

The St Nicholas Post

Dear All,

24th March 2023

News this week of character development, parents consultations, visits to 'Little Seaside Town' and much more! At last the sun is shining—well it was at the time of writing! We are now quickly approaching the Easter break so if I don't see you at the Church on Friday—Happy Easter from us all.

Mrs Kennedy

Character Development—Values Champions!

At St Nicholas we believe in 'building on the solid rock', we want to give the children something solid to stand on, foundations that will allow them build a future for themselves that will be grounded in their own personal character beliefs and values. We see personal development as a primary aim for educators and know that a school's contribution to a child's life goes hand in hand with academic development. We want children to leave St Nicholas as honest, courageous, resilient and kind individuals who:

- Take personal responsibility, so that they are able to control their actions and responses
- Build and maintain healthy relationships
- Are resilient and face setbacks
- Respect and value difference and similarity
- Are courageous for themselves **and** for those who may not have a voice
- Show kindness and gratitude to themselves and others
- Are prepared to work hard for themselves and for the greater good
- **Are happy (As a result of all these things!)**

Please can you **share your child's successes at home** so that we work together to recognise these wonderful values in your children. **Some** ideas are below, we will be publishing them in future newsletters :) Please send to headteacher@st-nicholas-birchington.kent.sch.uk

Be the best you can be... It's who we are!

Courage	Resilience	Honesty	Kindness
Trying new things like clubs, riding a bike, mastering a new skill Speaking up for someone else Staying away from home Trying new foods...	Having another go when they have failed Spending a long time on something like tying shoe laces Struggling, but seeing it through Recognising they have to work hard...	Knowing what they are good at but also what they need to work on Telling the truth Take responsibility when they have made a mistake Follow through on what you say you will do (I will tidy my room...)	Helping at home Playing with siblings Finding the good in others Being kind to themselves—recognising how hard they work or how much they care...

Parent Consultations

Working in partnership with you is something we place a great deal of importance and pride in—we know that you are the biggest influence in your child's life and we try to maximise on this! Thank you so much for attending the parent consultations, it is a joy to open our doors to you so that you get to be a part of your child's school life.

Thank you for all the lovely feedback. We continue to strive to 'be the best we can be' and you telling us what's going well and where to improve helps us enormously.

Parent Helpers

Thank you to our wonderful parents who come in to help with reading. You have given up your time for training and are now invaluable of our reading squad! The children are really benefiting from your time and commitment :)



Champion Boxer Hannah Beharry Come to St Nicholas at Wade



We are very excited about our athlete visit on Tuesday 25th April. Our athlete will be former European Championship Winning boxer Hannah Beharry. She will be leading an inspirational assembly for the pupils and then each class will be completing a fitness circuit with her in the hall. 60% of the money raised from sponsorships will go towards PE equipment for our school. The rest will go towards funding elite Sports for Champions Athletes to help fund their careers as they train 35+ hours a week, so money raised is used for things such as their travelling costs, medical

expenses etc. Lets try and raise as much money as we can! Hopefully the pupils will enjoy the day and this will inspire them to get moving, be healthy and lead active lives! When you have collected your money please return it to the school office with your sponsor form. Please ensure your name is on the form as there are some prizes up for grabs.

Rugby Heroes

Despite the mud and the rain, the children had a fantastic morning at the Thanet Passport Six Nations Touch Rugby tournament at Thanet Wanderers. We learnt so much about the sport and got better and better as the morning went on - a true example of the St Nicholas values - courage and resilience.



Smashing Spelling!

On Monday our four 'Spelling Bee' finalists went head to head with the finalists from Monkton, Minster and Birchington Schools. We are very proud of all the children and delighted to have come away with 2 winners! Huge congratulations to Eva, Charlie, Ben and Charlotte, it is always lovely to have had an opportunity to take part in a competition, but the true sense of achievement comes from the hard work you have put in to make you better spellers now than you were 4 weeks ago, and that goes for every child in the school who took up the challenge to learn the spellings. We do these things because we want to be the best we can be... it's who we are!



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.