

The St Nicholas Post

6th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer break enjoying extended time together with your children. However, we are so pleased to have the children back to school! They have returned with commendable attitudes and enthusiasm, and I am delighted to see that they have not forgotten how to exemplify 'The St Nicholas Way'. School life has commenced with great purpose, and it is a pleasure to observe the classrooms buzzing with productivity and purpose. As the term progresses, we are eager to engage the children in enriching learning experiences and support their development.

I will continue to be present every morning and afternoon on the gate, this is so that I am able to welcome the pupils and adults every morning but also so that I am available to help with any questions, worries or feedback, please do approach me, no matter how big or small the query. Alternatively, please do email me directly on headteacher@st-nicholas-birchington.kent.sch.uk, working in partnership with you is very important to us so that we make sure that every child is happy at school and is the very best they can be.

Please be sure to check important dates on the next page, please note a change in time for the harvest celebration.

Mrs Kennedy

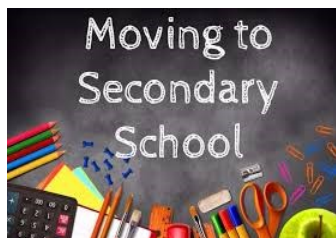
Our Newest Pupils!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new parents and children who will be joining our St Nicholas School Family. This week we have been visiting all the newest members of Buttercup Class in their homes. We have loved meeting you all and can't wait to see you in school next week.

The Reception year is a very special one indeed. It marks the first formal year of education for your child and the Early Years Curriculum is specially designed to allow your child to develop a thirst for learning which will serve them for their entire life. We will do everything that we can to ensure that the transition into school runs as smoothly as possible for everyone. Our door is always open so please do get in contact with Mrs Buckley our Early Years leader if you have any concerns or queries:

Hannah.buckley@st-nicholas-birchington.kent.sch.uk





As we start a new year, for some, thoughts of the next steps are already in mind! We take great pride at St Nicholas in ensuring our children are prepared for their future. Our commitment to fostering both personal development and academic excellence means that our pupils grow into courageous, resilient, kind, honest, and

hardworking young people. Schools across the area will be holding open days, providing an excellent opportunity for you to explore the various offerings available. We strongly recommend that you take full advantage of these days to make informed decisions about your child's educational journey.

[This Link will take you to the page on our website with all the Key Dates for Kent Test and Secondary School Admission](#)

If you have any queries regarding secondary school admissions) please contact Mrs Kennedy or Mr Neal, who will be happy to provide further guidance.

Key dates—Terms 1

9th Sept	Reception children start (1/2 days)
10th Sept	Meet the Teacher Year 2 (3:15pm in classroom)
11th Sept	Year 2 trip to the Beach
12th Sept	Kent test for registered year 6 pupils
12th Sept	Meet the Teacher Year 4 (3:15pm in classroom)
13th Sept	Meet the Teacher Year 1 (3:15pm in classroom)
16th Sept	Reception Children Full Time
18th Sept	Parent Reading Workshop for year R and 1 (2:30pm or 5:30pm main hall)
18th Sept	Meet the Teacher Year 3 (3:15pm in classroom)
19th Sept	Meet the Teacher Year 6 (3:15pm in classroom)
19th Sept	Eco Ambassadors visiting Monkton Nature reserve
20th Sept	Meet the Teacher Year 5 (3:15pm in classroom)
23rd Sept	Harvest Celebration at Church Y 1-6 (9:30am—10:30) parents welcome.
27th Sept	School photos
14th Oct	Year 1 Trip to Monkton Nature Reserve
15th Oct	Road Safety Show
23rd Oct	Parents Evening (1:30pm—7 pm)
24th Oct	Year 5 trip to Ramsgate Tunnels and RAF Spitfire Museum
25th Oct	End of term 1

Meet the Teacher

At St Nicholas, we firmly believe that collaborating with parents is essential for achieving the best outcomes for our children. We invite you to become an integral part of your child's school journey and establish positive relationships with the dedicated adults in their lives, particularly their class teachers. Join us for an overview of classroom life, where you will have the opportunity to speak with the teacher, observe their learning environment, and gain insight into your child's experiences. Please refer to page 2 for the dates of these events.



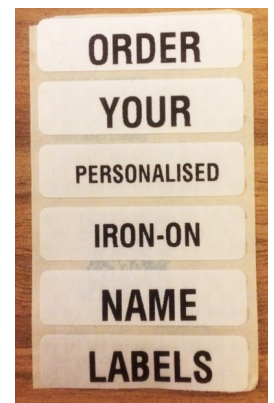
Harvest Festival: Come and join us on Monday 23rd September @9:30am

Come and join the children and staff as we to give thanks to God for the crops, which have been safely harvested. We will be walking to the church for a 9:30am start. The children will offer up donations of food and will celebrate through prayer and song as well as hearing bible readings. We would love for you to join us!

Please can all donations of food arrive in school by Friday 20th September. The church donate these offerings to Thanet Foodbank. Thank you :)

Lost and Found!

Please can we ask that you double check that all uniform, lunch bags and bottles are clearly labelled with your child's name. It means that we are able to reunite misplaced items quickly. Please do ask at the school office if you need any school uniform—we have lots of pre-loved items in excellent condition available. Using these items helps our environment and helps us to move away from a 'throw away' society. It's a win-win :)



Healthy choices!

A reminder that any snacks for break time should be healthy. Fruit, vegetables, cheese, houmous are all acceptable. Please see the link below for some good ideas. There should



be no chocolate or crisps.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/healthier-snacks/>

Summer Reading

We have some exciting news to share! This Summer our school came second out of all the schools in Thanet for participation in the Kent Libraries Reading Challenge. What an achievement! We're absolutely delighted and incredibly proud of the children for their dedication to continuing their reading journey over the break.

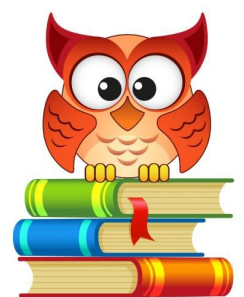
Reading not only enhances their learning across all subjects but also provides a delightful pastime. While it's fantastic to receive certificates and medals for their efforts, the most significant reward is the improvement in their reading skills.

A huge thank you to the adults for your hard work and encouragement. We believe that with continued support and enthusiasm, we can aim for first place next year! Let's keep fostering a love for reading and make it an even bigger success.

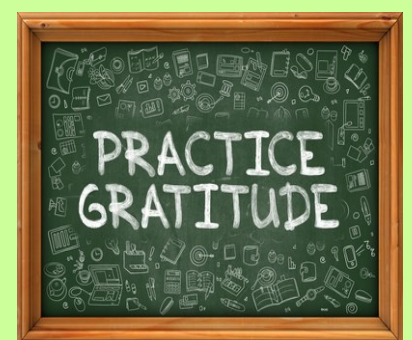


Reading Squad

Do you have any time on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays to help with small reading groups? Do you want to make a difference to children's outcomes? If so, please contact Mrs Buckley. Full training is given, so the most important quality is enthusiasm and the willingness to learn :)



A really big THANK YOU to the children for returning to school with such a great attitude towards school. Their enthusiasm and dedication has truly set a positive tone for the term ahead. It is inspiring to witness their eagerness as they bound through the gates and to see them take such pride in their brand-new work books! Keep it up :)



Uniform

Uniforms not only foster a sense of belonging and identity among students, but they also promote discipline and equality, diminishing socio-economic barriers. By ensuring that our pupils adhere to the uniform policy, we create an environment conducive to learning, where focus can remain on academic achievement rather than personal attire. We appreciate your continued support in reinforcing these values in your children, encouraging them to take pride in their appearance and embody the school's ethos. [Check out the school website here for the correct uniform](#)



Who to talk to

We want to make sure that you get to the right people when you need them—we hope this list helps:

I have a question about...	Who to talk to:
Class activities, curriculum, lessons, homework	Your child's class teacher
School trips and payments	Mrs Howard/Miss Merry office@st-nicholas-birchington.kent.sch.uk
Attendance and absence requests	To report an absence call: 01843 847253 To request approval for term-time absence complete a form and return to: headteacher@st-nicholas-birchington.kent.sch.uk
School events and school calendar dates	Mrs Howard/Miss Merry (School office)
Special Educational Needs	Mr Neal (SENDCO) Tim.neal@st-nicholas-birchington.kent.sch.uk Mrs Moon (SEN Assistant) tracy.moon@st-nicholas-birchington.kent.sch.uk
Medical issues	Mr Neal: Long term illness/care plans Mrs N Moon: Administering medication
After school Clubs	Mrs Howard/Miss Merry office@st-nicholas-birchington.kent.sch.uk
Safeguarding	Mrs Taralee Kennedy/ Mr Neal/Mrs Buckley

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 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.