

The St Nicholas Post

Dear Parents and Carers,

20th December 2024

The Christmas break has arrived! What a busy term we've had! It has been wonderful to see everyone come together—school and families alike—to ensure our children enjoy fabulous opportunities during this festive season.

The children have continued to work hard this term, right up to the very last moment—and we are so proud of their attitude to make sure they are the best they can be. Our job is so much more than teaching the academic curriculum—this is of course very important and something we do exceptionally well, but developing young people's character is a responsibility we take very seriously. The Nativities and coral concerts are a wonderful opportunity for you to step into school life and enjoy watching your child shine. They not only bring joy but also help our children develop vital skills like speaking publicly, practising courage, feeling pride, overcoming fears, working together, serving others and accepting applause and praise. All of which contribute significantly to their self-worth.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you for all your Christmas wishes, I hope you all have a fabulous Christmas, enjoying time with the people that you love

Mrs Kennedy

Christmas Maths and English Challenge

Today your children will bring home Holiday Challenges. There are a host of fun Christmas themed activities to help keep your child engaged in learning over the break. Please return these to school on January 6th Every returned challenge will receive 5 house points and entered into a prize draw. A link to the website where they can also be found is [here](#).

CHRISTMAS FRACTIONS
There are 24 baubles on my Christmas tree.

1/4 of them are red - _____
1/3 of them are yellow - _____
1/8 of them are blue - _____
1/6 of them are orange - _____
The rest are pink.
What fraction of the baubles is pink?

When you have worked out the number of each bauble, colour them in.

Each number is the total of the two numbers below it.

9	6	2	9
3	6	2	9

12	4	8	5
6	4	8	5

Merry Mathmas

In the word CHRISTMAS below, each letter has a value. So C is worth 1, and M is worth 7.

C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	5

Work out the value of these words. The first one is done for you.

IT = 4+6 = 10 HAT = 2+8+6 = _____
IS = _____ HIT = _____
MIST = _____ MAT = _____
MATH = _____ STAIR = _____

KS1 Merry Christmas

Name _____
Class _____

Ho! Ho! Ho!
Can you come up with a Christmas joke of your own?

What kind of photos do elves take?
Elf-ies!

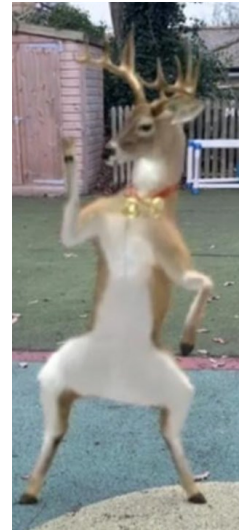
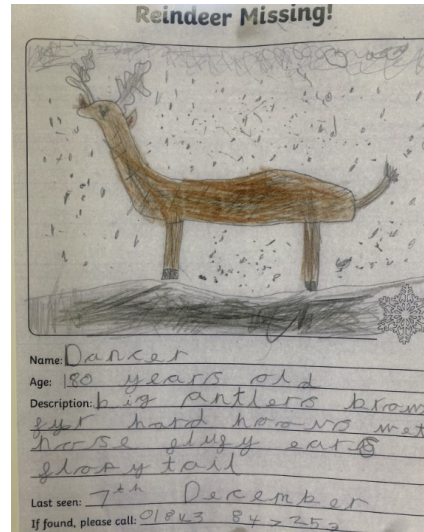
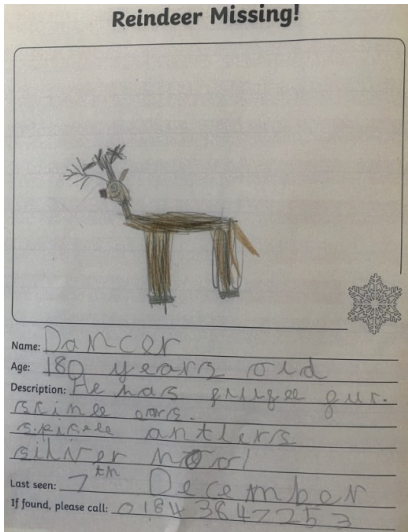
Draw yourself as an elf. What will your elf name be?

Sparkles Tinseltoes?
Jingle Snowball?
Frosty Hollyberry?
Why not make up your elf name?

Colour in a stocking each time you read.

The Great Reindeer Escape

After writing missing posters, year 1 finally found the reindeer! They were last seen dancing on the KS1 playground! Please report any further sightings to Year 1 at St Nicholas at Wade School. What great writing inspiration Miss Cox—Well done :)



Xmas food and light!

Buttercups made sure that the birds have plenty to eat while we are away for the holidays, with their home made eco-friendly birdfeeders. They gathered pine cones and filled them with lard, before encrusting them with tasty seeds. They also made beautiful candle holders with all the wonderful evergreen leaves that we have around us.



Christmas Dinner

What a scrummy Christmas dinner—thank you to the PTFA who brought a cracker for every child to really ramp up the festive feel! Even Attendance Ted joined us for dinner!



The Big Secret Santa Book Swap

Santa and two of his elves (Naughty and Nice) delivered books to the children—all wrapped up and ready for under the tree. Thank you to Mrs Woodbridge for all the organisation behind this huge operation you are always looking for more ways to get children reading!



Our fabulous festive displays

As we celebrate the festive season, I am thrilled to share that all the children have been busy creating beautiful Christmas decorations! It's been wonderful to see their creativity shine through, and it's so important for them to feel that their hard work is valued. The hall looks truly lovely, adorned with the children's homemade decorations.



Our Christmas tree, adorned with baubles made by the children when they are in Reception—they remain on the tree until they leave in year 6 where you will get to take them home :)

Cathedral Caroling



The Choir performed beautifully at the Cathedral; we were so proud of them. Thank you so much to Mrs Palmer who organises everything and runs Choir club, having opportunities like these are so important. Thanks also, to Mrs Woodbridge and Mrs Scott for giving up their Sunday to make this all possible.

Key dates—Term 3

Mon 6 th Jan	Start of Term 3
Tues 14 th Jan	Yr 3 Living Histories Viking Workshop
Thurs 16 th Jan	Sleep Workshop for Parents with Miss Baptiste (2:30 Library)
Fri 17 th Jan	Reports home to Parents
Mon 20 th Jan	Yr 6 Lancaster Model Questionnaire
Tues 11 th Feb	Safer Internet Day
Thurs 13 th Feb	End of Term 3
Fri 14 th Feb	INSET DAY- school closed to children

Key dates—Term 4

Mon 24 th Feb	Start of Term 4
Tues 4 th March	KS1 Reading Café (Parents invited in from 8:15am in the Hall)
Wed 5 th March	KS2 Reading Café (Parents invited in from 8:15am in the Hall)
Thurs 6 th March	Yr 5 Living Histories Egyptian Workshop
Thurs 6 th March	WORLD BOOK DAY (dress up)
Fri 4 th April	End of Term 4

TUB²PUB



Bring your empty plastic biscuit, confectionary and cracker tubs into school by Friday 17th January 2025 to be recycled and help raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support too.

Let's see if we can recycle MORE this year!

Eco Ambassadors

Our Eco team will once again be collecting 'Tubs for Pubs', so please do collect as many as you can over the holiday. This initiative is a great way to recycle plastic and also helps to raise funds for a very worthwhile charity: Macmillan Cancer Support.

Please also support us in our bid to cut down on single use plastics by keeping Wednesdays (or all days!) wrapper free.



St Nicholas at Wade Church Crib Service: This service will be held on Christmas eve at 4pm for any one wishing to attend. Why not make a Christingle at home to take with you—or if you can't go it's a really lovely activity and you have a special decoration over the holidays.

Thank you to the church for such a warm welcome. Your kindness and support have truly made us feel at home, and we appreciate how you have looked after us and our families



Merry
Christmas

St Nicholas At Wade PTFA



Thank you for supporting the PTFA so far this year. Since September we have contributed £1,000 towards the school panto trip, supplied the xmas crackers for the school Christmas lunch, committed £300 to each class and also committed funds to the year 6 leavers and their residential. We have also be awarded grants of £2,550 towards an exciting project.

Come along to our next PTFA meeting on Thursday 16 January 7.30pm - location TBC

Next event: Quiz Night 31 January 2025

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.



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.