

The St Nicholas Post

5th May 2023

Dear All,

We hope that you are all enjoying these 4 day weeks! They are certainly moving the term along—a bit too quickly to be honest! School life is purposeful and productive and the children are working hard to ensure that they get the most from everything on offer. We have been really pleased with the response to home learning set and the Coronation work has been very thoughtful; it is clear we have lots of future leaders here at St Nicholas at Wade.

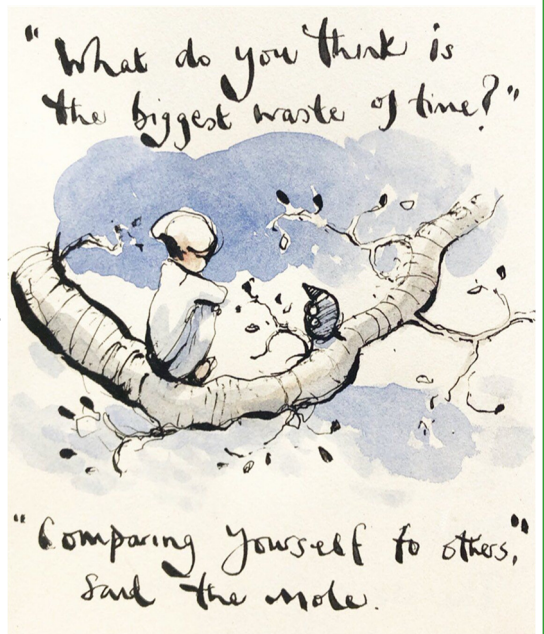
I hope you all enjoy the extended weekend for the King's Coronation.

Mrs Kennedy

Heartsmart

This term in PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education) our Heartsmart theme is 'Fake is a mistake'. The children are learning that they are all unique and special. We want the children to value themselves and the qualities that they have and can share with others. Comparison has always been destructive, and in our society today, with the increase of exposure to 'perfection', it is even more difficult for our young people. With this in mind, we are encouraging the children to admire others' qualities that are different to their own, recognising them both as equally important.

Pointing out their unique qualities and helping them to admire others without comparing would really support our work on this :)



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 took home the trophy for best banner! Our Football team were also very successful at the Margate Football Festival. We will have to invest in a large trophy cabinet soon! Thank you to Mrs Patterson for making all this possible!



Honesty, Courage, Kindness, Resilience, Be The Best You Can Be

Courage, Resilience, Honesty, Kindness, Be the best you can be... It's who we are!

This week the Values Champion is Finlay Mayo

Finlay won the blue card award at football this week for the 2nd time. He achieved it for kindness and not giving up! His confidence has come on massive amounts and he wanted me to share this achievement with his teachers :)

We are really proud of you Finlay, although not surprised that you got this award for your kindness—we see you being kind every day in school! You constantly show the St Nicholas Way, demonstrating all our values! Keep being you.



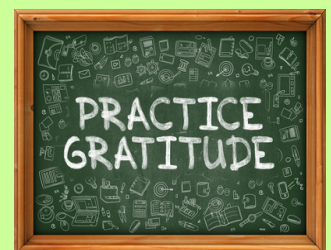
Industrial Action

So far we have remained open during the industrial action that has been happening across the country. While our teachers have made the decision to be in school, I wanted to extend support to the ongoing dispute. Our teachers work incredibly hard, and I say that without diminishing the hard work of other professions. Teachers are leaving the profession in large numbers. Our children **deserve** the best quality teachers, our future needs them! Without funding, schools are having to make difficult decisions about staffing and resources. We are concerned for our education system and without a change it will end in:

- Not enough teachers
- Not enough money in schools
- Buildings in a state of disrepair
- Demoralised workforce
- The loss of goodwill that keeps things going

We want to remain open for the children—we know that every minute counts! But we do want the government to fund schools properly, and pay teachers fairly so that we can give our children the very best teachers, provision and environment.

Thank you to the Office team, Mrs McPherson, Mrs Howard and Mrs Gill. The school could not operate without you! From arranging trips, organising clubs, throwing parties through to maintaining communication, making sure that children are in school safely and supporting all the team you are amazing :)



The Kings Coronation - Highlights of a Moment in History!



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.