

The St Nicholas Post

5th May 2023

Dear All,

We hope that you are all enjoying the extended weekend! We continue to work hard at school (the children and adults alike) to ensure that the children take advantage of the wonderful curriculum offer we have. We talk often with you about the importance of reading, and we know you support this through completing your child's reading record, encouraging your child to complete the reading challenges and importantly sharing stories and texts with them. We want to thank you for coming along to the book fair and buying books. The school were able to get lots of books, to add to our library, off the back of your purchases—thank you! Also a thank you to Mrs Bullard and the 'Reading Influencers' who ran the fair :)

Mrs Kennedy

On the topic of reading...

Author Visit (Former St Nick's Pupil!)

We are fortunate to be having [Penny Byrne](#), a former pupil of St Nicholas at Wade, and now a published author, coming to visit us on the morning of Friday 17th May. Penny currently lives in Jersey but she has family still here in the village and we can't wait to welcome her back into the school. The children will all get to meet her and hear her read some of her wonderful books and ask her lots of questions.



For Reception and years 1 & 2, Penny will be reading from 'Seymour's Seaside Picnic' which is very popular rhyming book. The bears all travel to one part of the island to have a picnic together. It talks a lot about the coast and you can see various animals and shells, perfect for your 'coastal' topic.

For years 3 & 4, we have 'Charlie & Spud and the Stone Age' and a book about healthy eating ('Rainbow Flo')

For years 5 & 6, Penny will talk about the Second World War. Jersey was occupied by the Germans, the only place in Britain, so it will be really interesting. Penny has written a children's book about it, as well as an adult book of people's memories ('Voices from the Occupation') and so will read excerpts from that to these two years.

Further information about Penny can be found [Here](#).

Thank you Mrs Bullard for arranging all of this :)

Values Champions

A huge well done to our year 1 and 2 footballers who represented the school fantastically at the football festival. We are so proud of your resilience and high spirits—that's 'The St Nicholas Way'



Courage, Resilience, Honesty, Kindness, Be the best you can be

More Sporting News

We are proud to take our children to sporting events—they are such great ambassadors for the school and continue to demonstrate our values throughout each event. Well done to our Rugby team, who were not only great sports but also won three out of the five matches they played. Well done to you and thank you to the parents who support them in taking part :) Thank you to Mrs Patterson and Mr Websper for making all this possible!



Thank you to the wonderful Miss Jermy who spent her day off buying plants for the school allotment and refreshing the flowerbeds in school. Thank you for teaching us all, the value of our environment – you are amazing :)



IT IS NOT HAPPY PEOPLE WHO ARE
THANKFUL
IT IS THANKFUL PEOPLE WHO ARE
HAPPY

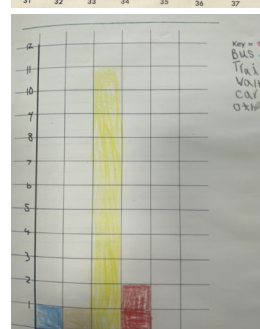
Practise Gratitude

Andy Goldsworthy Inspired Nature Art



Year 4 had a wonderful time creating art from nature. They looked at the work of Andy Goldsworthy and were inspired! We are so fortunate to have such beautiful grounds that provide everything the children needed to make some real masterpieces.

Meanwhile as part of their topic Urban Pioneers, Year 3 have been looking at urban art—they have explored the work of Banksy. A trip to Canterbury allowed them to look at a wide range of urban artwork as well as completing some great geographical fieldwork !



1. What were most people in the city for?

	Tally	Total
Museums	I	1
Shopping		5
Work		3
Other		2

3. What was the most popular?

	Tally	Total
City		10
Town		4
Village	I	1

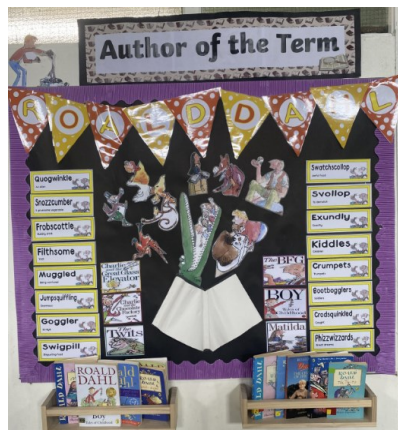
2. How did most people travel to the city?

	Tally	Total
Bus	I	1
Train		0
Walk	I	1
Car		5
Cycle		2

4. What was the most popular Urban Art?

	Tally	Total
Murals		2
Street art		5
Graffiti		3
Other		2

Author of the Term: Roald Dahl



Roald Dahl is a beloved British author known for his imaginative and captivating stories that have enchanted readers of all ages for generations. His books, such as "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "Matilda," and "The BFG," We encourage you to support your child's learning by reading Roald Dahl's books together at home and critically discussing the themes and characters in his stories. We have many of his books in the library so do take one to share at home :)

Leave the Lawn!

Mrs Hall and our Eco Ambassadors are encouraging you all to leave the lawn alone as part of 'No Mow May'. This is an easy project to get involved with—you just need a lawn. If the whole lawn is an ask too much, you could leave an area to go wild! Any small area will help our bees!



The Summer DISCO is arriving soon

Summer Disco & Non uniform day!

Friday 17 May 2024

Year R,1&2: 3.15 - 4.15 £5
includes packet of sweets, packet of crisps & a glow item
(children do not need to bring any money with them)

Year 3,4,5&6: 4.30 - 5.45 £3
we will be selling snacks & glow bits at this disco so price is for ticket only and does not include same items as KS1 disco - children can bring spending money for this disco.

All disco tickets to be purchased via school money app please by Tuesday 14 May.

Tombola Donations please for non-uniform day:
Years R, 1 & 2: Summer Toy
Years 3 & 4: Sweets
Years 5 & 6: Bottle of booze

Thanks to the PTFA and to everyone who attends these events. The funds raised from this, allow us to enhance the experience the children have at St Nicks. They are currently supporting our Library refurbishment which will have an enormous impact.

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.