

The St Nicholas Post

24th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to term 4. With the promise of spring just round the corner, we are looking forward to a busy term. The children have been enjoying the first week back and I am so proud of how hard they are working. The, now not so new, house names (Courage, Resilience, Honesty and Kindness) are now part of the school lexicon and children are demonstrating these in all aspects of school life. We are working particularly hard on resilience and want our children to develop a growth mind-set, when approaching new or challenging work.

Thank you, as always, for supporting the additional learning that we send home—the maths and reading challenges were a huge success and it really does maintain the progress that they make during term time.

Mrs Kennedy



Key dates—Term 4	
20th Feb	Start of Term 4
21st Feb	Life Long Ago workshop Y1&2 (In school time)
27th Feb	Start of Book Week, see separate poster for full list of activities
27th Feb	Living Histories Egyptian Day Workshop Y5&6 (In school time)
28th Feb	Year 1&2 Clip and Climb Festival (invite only)
28th Feb	Zones of Regulation Parent Workshop 2:30pm & 6:00pm
2nd March	World Book Day (Strike Day—School open as normal)
4th March	Cross Country at Quex Park—Go St Nicholas!
9th March	Year 6 Safety in Action trip
10th March	PTFA Mothers' Day Shop
14th March	Police visiting Early Years for topic 'Who Are You Going to Call?'
15&16th March	National Strike Days Action TBC
22nd March	Parents Evening (1:30pm—7:00 pm)
31st March	Easter Service at the Church (details to follow)
31st March	Last day of Term 4 (2:00pm finish)

WORLD BOOK DAY THURSDAY 2ND MARCH 2023



Changing lives through a love of books and reading

Children are invited to dress up as a character from one of their favourite books or a character from Alice in Wonderland.

Friday 24th Feb - PTFA sale of pre-loved costumes

KS1 Stay and Read Sessions - go to your child's class at drop off time, stay and read a book with your child and their friends.

Reception: Monday 27th Feb

Year 1: Tuesday 28th Feb

Year 2: Wednesday 1st March

Mon 27th Feb - Book Tokens - children will receive book tokens and have the opportunity to exchange them for a free book.

Mon 27th Feb - Author Visit - Tom Delahant - during worship. Signed copies of Tom's book will be available to purchase

The Wandering Lamb - Tom Delahant

Thurs 2nd March - all children will take part in a workshop provided by 'Bringing Books to Life' (funded by our PTFA)

Our Bringing Books to Life dance workshops give children a unique insight into books by using dance and movement to tell stories. During the dance workshop our choreographer will work with each class, developing responses to some of our most beloved children's books through language, movement and dance.

Thurs 2nd March - PTFA Pre-loved Book Shop - donations of good quality books will be set out for children select and purchase.

Can you help?

Calling all dads, uncles, grandads.... could you spare a few minutes to come and share a book with your child's class? Please let the office know and they will take a few details from you (your availability week beginning 27th Feb / your book choice)

Parking Plea

Please be mindful that we share the village. Park how you would expect people to park in your road.

Spaces are limited and the local community want to support us, so the two public houses, **'The Sun' and 'The Bell' have very kindly offered up their carpark for use by the parents** at drop off and pick up times. This will give children a short walk or scoot into school—a great way to start the day. Please make use of this offer so that we keep the roads safer for everyone.



Delving into the Past

Pupils are unearthing information about the rampaging creatures that prowled the Earth with their enormous swishing tails and their fearsome teeth. Years 1 and 2 became palaeontologists – scientists who study bones and fossils – and used special brushes to uncover a range of fossils and identify the creatures. The Life Long Ago workshop is part of their exciting Dinosaur Planet topic that includes a range of activities such as classifying animals according to their diet, and writing non-fiction reports about dinosaurs.



Calling All Parents

Mrs Kent will be running a drop in clinic on Thursday 3rd March at 9:30 for parents wishing to help support children's learning in school, for example hearing children read. If you can spare a couple of hours a week our children really benefit from having the opportunity to showcase their reading and have another audience.



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.