

The St Nicholas Post

21st April 2024

Dear All,

Welcome back to school, I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Easter break. What a great first week back, so much has been happening! From Egyptian workshops to baby chicks, from apples to writing with authors, not to mention sport and more sport! We are really proud of how the curriculum is enriched here at St Nicks and just as proud of how the children respond with enthusiasm to every opportunity! This term will continue to be busy so the key dates are below to help :)

Mrs Kennedy



Term 5

15 th April	Start of Term
16 th April	Primary school offers sent by KCC
18 th April	Year 5 Egyptian Day
19 th April	Quicksticks Hockey Tournament
19 th April	Year 3 Trip to Canterbury
22 nd -26 th April	Book fair in the library each day after school
22 nd April	World Earth Day
22 nd April	Year 1 Football festival
1 st May	Class Photos
1 st May	Bike and roll to school day
6 th May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
13 th May	Week of KS2 SATs
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

Parking Plea

Several parent and residents have brought issues to my attention regarding parking. Please be respectful of our local community and avoid blocking driveways and parking round at the Oaks. Can we make sure that we are leaving junctions clear particularly the junction of Bridges Close. Remember that the pubs are very happy for you to use their car parks and walk from there. Thank you in advance for making this work.



Don't Hold on to What's Wrong

This term's PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) topic is, 'Fake is a mistake', and is linked to our Christian value 'Honesty'. The key theme is about being truthful and being proud of who we are. Understanding that being authentically ourselves is the best way to be. We want the children to learn that comparing themselves to others is not helpful as we are all different but all have something special to bring! We encourage children to recognise their own strengths and what they need to practice so that they can be the best they can be! We also point out that we can't be good at everything and that is 100% okay!



I am very good at many things but there are also many times when I rely on my team, who have different skills and strengths to me. (Mrs Kennedy) We want the children to understand this, especially in a world where comparison is so prevalent in media.

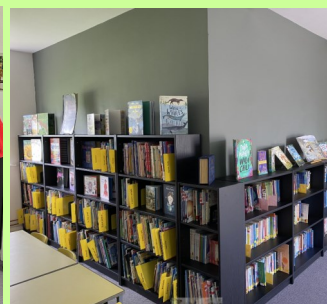
Follow this [link](#) to the Heartsmart video all about 'Fake is a Mistake'

At St Nicholas we:

- Admire and appreciate others qualities
- Admire and appreciate our own qualities
- Understand that it is good to have different qualities, because 'Team work makes the dream work!'



Thank you to the wonderful staff volunteers who gave up their Saturday to start part 1 of the great Library renovation! You work hard all week going the extra mile, to give up your Saturday is truly above and beyond! Thank you so much I know that the children will benefit enormously



Reading Challenge

We had a great response to the Easter Reading challenge. Thank you for encouraging your children to complete these, engaging in small bursts of learning over the breaks maintains the momentum of learning and means that we see children returning ready for the term ahead! Well done to Jude Tidy and Amelia Barnes our winners of this terms challenge. Not only do you get a prize the fact is that you are a better reader now than you were before the holiday and that is the real win! Here is some of the lovely things you got up to during the break...



Writing with an author!

Some of our year 3 and 4 children got to write with an author. They had a lovely time and a rewarding day working with the fabulous Ciaran Murtagh. They all came back full of enthusiasm and keen to share their wonderful stories both of the day and that they wrote. Thank you to Mrs Bullard for arranging it.

We were really proud of your work ethic and approach to the day children well done!



Uniform Donations

As we head towards summer you may be dusting off your summer uniforms. We would welcome any donations of outgrown uniform for our pre-loved uniform pool. This will be put out next week at the end of the school day on Friday. Any donations, big or small, will go to the PTFA. Passing on uniform means that we help our environment and each other with the cost! It's a win-win.

A visit from the Chicks



The chick returned with some friends. We were lucky to have another visit from “Many” the chick and this time he brought his friends. The children were able to ask more questions, they noticed how the chick had changed and talked about these differences. As always the children showed the St Nicholas-at-Wade way by using their courage and resilience to hold the lively chicks. Thank you to both Eli and Grace’s mum and Nan for bringing them in to share with us!

A beard like no other!

No not Mr Ford’s! but rather Mr Twits. Year two are reading Roald Dahl’s ‘The Twits’ this term and they began by making their very own beard, full of all the disgusting things that Mr Twit never, ever washes out of it!



Sports News—Medals all Round!

Hockey Tournament The 5/6 hockey team came an impressive second place out of 11 teams. They played well in the group stage and it was Amy who scored a last minute goal, sending us into the final.

The same result was achieved by our 3/4 team who also placed second and played fabulously throughout the tournament.

To top it off we came first in the football gaining a lovely ‘piece of silverware’ for our trophy cabinet which Mr Websper had indeed promised he would bring back! He really is so modest :)



A fabulous Egyptian workshop



Year 5 were transported back in time to 3000BC today, where they were transformed into Egyptians. First, they dressed in appropriate attire, complete with eye make-up, to conduct their day-to-day activities, including making flour using a rotary quern, weaving straw mats using reeds from the Nile, playing the board game senet, writing on papyrus, looking at artifacts and making their own timeline from now back to then! They were fantastic and really got involved with every element.

Apples, Apples, Apples (and so much more!)

Years R, 1 and 6 were all able to take part in a workshop all about apples. From learning about the blossom and how the petals become the base of the apple to pollination and the importance of bees. They got to make their own apple juice (it really was delicious), try apple chips and apple bars and learned so much about this wonderful fruit.



Bread making in Buttercups



Buttercups started the term with an exciting delivery of different bread mix, they worked as a team to make the dough, watching the changes that occurred. Once cooked, we taste tested to find out our favourite bread which was sourdough. We then made some delicious rolls. We then wrote some amazing instructions to share the process.

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.