

# The St Nicholas Post

Dear All,

4th October 2024

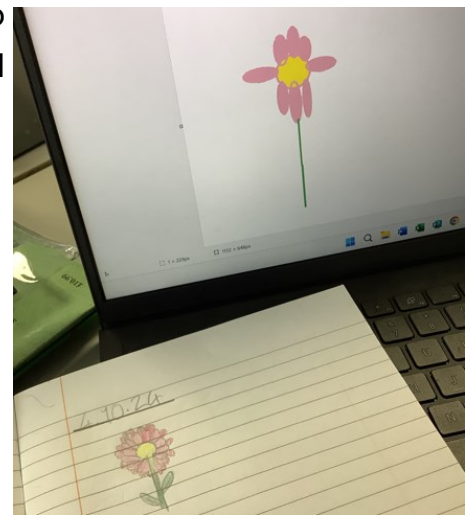
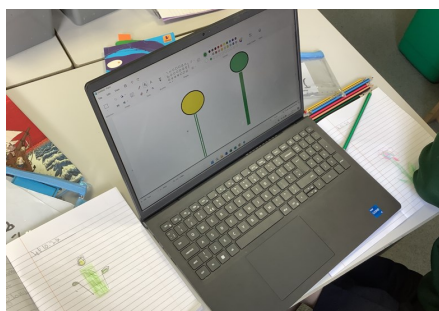
The Autumn term is in full swing, children are embracing their learning and getting the most out of school life. We are truly proud of how much we promote the children's personal development, and it has been a particular joy to see how much the children rise to the responsibilities that we give them. It is heartening to see our older children supporting the newest members of our school, how our digital leaders set up classes for learning and how our prefects ensure that the school is tidy, calm and that everyone is where they should be when they should be. Now that we have our Junior Leadership Team (JLT) I am looking forward to working with them too. These are just some of the roles that the children hold to contribute to our school being 'The Best it Can Be'. **Teamwork is our greatest strength at St Nick's** and that includes you—thank you for your support for all things school!

## Some school Snap Shots:

Year 2 went on an autumnal walk around the school to gather ideas for the poems they wrote to celebrate national poetry day. The children looked for the signs that autumn was here, such as; crunchy and crispy leaves floating in the breeze, acorns and sycamore seeds on the ground and the new colour palette all around!



Year 3 have been comparing using traditional methods to draw against using a graphic design tool—it seems both results were amazing! Talking to the children it was pleasing to hear that they really enjoyed both mediums.



## Harvest Festival Thanks

The school came together for a wonderful harvest celebration. We were really proud of our newly appointed head pupils and Christian ambassadors who spoke beautifully and led the service so well! Well done to Mrs Palmer for her meticulous preparation. The event not only allowed us to appreciate the abundance that surrounds us, but also instilled in our children the values of thankfulness and generosity. Gratitude is an essential part of our ethos at St Nicks. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to continue fostering a spirit of gratitude at home. Simple practices, such as discussing the things we are thankful for during family meals or encouraging children to express appreciation, can greatly enhance their understanding of this vital value. It is also really beneficial to children's (and adults) health and wellbeing to practice gratitude!

## Life Changing Benefits of a Gratitude Practice

- Improves Health
- Increases Energy
- Elevates Your Mood
- Keeps You Present
- Increases Patience
- Provides Perspective
- Increases Optimism
- Multiplies the Good
- Improves Relationships
- Increases Resiliency
- Makes You Happier



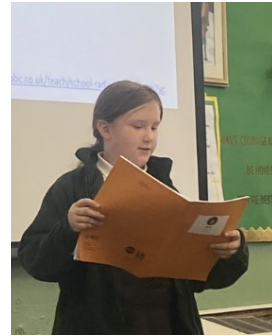
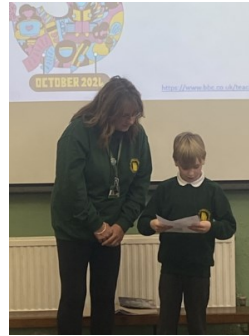
**We have been asked to say a big thank you to the generosity of our families who donated a huge amount of food to the Thanet Food Bank. Our school values are clearly demonstrated both in and out of school and your kindness is really appreciated.**





## Reading, Reading, Reading

Thanks to Mrs Woodbridge for her fantastic work in arranging our recent National Poetry Day celebrations. It was delightful to see how much the children engaged with the activities. The creativity of the children never ceases to amaze me! From ghoulish recipes to charming Autumn Acrostics, each year group presented their poems with such enthusiasm and flair. It was particularly lovely to hear them read some during worship; their confidence makes us beam!



**Reading Squad**—We are so lucky to have a fabulous reading squad across the infants. This allows for high quality teaching of reading over and above their whole class phonics teaching. **Thank you to our 'Squad'**, which is comprised of teachers, LSAs and Parents, all working together. Well done to Mrs Buckley for leading this :)



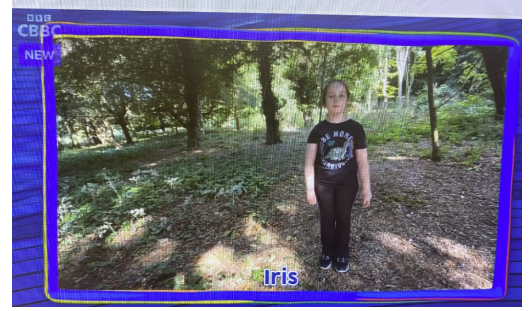
**'Every Child a Reader'**



# Value Champion Iris



Well done to Iris for showing our values in and out of school life! She has been working really hard to achieve her Blue Peter badges! She already has two! Her drawing of Henry, the Beagle-Basset cross, rescue dog that helps present the show gained her a blue and white badge. She is awaiting news on others for her work on the environment, Reading and music! She also got a star appearance on the show!



**Please tell us about how your child is showing 'The St Nicholas Way' at home and about! We love to share it here.** Are they showing resilience when learning something new (tying laces, riding bikes...) or at clubs, being kind and helpful around the house, Being honest and truthful or showing courage when trying something new or speaking out!

## Fireworks at Bell Meadow

Come along on the 26th October to enjoy a firework spectacular! This is completely free to enter. The PTFA will be there, selling glow sticks to raise money for the school. Refreshments and food will also be available—it really will be a super evening. Mr Ford has also sent out details of an art competition to promote this event. The details are below...

### **Fireworks Artwork Competition!**

**The local parish council are looking for artwork to use on posters advertising their fireworks spectacular on**

**Saturday 26th October.**

**The theme of the artwork is 'fireworks', you can use any medium you like as long as it fits onto 1 piece of A4 paper. All entries need your first name, age and year group written on the back.**

**2 winning entries from each year group will be used on the posters and there will prizes for the overall winner and runner up from the school.**

**All entries must be handed in to Mr Ford by Friday 11th October.**

# 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.**