

The St Nicholas Post

Dear Parents and Carers,

20th September 2024

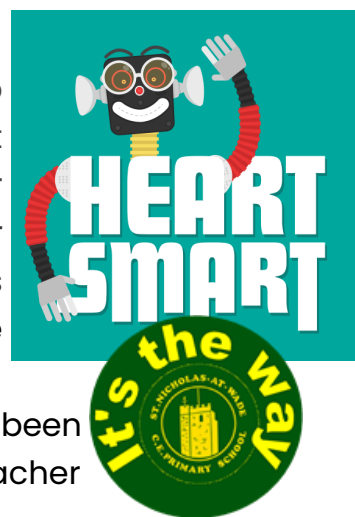
We are now in full swing and the children are demonstrating that they know precisely what it takes to learn. We recognise the significance of hard work and striving to be the best version of oneself – values that you consistently reinforce at home. Our partnership is essential to shaping the children's attitudes towards school, and we are grateful for your support.

We have really enjoyed welcoming you into the school for the 'Meet the Teacher' sessions, this has been lovely. Our communication with you is not limited to such events, so please do speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions or need to pass on any information. We also regularly update our [Facebook](#) page, [Instagram](#) and [website](#) so **please follow us** to keep up to date with all that we are up to.

Mrs Kennedy

Get Heart Smart— 'The St Nicholas Way'

This term's PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) topic is, 'Get Heart Smart, and is linked to showing 'The St Nicholas Way', crucially making good choices for ourselves and for others. Our aim is to ensure that every child, adult, and parent at our school understands the significance of embodying the St Nicholas way. We take it seriously, because we know that children are practicing who they are going to be as adults. So we practice being **courageous, resilient, honest, kind and the best we can be**. It has been a joy to start the term off with so many children gaining headteacher awards for doing just this!



Attendance

We are committed to ensuring that the children not only achieve academic success but also develop important life skills and values. One significant aspect we emphasise is **great attendance, which is an integral part of showing the St Nicholas Way**. We understand that there may be times when your child is unable to attend school, we recognise and support these occasions when children are genuinely too poorly to come in. However, we encourage you to assess their condition and consider sending them to school, as often, a supportive environment paired with engaging lessons can assist in lifting their spirits. We can always send the children home if they really are too unwell.

In Line with our vision of building on the solid rock, good attendance lays the foundation for a strong work ethic—an essential quality that will serve the children throughout their lives.



British Values—Democracy

This week in school has been Democracy Week, where we engaged all of the children in the election of Head Pupils and House Captains.

This event provided an invaluable opportunity for our children to experience the democratic process first-hand. I am immensely proud of each candidate for their exemplary attitude and the courage they demonstrated while campaigning for these positions. Our students showed remarkable dedication and perseverance, which are essential qualities in any democratic society. The experience of participating in elections, whether victorious or not, fosters resilience and equips our children with skills that are vital for their futures. We are pleased to announce our new head pupils and house captains. I know that they will take this responsibility and privilege seriously and work hard for the pupils and staff of St Nicks!

Head pupils: Ollie and Ira

House captains:

Thomas and Rosie (Courage)

Freya and Faye (Resilience)

Jase and Taylor (Kindness)

Ernie and Beaux (Honesty)



Meet New Our Christian Ambassadors: Eleanor, Finlay, Ethel, George, Hannah, Ellabelle, Jack and Florence. Led by Mrs Palmer. Their first job is Monday where they will be an integral part of our Harvest celebration!

The Junior Leadership Team

Working alongside the SLT (Senior Leadership Team) The JLT have a very important job to do. Mr Ford will be leading the team, ensuring that they have a say on what happens in school. Their contribution to life at school is critical to getting it right. If your child has an interest in leadership please encourage them to apply.

JUNIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

MR FORD NEEDS YOU!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PUPILS WHO WANT TO HELP ST NICHOLAS BECOME EVEN BETTER THAN IT ALREADY IS.

ARE YOU:

- PASSIONATE ABOUT MAKING A CHANGE?
- KIND, CARING AND CONSIDERATE?
- ABLE TO SHOW COURAGE AND SPEAK IN FRONT OF A GROUP OF PEOPLE?
- HONEST ABOUT YOUR THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS?
- CREATIVE AND ENJOY SOLVING PROBLEMS?
- READY TO HELP THE SCHOOL MAKE A CHANGE TO THE COMMUNITY?

THEN I AM LOOKING FOR YOU!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE JLT LET YOUR TEACHER KNOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO PUT YOURSELF FORWARD AS YOUR CLASS REPRESENTATIVE.

Value Champion

Jack Hill

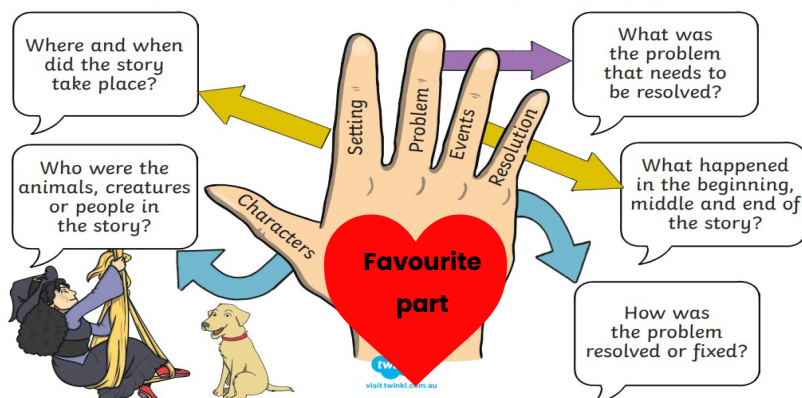
Jack got a hat trick and Man of the Match, playing for Margate. It was both Jack & Finns first EVER football match for the Margate team. We are enormously proud of their commitment to their work, both inside and outside of the classroom!



Every Child a Reader—Getting Off to a Great Start

Five Finger Retell

I can remember and retell the different parts of a story



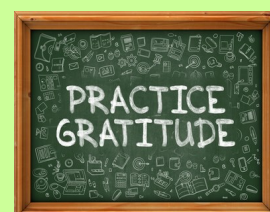
We are delighted to see our children engaging in reading, thank you parents for all of your support with this. Reading for pleasure is not only a fabulous pastime but also unlocks the entire curriculum. We encourage all of the children to read everyday. However, **we can't do this without YOU!** Encouraging positive reading habits is crucial for every child, in every year group. This starts by sharing books with your child in Year R to ensuring your child in Year 6 is reading for a minimum of 25-30 minutes / day. Please speak to us if your child is struggling to find books that engage them—we may just have a good suggestion.

Cycle to School Week

Cycle or scoot! Did you know an active school journey can improve mental alertness, energy levels, mood, and self-esteem, while also reducing stress and anxiety.



Thank you Mrs Moon for the fabulous Epi Pen training. We Are very grateful for your passion and commitment to all things medical.



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.