

Our 2023 Starters

Information Pack



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**Headteacher: Mrs Taralee Kennedy
Assistant Headteacher and SENCO: Mr Neal
Attendance and SENCo Assistant: Mrs Moon
EYFS and Key Stage One Leader: Miss Buckley**

WELCOME

As we begin this new and exciting partnership between school and home, we would like to wish a warm welcome to all parents and new children. Our Reception Team consists of Mrs Hall, Miss Buckley and their support staff.

A Warm Welcome from the Headteacher

I know that choosing your child's school is one of the most important decisions you have to make. A decision that links us in partnership for the next 7 years and will inevitably leave an indelible mark on each child. It is our privilege to have your children in our care and it is our biggest responsibility to ensure that each child is challenged, inspired and achieves beyond their imaginings.

Our belief at St Nicholas is to ensure that each child should feel valued and heard. They should have the very best opportunities for personal and spiritual development, which will allow them to flourish now, and in their future lives. They will be taught all the skills they need to forge strong positive relationships built on mutual respect and they will have the very best learning opportunities which enable them to experience success. My promise to you as your Headteacher is that I, along with the team at St Nicholas, will turn this belief into reality.

I am very much looking forward to meeting each child and getting to know them as well as working alongside you in making sure that your child thrives at St Nicholas-at-Wade.

Taralee Kennedy

FAMILY PICNIC (STAY AND PLAY) – WEDNESDAY 28th JUNE 2023

We would like to invite both the children and their parents to have a picnic lunch (**please bring your own picnic**) together in Buttercup class Garden on **Wednesday 28th June 2023, 1.15pm – 2.15pm**. This will give you a chance as parents to meet each other and the children a chance to play with their new friends after a sandwich or two! It is also an opportunity for you to try some activities with your child so that they can start with confidence. Please could you confirm your attendance via the school office.

TASTER SESSIONS – WEDNESDAY 5TH JULY 2023 (AM or PM slot will be allocated)

Following the picnic you are invited to a taster session at school, this will take place on **Wednesday 5th July, 9.30-10.30am (Children with surnames A-H ONLY)** or **Wednesday 5th July, 1.15-2.15pm (Children with surnames I-Z ONLY)**.

This session will be an opportunity for your child to stay for a short period by themselves. Staff will be on hand to help encourage your child to say goodbye. We welcome you to help settle them and then join other new parents in the library for a cup of tea and slice of cake whilst your little one is busy exploring their new classroom. Mrs Kennedy and Mrs Moon will be available in the library to welcome you. The children do not need to wear school uniform for these visits, unless they would like to! If you are concerned about your child settling in this session please speak to Mrs Hall or Miss Buckley. **Could you please also hand back all enclosed forms on this day and bring in your child's birth certificate/passport and proof of address to be copied if it hasn't been already.**

HOME VISITS – BEGINNING 4TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Home visits will take place in the week **beginning 4th September 2023**. You will be notified of your time at the taster sessions. Due to staffing and logistics we will be unable to change any visits. This is an informal visit to your home where Mrs Hall and Miss Buckley can chat to you as a parent whilst the teaching assistant can play with your child. It is an ideal time to find out a little more about you and your child, as well as answer any questions that you might have.

If your child has any medical conditions, allergies or dietary requirements it may be useful to have this information to hand. Please save any records from nurseries/playschools for this date too.

INDUCTION PERIOD

Home visits will take place from Monday 4th September 2023

Half days begin week commencing Monday 11th – Friday 15th September 2023

8.45am-10.45am - (Children with surnames A-H ONLY)

1pm-3pm - (Children with surnames I-Z ONLY)

All children attend FULL TIME - From Monday 18th September 2023 - (8.35am-3.10pm)

THE SCHOOL DAY

Pupils should arrive at school between 8:35 and 8:45 a.m. The gate opens at 8:35 a.m. and pupils go directly to their classes, however for the first few weeks we invite you to bring your child down to the classroom. After this time we ask parents to say goodbye to their child at the gate. Any messages can be passed to the member of staff stood at the gate.

Punctuality allows your child to begin the school day in the correct frame of mind, whereas lateness not only disadvantages the child but also disrupts the beginning of lessons. If pupils are unavoidably late for school, please ensure that they report to the school office, before going to their classroom.

Parents of Reception and Year 1 pupils should collect their children from the classroom at 3:10p.m, all other pupils should be collected from the playground by 3:15p.m.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

We do not have a kitchen here on site and therefore hot meals are brought in to school, having been prepared at one of our neighbouring schools. The government fund free school meals for all infant pupils. This is catered for by the school's chosen service, Nourish. Alternatively, you may provide your child with a packed lunch. Please ensure that this is light, healthy and well balanced.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL INCLUDING HOLIDAYS

Schools are required to record the reasons for all pupil absence; to help us in this task, if your child is absent from school, you must inform us of the reason as soon as possible, preferably before school begins and by 9.00 a.m. at the latest on the first day of absence. If we do not receive information regarding a child's absence we will send a text to ensure that the child has not been dropped at school and not arrived in class. If your child arrives at school after 9.30 a.m. without notification, the lateness has to be recorded as unauthorised absence. Since September 2013 Head Teachers have been unable to agree leave of absence during term time unless they are satisfied there are exceptional circumstances. Where leave of absence is taken without authorisation a Penalty notice may be issued. If you believe there are exceptional circumstances please make a request in writing alongside the appropriate form available from the school office or website.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

School uniform is valued as an important feature of our school and is worn by all of our children. Parents must ensure that pupils are dressed in our school uniform; we think this looks smart and gives the children a sense of pride in belonging to our school community.

Please ensure that all items of clothing are labelled. Like all schools we accumulate a great deal of un-named, unclaimed lost property each term; if property is clearly labelled we are usually successful in returning it. Please also provide us with a pair of name labelled wellington boots.

Expectations for school uniform:

Coat or jacket	Black or grey preferable
Jumper, cardigan or fleece	Green (branded items available from the Schoolwear Centre)
Skirt or pinafore	Dark grey
Summer dresses	white and green (check or stripe)
Trousers and shorts	Dark grey
Shirt, blouse, polo	White
Tie (optional)	Green and yellow
Shoes	Flat black shoes
Socks or tights	Green, black, grey or white
PE Kit top	White t-shirt or house coloured top (blue, red, yellow, green)
Shorts	Black
Tracksuits	Black or bottle green (outdoor games)
PE footwear	Black or white plimsolls Black or white trainers

Where to purchase it:

Our uniform can be obtained from the Schoolwear Centre, 56 Addington Street Margate, Kent. The Schoolwear Centre can add our school logo to uniform brought elsewhere at a cost of £4.50 +

VAT Website: www.schoolwearcentre.net

Term dates 2023-2024

Term 1	
1st September	Inset Day
4 th September	Start of term 1
20 th October	End of term 1
Term 2	
30 th October	Start of term 2
15 th December	End of term 2
Term 3	
2nd January	Inset Day
3 rd January	Start of term 3
9 th February	End of term 3
Term 4	
19 th February	Start of term 4
28 th March	End of term 4
Term 5	
15 th April	Start of term 5
24 th May	End of term 5
6 th May	Bank Holiday, school closed
Term 6	
3rd 4th and 5th June	Inset Days
6 th June	Start of term 6
23 rd July	End of term 6 and school year

Please be aware that we have made the Whitsun half term longer by three days by using our INSET days. We do this in the hope of reducing the number of holidays taken in term time.
Holidays taken during term time will NOT be authorised and a penalty may occur.