

The St Nicholas Post

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all enjoyed a particularly sunny summer. I am pleased to report that the children have settled back into school life wonderfully. Positivity can be felt in every corridor and classroom and we are looking forward to a great year of learning. I am really enjoying getting to know the children and staff, and of course you. The warm welcome I have received from the whole community has been overwhelming, I know this is indicative of the ethos here at St Nicholas, truly a place to belong!

I will continue to be present every morning and afternoon on the gate, this is so that I am able to welcome the pupils and adults every morning but also so that I am available to help with any questions, worries or feedback, please do approach me, no matter how big or small the query. Alternatively, please do email me directly on headteacher@st-nicholas-birchington.kent.sch.uk I am looking forward to working in partnership with you, making sure that every child is happy at school and is the very best they can be.

Mrs Kennedy

Our Newest Pupils!

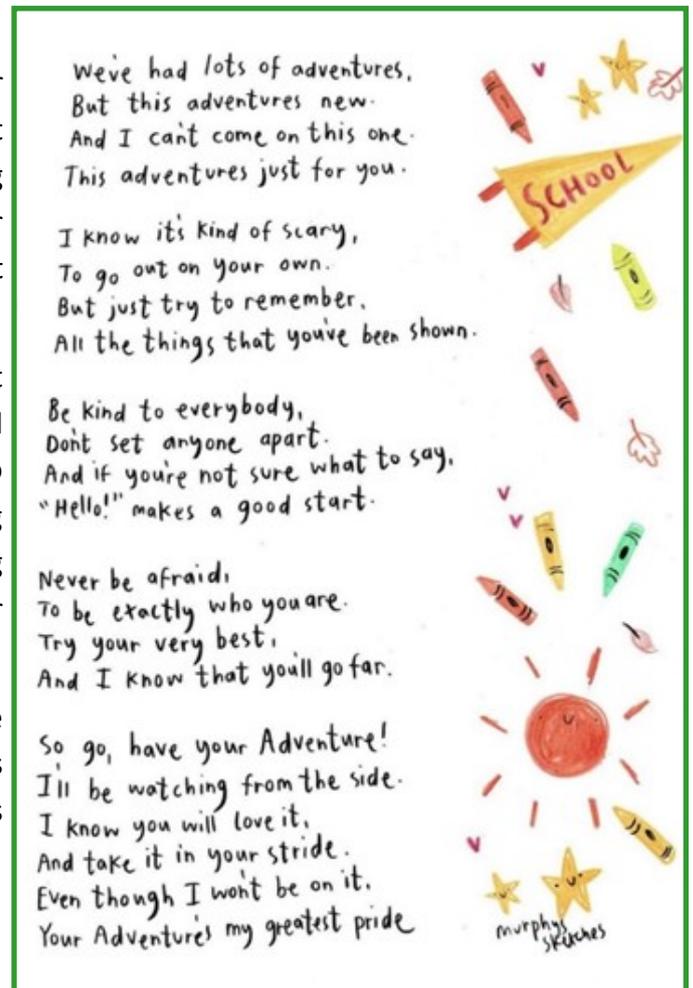
We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new parents and children who will be joining our St Nicholas School Family. This week we have been visiting all the newest members of Buttercup Class on our home visits. We have loved meeting you all and can't wait to see you in school next week.

The Reception year is a very special one indeed. It marks the first formal year of education for your child and the Early Years Curriculum is specially designed to allow your child to develop a thirst for learning which will serve them for their entire life. Transitioning into the first year at school is important not only for your child, but also for you as parents/carers.

Please be assured that we will do everything that we can to ensure that the transition into school runs as smoothly as possible for everyone. Our door is always open so please ask if you have any concerns or queries.

Kind Regards Miss Buckley

EYFS and KS1 Leader and Teacher



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II may you rest in peace, with love and respect from all at St Nicholas-at-Wade CE Primary School.



1926-2022

Meet the Teacher

At St Nicholas, we know that working in partnership with parents is fundamental to ensuring the best outcomes for children. We want you to feel part of your child's school journey and to build excellent relationships with all the adults in school, particularly their class teachers. We would like to invite you in, to have a small taster as to life in your child's class. You will get to chat with the teacher, see where they sit, their books, the things they are learning and importantly you will have a window into a part of their life that, years ago, was closed to parents. The very best part of it is that the children feel they are bringing you into their 'domain' their pride and enthusiasm is always evident in their utter excitement. Save the date texts have come home and dates are also included on page 3 of the newsletter.



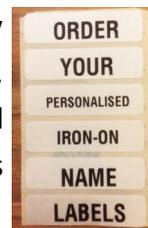
Harvest Festival: Come and join us on Monday 26th September @ 10am

Come and join the children and staff as we to give thanks to God for the crops, which have been safely harvested. We will be walking to the church for a 10am start. The children will offer up donations of food and will celebrate through poetry, prayer and song as well as hearing bible readings. We would love for you to join us!

Please can all donations of food arrive in school by Friday 23rd September. The church donate these offering to Thanet Foodbank. Thank you :)

Lost and Found!

Please can we ask that you double check that all uniform, lunch bags and bottles are clearly labelled with your child's name. It means that we are able to reunite misplaced items quickly. Please do ask at the school office if you need any school uniform—we have lots of donated items in excellent condition available. Using pre-loved items helps our environment and helps us to move away from a 'throw away' society. It's a win-win :)



Healthy choices!



A reminder that any snacks for break time are healthy. Fruit, vegetables, cheese, houmous are all acceptable. Please see the link below for some good ideas. There should be no chocolate or crisps.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/healthier-snacks/>

School Lunch

A note to say that the cost of school **lunch has increased to £2.42**. School lunches remain **free to all children in reception, year 1 and year 2** and we encourage you to take this offer up. The lunches are delicious and there is also the offer on baked potato if the main meal doesn't appeal. The roast on Wednesday was fabulous and there were empty plates all round! The kitchen are able to accommodate vegetarian allergies.

Inset Days

The dates have now been set for the year and are uploaded onto the school website for future reference. Schools will be closed for staff development on the following days:

- Friday 21st October 2022
- Monday 5th June 2023
- Tuesday 6th June 2023

Key Dates for Kent Test and Secondary School Admission



Thursday 1st September: Secondary school applications open

Thursday 8th September: Pupils who have registered will be completing Kent Test assessments.

Thursday 18th October: 11+ results will be emailed direct to parents (after 4.00pm)

Monday 31st October: Final day for secondary school applications

Apply online at: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places>

If you have any queries regarding secondary school admissions or the 11+ (including the appeals process) please contact Mrs Kennedy or Mr Neal, who will be happy to provide further guidance.



Key dates—Term 1

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| 5th Sept | School starts |
| 8th Sept | Kent test for registered year 6 pupils |
| 14th Sept | Meet the Teacher Year 3 (3:15pm in classroom) |
| 14th Sept | Parent Reading Workshop for year R and 1 (2:30pm or 6pm main hall) |
| 15th Sept | Meet the Teacher Year 6 (3:15pm in classroom) |
| 16th Sept | Meet the Teacher Year 1 (3:15pm in classroom) |
| 19th Sept | Meet the Teacher Year 5 (3:15pm in classroom) |
| 19th Sept | Understanding my Child's Behaviour Workshop (1pm) |
| 20th Sept | Meet the Teacher Year 4 (3:15pm in classroom) |
| 21st Sept | Meet the Teacher Year 5 (3:15pm in classroom) |
| 22nd Sept | Dover Castle Trip Years 5&6 |
| 26th Sept | Harvest Celebration at Church (10am—11am) |
| 30th Sept | Individual Photos |
| 18th Oct | Times Table Rock Start Tournament (Whole school) Get practising! |
| 19th Oct | Parents Evening (1:30pm—6:30 pm) |
| 20th | Last day of school for children. |
| 21st Oct | Inset Day |

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Change to the School Day: Consultation

As part of the consultation process I am writing to you about a proposed change to the school day. In school every minute counts, every extra minute of learning time accumulates and the impact over time is measurable. At St Nicholas, we want to maximise the learning opportunities for our children – they deserve to make the most of the school day. By starting the school day earlier children will have increased learning opportunities and will also benefit from a smoother start to the school day.

The proposal is to start the school day 15 minutes earlier, taking the register at 8:45am. This will allow children to complete early work or attend pre-teaching interventions and lessons will then begin promptly at 9am. The gate will open at 8:35am and children coming in beyond 8:45 will be considered late. This change is due to take effect from term two but the school will operate a 'soft start' to this from the 19th September to give children, parents and staff the opportunity to get used to the new school day as well as passing on any feedback. Therefore the gates will be open at 8:35am from the 19th. **The official start of the school day will remain 9am and no child will be registered late at this time.**

This change will also ensure that we are then meeting the minimum 32.5 hours of teaching per week, outlined by the Department for Education that is due to take effect from September 2023. A link to this document is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/length-of-the-school-week-minimum-expectation>

I have already spoken to the Full Governing Board about this proposal and have gained their full support. I will take the final recommendation back to the chair once I have the views of all stakeholders. If you do have any questions about this please do speak to me. If you would like any views to be considered for this consultation please do email me by the Friday 30th September, so that I can take them to the governing body. All views are both welcome and important to us as part of this process.

Mrs T Kennedy