

# The St Nicholas Post

19th May 2023

Dear All,

Welcome to what is the last newsletter of term five. However, we do use social media to keep you up to date in between these letters so please remember to follow us on [Facebook](#) and on [Instagram](#) as we post regularly on all the fabulous things that are happening in school. Please also check out our [new fancy website!](#) We hope you like it—the key areas are now more accessible from the home page. The class pages, newsletters, calendar and latest updates are just a click away!

Please make a note that there are two inset days following this half term break so children return back to school on Wednesday 7th June. We are using this time to work on the curriculum—refining the provision to build a rigorous and sequential learning experience that is bespoke to St Nicholas at Wade.

Mrs Kennedy

## Attendance Drive!

Attendance continues to be a nationwide initiative. This is because there is a strong link between future success and high attendance at school. We want the children to develop a healthy attitude to coming into school regularly, being dependable and building resilience. Learning now the habits of a lifetime—we all wake up feeling ugh sometimes, shaking that feeling off and getting in is truly the best remedy sometimes. There will of course be times when children are not well enough to attend and we expect this.

**Our current whole school percentage for attendance sits at 94.4% we want to get this to 95% for term 6. Please help us to reach this—there will be a whole school reward of summer activities and a barbeque on the field in the last week of term.**



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

6 days or less  
absence per year  
**97% or above**  
VERY GOOD  
THIS IS YOUR  
TARGET

Between  
7 and 19 days  
absence per year  
**90% - 96%**  
BELOW  
EXPECTATIONS

More  
than 19 days  
absence per year  
**Under 90%**  
POOR  
ATTENDANCE



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 Champions are:

**Iris Ireton.** We are really proud of you for showing our values, particularly courage and resilience! You have been really courageous as a reading ambassador, coming up with initiatives and speaking out to improve the provision for everyone. The reading ambassadors will be writing for upcoming newsletters thanks to you! So watch this space.



**The McSkeane brothers!** Jack's football team got to the final of a tournament today and came 2nd in the whole tournament—he should be very proud! Equally, Jase has reason to be beaming with pride as he was awarded superstar of the match! Well done both of you on demonstrating all the values it takes to succeed!

### Bikeability Reminder

For those children taking part in Bikeability please remember to bring your bikes in on Monday—Thursday. For ease, they can stay in school and will be kept locked up overnight. Cycling is fast and fun, and gives children freedom and independence to get around—bikeability will make sure they learn the skills to keep themselves safe on the roads! Don't forget your helmets!

#### **Why Cycle? Here's why:**

- increased cardiovascular fitness.
- increased muscle strength and flexibility.
- improved joint mobility.
- decreased stress levels.
- improved posture and coordination.
- strengthened bones.



**Thank you to Chloe's dad (Year 6) Aaron Kluibenschadl and his team of community wardens who have kindly offered to security tag all of the year 6 bikes! The wardens will be in next week to do this :)**





## Time Table Rock Stars!

Thank you for sending in your (barely recognisable) children in the spirit of Rock! The children took part in the tournament with enthusiasm and expertise! I couldn't believe the speed of those fingers tapping away and the focus was astounding. While this makes for a fun morning, the value is in engaging the children in mastering their multiplication facts. These facts underpin many areas of mathematics and speedy recall will help them enormously. It was lovely to have a guest appearance of the Spice Girls who reunited just for this occasion as well as many other rock legends :)



## Our Rock Star Champions

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| EYFS   | Hattie, Eden, Autumn, Ivy              |
| Year 1 | Nancy Eaves, George, Florence, Eleanor |
| Year 2 | Maisie, Ezra, Teddy                    |
| Year 3 | Stanley, Rowan and Hannah              |
| Year 4 | Millie, Freya, Thomas                  |
| Year 5 | Ava M, Ava L-W and Rosie               |
| Year 6 | Leo, Emelia, Flynn                     |

# 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.**