

# The St Nicholas Post

18th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The term continues to progress with lots of exciting learning opportunities. Every teacher has planned a curriculum full of enrichment. Please do look at the class pages on the website to see what happens in each year group: <https://www.st-nicholas-birchington.kent.sch.uk/class-pages/>

On page 3 is a document inspired by a 'tweeter' called The Secret Headteacher. You are hopefully aware by now that **I value deeply the relationship between school and home** and this poster gives advice on how to build that relationship. I will delve deeper into each tip over the coming newsletters—so watch this space. In the meantime, the poster will come home on Monday (for your fridges) with the oldest and only children.

As always I am always available if you have any feedback, questions or concerns.

Mrs Kennedy

**A reminder of key dates at this busy time of year:**



Key dates—Term 2	
18th November	Children in Need Day
25th November	Non Uniform for PTFA Christmas fair donation. Christmas jumper shop £2 per jumper (afterschool on playground)
1st December	Flu Immunisations R-6
2nd December	PTFA Christmas shop (During school day) Gifts are £2-£4 each pre-wrapped
6th December	Reception and year 1 visit to Quex
7th December	Christmas dinner ( wear Christmas jumpers)
9th December	PTFA Christmas Fair (2pm-3.30) Parents welcome at 2pm to take their children round the fair. Teachers will take other children round.
12th December	Carol service at the church 5:30pm for children to arrive, parents enjoy a warm drink and mince pie. Service starts at 6pm.
13th December	Reception, year 1, year 2 Nativity 9:30am and 1:30 pm at the Church. Refreshments available from the PTFA
15th December	Pantomime at the Marlowe years 2-6 (during school hours)
16th December	Last day of term finishes at 2pm.

## St Nicholas Day Celebration at Canterbury Cathedral



Mr Guy and Mrs Palmer will be taking the school choir to sing at Canterbury Cathedral on Sunday 4th December. This is to Celebrate our school's namesake, St Nicholas; the service starts at 5:30pm. All are welcome to this, it is a wonderful service where schools come together to sing and celebrate! The setting of the Cathedral provides a simply stunning backdrop and a unique opportunity for the children in which to perform.

If you can't make it in person you can watch the service as it is streamed live:  
<https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/worship/our-services/online-worship/>

## Reading News!

Our Reading Ambassadors have been busy planning reading events for this term, we are excited to announce these:

Marshmallows, hot chocolate and shared reading at the fire-pit.

We plan to have a fire-pit, hot chocolate read and share book treat for all children in years 2-6. who reach their reading target. This will be on the last week of term so children have plenty of time to read and quiz. Get quizzing children.

## Secret Santa Book Swap

Children in KS2 will be invited to join in with our Secret Santa Book Swap week beginning 5th December. Look out for more information coming soon.

## Basketball hopes!



Well done to our Basketball team who are through to the finals due to take place at Ursuline next Friday—Good luck, we know you can do it!

## Children in Need

Thank you for your generosity! We raised a staggering £279.73 ( we had some extra donations at the end of the day pushing the total to ..... £285.83



# Thank you!

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.**