

The St Nicholas Post

Dear Parents and Carers,

3rd March 2024

Welcome back to term 4. The children have been enjoying the first 2 weeks back and already there is so much to celebrate. There is still so much to come, including book week this coming week! Check the poster on the next page for everything that is going on, as well as the dates below. Please do visit the [video resource centre](#) page on the website to hear our reading Influencers reading their favourite books, or to see if you can guess which teacher is reading in our 'masked reader' event!

Mrs Kennedy

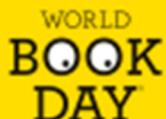


Key dates—Term 4 (from 4th March)

5 th March	Reception Dental Nurse Visit KS1 Reading Café 8-8.30am
6 th March	KS2 Reading Café 8-8.30am
7 th March	World Book Day – whole school
8 th March	Looping the Loop Theatre Performance Whole School
11 th March	Booster Cushion Theatre Performance EYFS
27 th March	Parents Evening 1.20pm-7pm
28 th March	Easter Service End of Term 2pm Finish
29 th March	Good Friday Bank Holiday

Term 5

15 th April	Start of Term
16 th April	Primary school offers sent by KCC
18 th April	Year 5 Egyptian Day
22 nd April	World Earth Day
1 st May	Class Photos
6 th May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
16 th May	Year 6 Residential meeting at 3.15pm Year 5 Kent Test and Residential meeting at 6pm
24 th May	End of Term



WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 7th March 2024



Children are invited to dress up as a character from one of their favourite books. Please do not feel that you must spend money on expensive costumes. A simple decorated T-shirt and face paint can be very effective.

Tuesday 5th March - KS1 Reading cafe - 8.00 - 8.30am. The children and parents of KS1 are invited to come along to our cafe in the hall to enjoy some reading activities together as well as enjoy a quick breakfast bite.

Wednesday 6th March - KS2 Reading cafe - 8.00 - 8.30am. The children and parents of KS2 are invited to come along to our cafe in the hall to enjoy some reading together and demonstrate their reading skills, as well as enjoy a quick breakfast bite.

Wednesday 6th March - Book tokens - Children will receive their complimentary World Book Day token and will have the opportunity to exchange it for a special edition book supplied by The Classroom, Westgate.

Thursday 7th March - Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. They will enjoy a variety of book and reading themed activities during the day with their class.

Friday 8th March - We are so lucky to have the Looping the Loop theatre company leading each class in a drama workshop throughout the day. KS1 will enjoy 'The Gruffalo' and KS2, Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'.

Monday 11th March - 'Big Goldilocks' is coming to St Nicholas! Booster Cushion Theatre will perform to the whole school in what promises to be a fun and interactive show.

THE MASKED READER

Staff have joined together for some World Book Day fun. Several members of staff have disguised themselves as 'The Masked Reader' and have been recorded reading the blurb of their favourite books. Why not see if you can spot who are The Masked Readers by watching the videos? These will be available to view in the week after the half-term holiday and can be found on the school website - look for the 'Video Resource Centre' under the 'Children' section of the site. The readers will be unmasked in celebration assembly on Friday 9th March.



COMPETITION TIME - POTATO HEADS

Children are invited to decorate a humble potato, using their paints, crayons, fabric, glue, feathers, stickers and anything else you can lay your hands on, plus of course, their amazing imaginations. Think of Harry Pot-ato-ter, Crisp-topher Robin, The Big Friendly Potato ... the world is your potato! Entries should be brought into your child's class w/c 4th March 2024. The Reading Influencers will judge all entries and award a first place prize to each year group. Winners will be announced on World Book Day.



Reading is the key to your next adventure

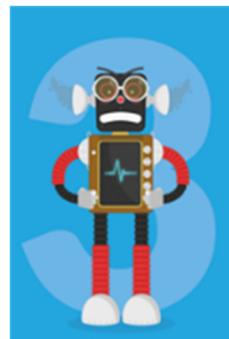


Don't Hold on to What's Wrong

This term's PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) topic is, 'Don't Hold on to What's Wrong', and is linked to our Christian value 'Be the Best you can be'. The key theme is understanding the power of forgiveness and how this helps our own hearts to be healthy, as well as living more harmoniously. The children explore helpful ways to deal with hurt and negative emotions and also look at the consequences of teasing or bullying.

A message we share with children at our school is that they will inevitably make mistakes, in their learning but also in their personal development—we will all do this! We encourage children to take accountability for their mistakes and part of that is apologising when they have got it wrong. On the flip side, we never allow children to reply with 'That's Okay', the responses they are encouraged to use are:

- I forgive you
- I accept your apology
- I need some time right now



Don't Hold On To What's Wrong!
Understanding how to process negative emotion and choose forgiveness to restore relationships.

We do this because we want children to have a strong sense of self worth and therefore it is not okay if someone treats them badly, so we don't say that it is. Equally we understand that others get it wrong, just as we do, so we are usually prepared to forgive that and not '**hold on to what's wrong**'.

Hopefully you may hear these responses at home too! :)

JLT (Junior Leadership Team) update

Thank you to the JLT who have updated our child friendly [Anti Bullying Policy](#). They have also been working hard to make decisions about upcoming events and playtimes at school. We think it's important that pupils have a genuine strategic role to play in the successful direction of the school.



Thank you to Lisa (Freddie's Mummy) for the donation of lots of wonderful games for the children to use at breakfast club. It was really kind and thoughtful and the children are already enjoying them!



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.



Choose 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.