to have passed by so quickly, for the children in school, they have worked tirelessly hard, being the best they can be in all aspects, just as we would expect and I am sure they will welcome the rest. However, maintaining progress during the break is important so please do encourage the children to complete the [reading challenge](#) that will come home today —working in partnership with you means that we achieve the best outcomes for the children.

Mrs Kennedy

My child feels safe at school

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● Strongly agree	52
● Agree	20
● Disagree	0
● Strongly disagree	0
● Don't know	0



1. St Nicholas is welcoming and the staff are approachable

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● Strongly agree	58
● Agree	14
● Disagree	0
● Strongly disagree	0
● Don't know	0



. Would you recommend St Nicholas to other parents?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	72
● No	0



My child is happy at school

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● Strongly agree	41
● Agree	28
● Disagree	2
● Strongly disagree	0
● Don't know	1



Parent Questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire sent home, the feedback you give means that we work together to be the best we can be! The results were really positive, we have a fabulous school community with welcoming and approachable staff, supportive parents who are involved and enjoy working with us, and happy children who have a safe and purposeful learning environment

The results showed us that you are proud to send your children to St Nicholas and you (Without exception) said that you would recommend our school to others!

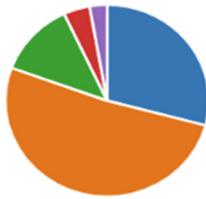
Thank you so much for all your kind, supportive words. The children hearing positive things about their school is incredibly powerful in influencing their views of school and therefore their outcomes. Please always speak highly of the school and the teachers in front of the children—this doesn't mean you have to agree with everything we do—but speak to us first so we can get things right. We will always want the same as you: the children being safe, happy and successful.

Be The Best You Can Be

I am kept informed of how my child is doing

[More Details](#)[Insights](#)

Strongly agree	21
Agree	37
Disagree	9
Strongly disagree	3
Don't know	2



My child is able to take part in clubs and events

[More Details](#)[Insights](#)

Strongly agree	30
Agree	35
Disagree	6
Strongly disagree	0
Don't know	1



Looking at the results, there are two areas that we want to improve, keeping you informed of how your child is doing and increasing the opportunities to get involved with clubs and events. This means that we are now looking carefully about how we can get even better in these particular areas.

We Need Your Help



Can you spare one hour, once a week after school? We are looking for volunteers to run after-school clubs some ideas are:

- **Book club**
- **Gardening**
- **Board games**
- **Music**
- **Sewing**
- **Cooking**
- **Arts and crafts**
- **Mini Golf**
- **Sports**
- **Any ideas welcome!**

We will provide and resources and materials that you may need. We will also have to get a DBS for you which the school will pay for.

Thank you to the Ling group who so kindly delivered a shiny empty skip and picked it up full to the brim! And all with no charge. Which means we can spend the money that we saved into resources for the children!



WORLD
BOOK
DAY

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 7th March 2024



Children are invited to dress up as a character from one of their favourite books. Please do not feel that you must spend money on expensive costumes. A simple decorated T-shirt and face paint can be very effective.

Tuesday 5th March - KS1 Reading cafe - 8.00 - 8.30am. The children and parents of KS1 are invited to come along to our cafe in the hall to enjoy some reading activities together as well as enjoy a quick breakfast bite.

Wednesday 6th March - KS2 Reading cafe - 8.00 - 8.30am. The children and parents of KS2 are invited to come along to our cafe in the hall to enjoy some reading together and demonstrate their reading skills, as well as enjoy a quick breakfast bite.

Wednesday 6th March - Book tokens - Children will receive their complimentary World Book Day token and will have the opportunity to exchange it for a special edition book supplied by The Classroom, Westgate.

Thursday 7th March - Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. They will enjoy a variety of book and reading themed activities during the day with their class.

Friday 8th March - We are so lucky to have the Looping the Loop theatre company leading each class in a drama workshop throughout the day. KS1 will enjoy 'The Gruffalo' and KS2, Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'.

Monday 11th March - 'Big Goldilocks' is coming to St Nicholas! Booster Cushion Theatre will perform to the whole school in what promises to be a fun and interactive show.

THE MASKED READER

Staff have joined together for some World Book Day fun. Several members of staff have disguised themselves as 'The Masked Reader' and have been recorded reading the blurb of their favourite books. Why not see if you can spot who are The Masked Readers by watching the videos? These will be available to view in the week after the half-term holiday and can be found on the school website - look for the 'Video Resource Centre' under the 'Children' section of the site. The readers will be unmasked in celebration assembly on Friday 9th March.



COMPETITION TIME - POTATO HEADS

Children are invited to decorate a humble potato, using their paints, crayons, fabric, glue, feathers, stickers and anything else you can lay your hands on, plus of course, their amazing imaginations. Think of Harry Pot-ato-ter, Crisp-topher Robin, The Big Friendly Potato ... the world is your potato! Entries should be brought into your child's class w/c 4th March 2024. The Reading Influencers will judge all entries and award a first place prize to each year group. Winners will be announced on World Book Day.



Reading is the key to your next adventure





Key dates—Term 4

19 th Feb	Start of Term
21 st Feb	Behaviour Parent Workshops at 2.30pm and 5.30pm
22 nd Feb	Safety in Action Work shop (year 6)
23 rd Feb	Reception trip to Westgate Fire Station and Library
26 th Feb	Year 1 trip to Wingham Wildlife PTFA Pre-Loved Costume Sale for World Book Day
27 th Feb	Reception Police Visit
1 st March	Reception Hearing and Vision screening
5 th March	Reception Dental Nurse Visit KS1 Reading Café 8-8.30am
6 th March	KS2 Reading Café 8-8.30am
7 th March	World Book Day – whole school
8 th March	Looping the Loop Theatre Performance Whole School
11 th March	Booster Cushion Theatre Performance EYFS
27 th March	Parents Evening 1.20pm-7pm
28 th March	Easter Service End of Term 2pm Finish
29 th March	Good Friday Bank Holiday

Term 5

15 th April	Start of Term
16 th April	Primary school offers sent by KCC
18 th April	Year 5 Egyptian Day
22 nd April	World Earth Day
1 st May	Class Photos
6 th May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
16 th May	Year 6 Residential meeting at 3.15pm Year 5 Kent Test and Residential meeting at 6pm
24 th May	End of Term

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.



Choose 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.