

The St Nicholas Post

Dear Parents and Carers,

22nd September 2023

We are now in full swing and the children are showing that they know exactly what it takes to learn. We know that the importance of working hard and being the best you can be is a message that is reiterated by you at home. Our partnership is so crucial to the children's attitudes to school—so thank you!

We have really enjoyed welcoming you into the school for the 'Meet the Teacher' sessions, this has been lovely. Our communication with you is not limited to such events, so please do speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions or need to pass on any information. We also regularly update our [Facebook](#) page, [Instagram](#) and [website](#) so **please follow us** to keep up to date with all that we are up to.

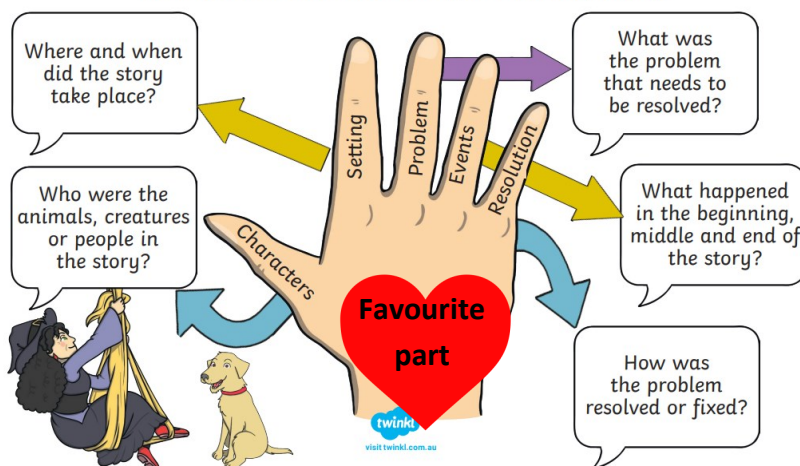
Mrs Kennedy

Every Child a Reader—Getting Off to a Great Start

We are delighted to see our children engaging in reading this term and **thank you parents** for all of your support with this. Reading for pleasure is not only a fabulous pastime but also unlocks the entire curriculum. At St. Nicholas we encourage all of our children to read everyday. However, **we can't do this without YOU!** Encouraging positive reading habits is crucial for every child, in every year group. This starts by sharing books with your child in Year R to ensuring your child in Year 6 is reading for a minimum of 25-30 minutes / day. Please speak to us if your child is struggling to find books that engage them—we may just have a good suggestion.

Five Finger Retell

I can remember and retell the different parts of a story

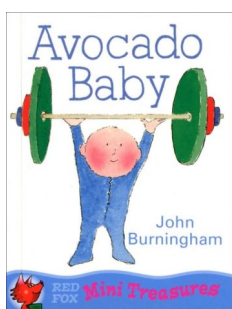


Try this to help encourage more book talk

Each Week our Reading Influencers will be recommending a good read

Taylor—Year 5 recommends:

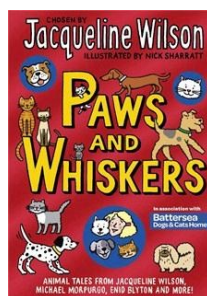
Fans of funny will love this book! A family are hoping for a strong baby—well they get one, beware of the baby if you are a burglar or bully!



Taylor has the book, so find her to borrow it, you will find her in Acer classroom.

Freya—Year 5 recommends:

Animal lovers will love this! This anthology is full of short stories about cats and dogs. Dip into it and find a story you like—or read them all!



Freya has the book, so find her to borrow it, you will find her in Acer classroom.

BBC South East: it's Finally Here!

Shown on lunch time news today, it should be repeated tonight—if not, watch it on iPlayer [here!](#)

**Cross Country: Courage and Resilience, it's a St Nicholas Thing!**

On Saturday 7th October, we will be taking part in the Cross Country event at Quex Park. This is a fantastic opportunity for children in years 3-6 to represent their school, with every finisher receiving a medal. There is no limit on the number of children who can participate so it would be fantastic to see as many of you there as possible. Mrs Adams and Mrs Kennedy will be there bright and early to support and encourage you on the morning.

Reception Starters 2023

Applications for a school place in reception open on November 3rd and close on the 15th January - If you need any help with the process please let the school office know and we can help.

St Nicholas at Wade CE Primary School

Choose a place to belong, a place to grow: Choose St Nicholas



Down Barton Road, St Nicholas at Wade CT7 0PY



Courage

Be the best you can be

Resilience

Honesty

Kindness

Open day
Sat 4th Nov.
10am-12noon
Just come along!

Ofsted says our Reception provision is **Outstanding** but come and see for yourself how fabulous our school is, on one of our school tours. Choosing your child's school is one of the most important decisions you have to make. We feel confident that if you come and see our exciting curriculum that enables success for each individual child, you will agree that we are a school of first choice!

School tours from the 2nd November:

- Tuesdays 9:30am
- Thursdays 9:30am
- Thursdays 1:30pm
- Phone 01843 847253 to book.

Harvest Festival

The school came together for a wonderful harvest celebration, it was a wonderful service. We were really proud of our newly appointed head pupils and Christian ambassadors who spoke beautifully and led the service so well! Well done to Mrs Palmer for her meticulous preparation :)

The generosity of you all was astounding and we gathered two huge tables full of food that will go to very grateful recipients.

Not to be left out, our youngest and newest pupils made harvest pastries and sung 'Big Red Combine Harvester', with sign language too! Our reception teacher's have very high expectations!



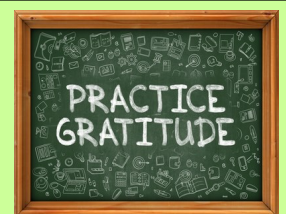
Our New Christian Ambassadors



Cycle to School Week starts 25th September!

We already have some of our children cycling in! Well done, lets kick start a revolution and get everyone riding :)

Thank you to Mrs Palmer for the immense amount of background work in organising the harvest celebration, as well as coming in on your day off! We are truly grateful to have you :)



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.