

The St Nicholas Post

Dear Parents and Carers,

6th October 2023

Autumn is here, the nights are drawing in and the weather is most definitely on the turn. I love each season for different reasons but what I love the most about a temperate climate is the welcome change from each season into the next. This season is most certainly my favourite, school is a very special place to be on the run up to Christmas...and very busy. With this in Mind, I have included dates in this penultimate letter of the term to give you as much notice as possible for upcoming events (Page 2). I hope this helps, I know how busy family life is.

This term continues to be purposeful and productive and the children have risen to the challenges of moving onto the next year. I want to thank parents for talking to me or the class teachers with any concerns, at the earliest time, so that we can make sure that children are happy at school and in a good place to learn.

Mrs Kennedy

Parents Evening and Parental Engagement

Don't forget
parents'
evening!

We are really looking forward to welcoming you into school on the 18th October. Working in partnership with you is so important, which is why I talk about it so much :)

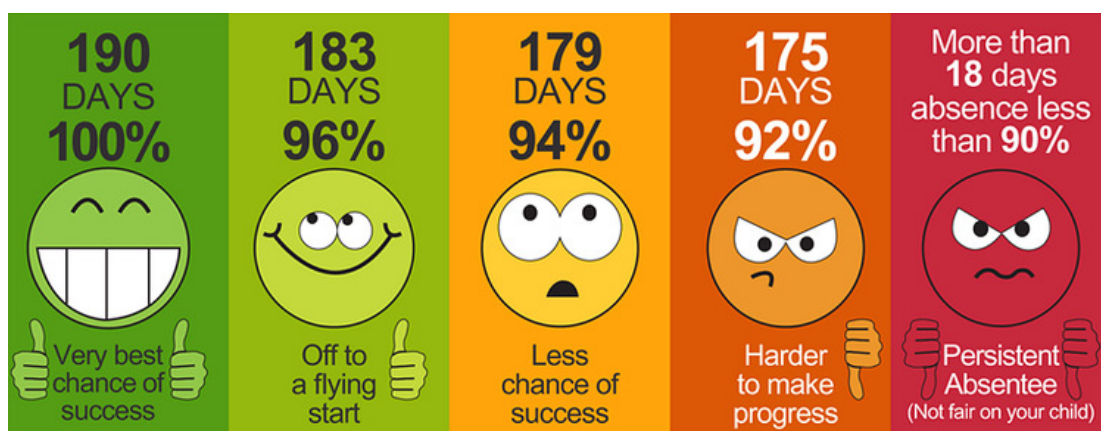
Parental engagement has an average **impact of an additional 4 months progress over the course of a year** (EEF Education Endowment Foundation). This makes a huge difference to children outcomes and there is also a significant impact to children's behaviour, confidence and self-esteem too! We are very fortunate to have a community of parents who work really hard to be engaged in their children's learning, from reading with them, encouraging and supporting their home learning and giving them extra curricular opportunities. We hope that

Parent's Evening will provide a further opportunity to get involved and engaged!

Attendance

Matters!

Attend today
achieve
tomorrow.



We know that there are times that children will be ill and will need to stay at home. We also know that **there is a direct link between attendance and attainment**, so regular attendance really does matter! :) If your child is unwell please call the school office on 01843 847253 so that we are able to record this.



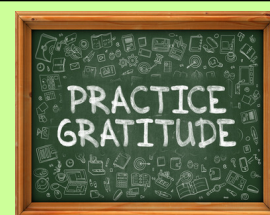
Key dates—Term 2

28th Oct	St Nicholas Village Fireworks (Free Entry)
30th Oct	Start of Term
3rd Nov	Primary admissions open
4th Nov	New Intake Open Day (10am—12noon)
6th Nov	Flu immunisations (whole school)
10th Nov	Non-Uniform day for Xmas Fair Donations TBC: School Disco (R,1,2: 3:15pm—4:15pm) (3,4,5,6: 4:30pm –6:00pm)
16th Nov	Kent Life Trip (Year 6)
17th Nov	Children in Need Day
20th Nov	NCMP (height and weight) and Vision Screening Year R and 6
1st Dec	Christmas Fair (2pm– 3:30pm)
6th Dec	Christmas Dinner Day
11th Dec	Infant (R,1,2) Nativity at St Nicholas at Wade Church (9:30am & 1:30pm)
12th Dec	R and 1 Christmas at Quex Trip (AM) Christmas Party (PM) Years 2-6 Panto at the Marlowe Theatre (No hot dinners on this day)
14th Dec	Evening Carol Concert at St Nicholas at Wade Church—6pm
15th Dec	End of term 2 (2pm finish)

Thanks from Thanet Food Bank

We have been asked to say a big thank you to the generosity of our families who donated a huge amount of food to the Thanet Food Bank. Some has been distributed already to families and the rest will be going to good homes, who really need it. Our school values are clearly demonstrated both in and out of school and your kindness is really appreciated.

Thank you our team of truly dedicated teachers and support staff—your hard work and commitment to be the best you can be, means that the children of St Nicholas get a really great deal!





Parking Plea

Please be mindful of the zig zag lines outside of the school. No one should be stopping on these—not even as a drop off. The road is becoming increasingly busy and at times dangerous. Thank you for supporting us with this.

Parking in some of the roads further back and walking the rest of the way, could be a great opportunity to get some more steps in! The owners of the pubs have also offered up their car parks for use.

Fireworks at Bell Meadow!



Come along on the 28th October to enjoy are firework spectacular ! This is completely free to enter. The PTFA will be there selling glow sticks to raise money for the school.

Refreshments and food will also be available—it really will be a super evening.

St Nicholas At Wade Primary School PTFA

We have been selected as part of the TESCO blue token scheme! Our project is books & shelving for the school library. Please vote our project when shopping at TESCO from the first week of October to mid January at the following stores:

Northdown Road,
Cliftonville, CT9 3PL

Canterbury Road Express
Store, Margate, CT9 5BG



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.