

# The St Nicholas Post

Dear Parents and Carers,

16th December 2022

The Christmas break has arrived! It really has been a very busy time of year with fairs and, performances and concerts non uniform events etc... we have asked for your time, for your support and for your generosity and you have obliged willingly, at a time when you all have a huge amount of additional pressures from home life. We are truly grateful and we know how lucky we are to have such a great Parent body—thank you.

The children have continued to work hard this term, right up to the very last moment—and we are so proud of their attitude to make sure they are the best they can be. It's not easy when the excitement of Christmas is round the corner! My highlight of the term has been the Nativity and Carol services. Our job is so much more than teaching the academic curriculum—this is of course very important and something we do exceptionally well but we also value deeply personal development, each child is braver now, knows how to work together better, is prouder and has enjoyed your pride, has learnt patience, can accept applause and praise and knows that recognition and value comes in so many different guises. I could go on...

Thank you for all your Christmas wishes, I hope you all have a fabulous Christmas, enjoying time with the people that you love.

Mrs Kennedy

## **Christmas Literacy Challenge**

Today your children will bring home our Christmas Literacy Challenge. There are a host of fun Christmas themed activities to help keep your child engaged in learning over the break. Please return these to school on January 3<sup>rd</sup> Every returned challenge will receive 5 house points and we will select a winner from each class for the most effort put into completing it.

## **Fire Pit Treat**

It has been a busy term for reading at St. Nicholas-at-Wade. This week many of the children enjoyed hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows around the fire pit as a treat for reaching their reading targets. There will be another treat (yet to be announced!) at the end of term 3.



## **Library Christmas Reading Challenge**

Why not sign up to the Library Mini reading challenge? Enjoy your Christmas break and lots of lovely reading. <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/news/general/join-the-christmas-mini-challenge>

Miss Kent & Miss Buckley

## Poppy Appeal



On behalf of the Royal British Legion—THANK YOU! You raised £191 for this charity. The work that they do could not happen without the generosity of people like you!

## Crib and Christingle service at St Nicholas at Wade Church

This service will be held on Christmas eve at 4pm for any one wishing to attend. Why not make a Christingle at home to take with you—or if you can't go it's a really lovely activity and you have a special decoration over the holidays.

# Christingle

ORANGE  
the world

RED TAPE  
God's love for the world



CANDLE

Jesus - he shows us what God is like

4 COCKTAIL STICKS  
4 corners of the world

SWEETS  
the good gifts God gives us

<https://lucyathome.co.uk>

# Merry Christmas

**We will see you back in school on the 3rd January!**

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.**