

The St Nicholas Post

Dear All,

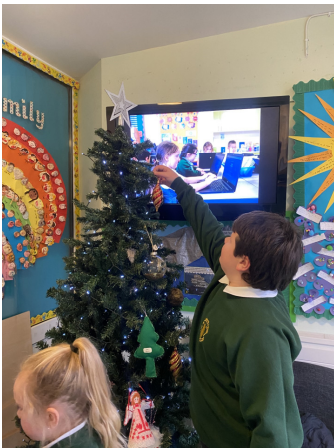
4th December 2023

With only two weeks to go until the end of term, the school is now brimming with festive cheer! The sound of sweet singing fills the corridors as the children prepare for their performances; I am so excited to see the infants perform 'Prickly Hay!' and the beautiful Carol Service led by our Junior children. We are so lucky to have access to the church for these events; it is such a beautiful backdrop, and we are so grateful to have such strong links with the church. It truly is such a magical time of year, a time that you and the children gain precious memories. 18 years have passed since my eldest stood on the stage, swaying out of time with a fallen halo of tinsel but these are the memories I cherish. Make the most of every moment :)

Mrs Kennedy

The Decs Are UP!

Every child in school has made a decoration to adorn our hall; it looks spectacular! It is lovely for the children to see their creations hanging proudly from the Hall ceiling. I particularly enjoy hearing their conversations as they look at others with praise and admiration. Our tree, in reception is also fully stocked with the children's baubles. Thank you to our JLT (Junior Leadership Team) for decorating this led by Mr Ford. To finish the tree off, I had the absolute pleasure of reading 'A Visit from St Nicholas', (Twas the night before Christmas) to the children in Buttercups before they added their baubles to the special tree. Such a magical St Nicks tradition!



The JLT Decorating the tree! (Left)

Some of our Fabulous Hoops (Below)



Carol Service, Thursday 14th December

We are really pleased to be gathering back at the church this year for the Carol Service, there really is no better back drop to this moving service. There is a collection of carols woven through the story of the birth of Christ, culminating in St Nicholas at Wade's very own version of 'The 12 days of St Nicholas'.

Please arrive for 5:45pm for a 6:00pm start. There will be hot drinks and Christmas treats on offer.

PTFA Christmas Shop: 14th December

Gifts from £2—£5 will be available, they are all fully wrapped so your children can do their Christmas shopping for grans, grandpas, Aunts and Uncles etc. even you! That's one less thing to worry about :)

**St Nicholas Day Celebration at Canterbury Cathedral: Reminder**

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. 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/>

A festive poster for the 'Arts and Crafts Christmas Holiday Club'. It features a blue background with snowflakes, a Christmas tree, and a snowman. The text includes: 'Arts and Crafts Christmas Holiday Club', 'Monday 18th - Thursday 21st December 10:00-14:00pm', 'BAYPOINT, SANDWICH & THANET WANDERERS RUGBY CLUB, BROADSTAIRS', 'INCLUDES A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS VISIT TO QUEX PARK!', 'Activities include... Christmas arts & crafts - Christmas yoga - Christmas baking - Christmas party - Fun Games - Christmas dinner - presents - & much more', 'FREE FOR CHILDREN IN RECEIPT OF A 'HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD' VOUCHER CODE OR £20 PER DAY', 'BREAKFAST CLUB & LATER PICK UP AVAILABLE AT BAYPOINT', and 'FOR MORE INFORMATION AND BOOKING PLEASE VISIT WWW.WEAREBAYPOINT.CO.UK/NEWS'. There is also a logo for 'the Creation Station' and a small image of a 'Skate into Quex' poster.

The Creation Station Baypoint Christmas Arts & Crafts Camps at 2 Locations!

We will be running at Baypoint Sandwich and our new location Thanet Wanderers Rugby Club in St Peters, Broadstairs. Our camps include Christmas Arts and crafts, sketching, clay modelling, painting, slime making, Christmas Dinner, trips out and much more!!

A selection of hot meals and snacks offered daily as part of our camp.

If you qualify for benefit related free school dinners, our holiday camp is FREE!!

Or our Camp is £20 per day for Monday 18th -Thursday 21st December 2023!

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.