

The St Nicholas Post

Dear Parents and Carers,

18th November 2023

The term continues to progress with lots of exciting learning opportunities. Every teacher has planned a curriculum full of fabulous learning opportunities and packed with enrichment activities. Please do look at the class pages on the website to see what happens in each year group; this will help you to engage in conversation with your children about their current learning: [Class Pages](#).

We are really looking forward to sharing with you some fabulous things over the next few weeks, I am so excited for the Panto, Carol service and the Nativity, my favourite things all in one term!

Mrs Kennedy

Celebration Worship

Each week in Friday Worship we celebrate children's achievements. The children really enjoy celebrating their own and others accomplishments and we wanted to share them with you too. This weeks Values Champions are:

Value Champion

This week's Value Champion's are:

Lilah-Rose, YR
Eden, Nancy and River, Y1
Finley and Mia, Y2
Eva, Sophie, Madison and Amelie Y3
Leia and Lara, Y4
All of Beech Class
Daisy, Freya, Tristan and Jack, Y5
Layla and Jasmine, Y6











It's who
we are!

Please do share achievements and accomplishments from home and clubs—It is always lovely to celebrate this in school!

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What a Wonderful Christmas Card



Well done to all of the children who entered the Christmas card competition. All of your entries will be heading off to the Canterbury Diocese who will have to make the difficult decision to choose a winning entry from all of the schools across Kent.

Our internal winner was Sophie (her entry is shown here on the left), whose card will be used to send Christmas wishes to friends of the school. Thank you for the wonderful entries.

Football Hero's

Well done to our year 3 and 4 football team who went to the festival and demonstrated the St Nicholas Way throughout! **So proud of you all.** Well done to Jackson who won the Star Player Medal, out of all the schools participating :)

Sport really is such an important part of what we do at St Nicholas, the benefits to children's health and well-being are numerous. Equally the social skills learnt as our children learn to work as a team, win gracefully, support each other, enjoy shared victory and learn from failure are critical.



Children in Need

Thank you. Your generosity is astounding and we have raised £194 for this worthy charity.



St Nicholas Day Celebration at Canterbury Cathedral



Myself and Mrs Palmer will be taking the school choir to sing at Canterbury Cathedral on Sunday 10th December. This is to Celebrate our school's namesake, St Nicholas; the service starts at 5:30pm and finishes at 6:15pm. 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 are unable to make it, it is live streamed via the cathedral website.

It is a year ago today that I introduced 'Home and School—A perfect Partnership' (Always on the final page of the newsletter) Thank you for working with us, our visible positive union has a very powerful impact on children's outcomes and their attitudes towards school. Your children are very fortunate to have fabulous advocates in you and we are grateful for your advocacy for the school! **Thank 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.