

The St Nicholas Post

Dear All,

27th November 2024

We have just over 3 weeks to go until the end of term and 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 beyond excited to see the infants perform 'A Bundle of Joy' and the beautiful Carol Service led by our Junior children.

We are so fortunate to have access to the church for these events; it provides the most stunning backdrop, and we truly appreciate our strong ties with them. This time of year is simply magical, offering opportunities for you and your children to create some precious memories together.

Mrs Kennedy

Balance-ability

We're excited to share that we've been teaching our youngest children how to ride! As part of a fantastic pilot scheme led by Kent County Council, we introduced them to riding through balance bikes. Over the three-day course, the kids absolutely loved every moment spent on the bikes. It was incredible to see their smiles and enthusiasm, and by the end, they all walked away with new-found confidence and resilience. We're so proud to be part of this initiative, helping our little ones take their first steps (or pedal strokes!) towards becoming skilled riders. Here's to more adventures ahead!



Carol Service, Thursday 20th December



We are really pleased to be gathering back at the church this year for the Carol Service. We have moved the timings to hopefully give more parents an opportunity to attend. It will be the last day of term at 1pm—with the school finishing at 2pm we hope this helps with the amount of coming and going that this time of year brings. A truly wonderful end to the term.

PTFA Christmas Shop: 12th December

Gifts from £1—£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



Mrs Palmer will be taking the school choir to sing at Canterbury Cathedral on Sunday 8th 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! 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/>

Lest We Forget



Children in Need



A huge thank you for your generosity in raising funds for Children In Need. We managed to raise a staggering **£272.84** which will be gratefully received by the charity. It was so warming to see the children dressed in such creative and colourful outfits.



Well done to Hugo—
Don't forget to tell us
about how your
children are showing
the St Nicholas Way at
home—we want to
recognise and
celebrate it :)



Value Champion Hugo

Well done to Hugo for showing the St Nicholas Way at home as well as at school. We are very impressed at how he has been helping out at home—

particularly helping dad out with folding the clean washing. Keep it up Hugo—what a great role model you are!



It's who we are!



St Nicholas At Wade PTFA

Christmas Event 6 December 2-3.30pm

- Tombolas - Chocolate, Bottle & General (£1 a go - cash)
- Refreshments (from 50p - cash or card)
- Year 6 Games (20p/50p a go - cash)
- KS1 class crafts (from £2 - cash or online QR code payment)
- Reindeer food station (Free)
- 2.45pm - school choir performance
- 3pm - Raffle draw

Elf Trail - £1

Sign up for a trail sheet via school money app payments section. Look for the elves and receive a sweet prize at the end.

Santa Grotto - £2.50

Limited tickets available across 3 sessions:
2-2.30, 2.30-3 & 3-3.30
We will try and keep to the time slots.
Purchase via school app shop section.

Raffle -£1 per ticket - online

www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/christmas-raffle-2024

If you want to buy tickets for the christmas raffle they are available vis this link:

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/christmas-raffle-2024>

St Nicholas At Wade PTFA Christmas Raffle 2024

Buy tickets

Key dates—Term 2

Fri 6 th Dec	PTFA Christmas Event (2- 3:30pm)
Tues 10 th Dec	Year 6 Christmas Unwrapped
Thurs 12 th Dec	PTFA Christmas Pop up Shop
Fri 13 th Dec	Year 6 Lancaster Model Questionnaire
Mon 16 th Dec	Infant Nativity (9:30am & 1:30pm)
Tues 17 th Dec	Whole School Panto Trip to The Malthouse Theatre
Weds 18 th Dec	Christmas Dinner Day
Weds 20 th Dec	KS2 Carol Concert
Fri 20 th Dec	End of Term 2- 2pm finish

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 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.