

The St Nicholas Post

Dear Parents and Carers,

2nd March 2025

Welcome back to Term 4! I am pleased to report that the children have been enjoying a fantastic first week back at school. As always, our wonderful teachers have meticulously planned engaging learning experiences for all our pupils. In addition to the core curriculum, we have also organised a variety of enrichment activities designed to provide the children with excellent experiences and broaden their horizons. More about those later in the letter.

Please do re-read the information for all the world book day events, as we have activities across the week designed to put reading front and centre. **'Every Child a Reader'** underpins all of our curriculum, all year round, nevertheless, it is lovely to take this time to celebrate it.

As always thank you for your partnership and continued support

Mrs Kennedy

Attendance Update



Attendance Ted is enjoying spending time in different classes. He is in Bluebell class this week and is looking forward to working hard with the children and enjoying even more reading!

We are proud of the good levels of attendance that we have at St Nicholas. We have improved our attendance data up to term 4 from last year by 1%:

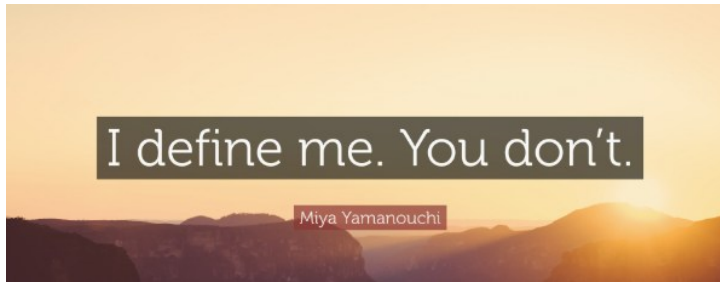
| Date | Cumulative to Term 4 2023-24 | Cumulative to Term 4 2024-25 |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Overall Attendance | 94.5 | 95.5 |

Given the first three terms include winter this is a really positive picture. We would love to end the year at 97%, please help us to do this by using the 175 days children are not in school to make appointments and take holidays.

Thank you for encouraging children into school when they say they don't feel 100%, often they are fine and having a slow start. Be assured that we will always call home if children aren't well so they can go home and rest.

Don't Hold on to What's Wrong

This term's PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) topic is, 'Don't Hold on to What's Wrong', and is linked to our Christian value 'Be the Best You Can Be'. The key theme is understanding the power of forgiveness and how this helps our own hearts to be healthy, as well as living more harmoniously. At St Nicholas we teach the children that the old saying 'words can never hurt me' must be something that we work towards. We must build our own sense of self-worth where the opinions and thoughts of others do not define us. Of course we are kind, and we hope that others are too, but when they are not, this will not defeat us, diminish us or make us crumble—we know our value!



A message we share with children at our school is that they will inevitably make mistakes, in their learning but also in their personal development—we will all do this! We encourage children to take accountability for their mistakes and part of that is apologising when they have got it wrong. On the flip side, we never allow children to reply with 'That's Okay', the responses they are encouraged to use are:

- **Thank you for your apology, I forgive you.**
- **I accept your apology, thank you.**
- **I need some time right now, can we try this again later?**

We do this because we want children to have a strong sense of self worth and therefore it is not okay if someone treats them badly, so we don't say that it is 'okay'. Equally we understand that others get it wrong, just as we do, so we are usually prepared to forgive that and not '**hold on to what's wrong**'.

Don't Hold on to What's Wrong



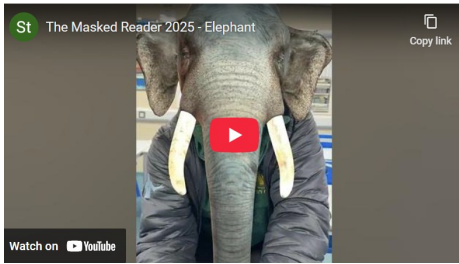
- **Forgiveness keeps our hearts healthy**
- **What others say to us does not have to harm us, change us, define us!**



Thank you to the unsung heroes that are the PTFA! The additional opportunities and experiences that the children have, both in taking part in the events arranged but equally in the resources provided makes a big difference to the children every day. The new climbing frame is just one example of how the funds are used. This hard work is done voluntarily and we are so grateful to have such an amazing parent body!



Don't Forget to check out the [masked reader](#). Will the children spot their teacher? Can they hear who's behind the mask?



Cross country

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the children who participated in the cross-country event on Saturday. This endeavour truly tests one's resilience. We are immensely proud of your approach and the support you demonstrated for one another. Well done, everyone! Thank you to Mr Ford and Mrs Palmer for giving up precious family time to be there for the children.



Buttercup class showed The St Nicholas Way on their school trip to Westgate fire station and library. They walked beautifully to the bus stop, spotting familiar landmarks on the way. They had a super bus journey to the fire station. When they arrived at the fire station they found out lots of super information, saw some interesting tools and following a real emergency, even witnessed the fire service in action! After this exciting start, they walked to the library where they took out a book with their library card before heading to school for a tasty lunch. Buttercup class were true superstars and were excellent representatives for the school.



We were pleased to have wonderful feedback from the public about the exemplary behaviour from our pupils! Well done Buttercups from Mrs Kennedy :)

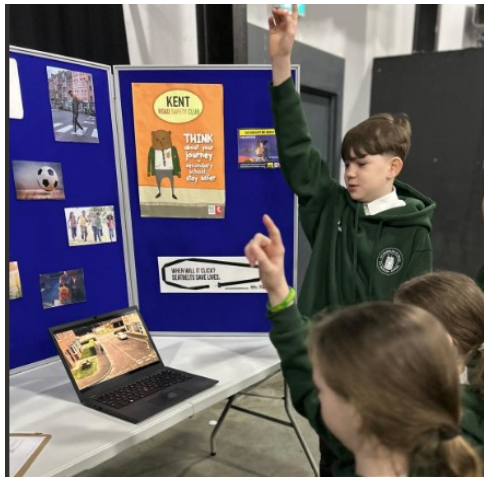
Lego Club Success

It is so lovely to see the children being so creative as they construct their own world to play with! Engaging with Lego fosters creativity, enhances fine motor skills, and promotes problem-solving abilities while encouraging collaboration and social interaction among children. What a great club!



Safety in Action

To fully prepare our oldest children for their next steps into secondary education, our Year 6 pupils recently attended the "Safety in Action" event. This engaging initiative offers students an interactive and educational experience, centred around personal safety in realistic life situations. Throughout the day, pupils rotated among various scenarios facilitated by Salus and other esteemed organisations. They were provided with valuable opportunities to discuss, ask questions, and learn essential safety skills. It was an enjoyable and informative experience that greatly contributed to their understanding of personal safety.



Value Champion Matty and Joe

For achieving their Karate Belts.

This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to your courage and resilience. It requires both dedication and hard work, and your ongoing commitment to extracurricular activities is commendable—keep it up! We are enormously proud of you. Keep up the excellent work as you continue to strive for further success.



It's who
we are!



WORLD
BOOK
DAY

WORLD BOOK DAY



THURSDAY 6TH MARCH 2025

Children are invited to to the St Nicholas 'Sleepover' (during the school day only). They should dress for the day in all their favourite cosy clothing, ready for some snuggly reading. Any pyjamas, dressing gowns, onesies, slippers, appropriate for daytime and for the weather, is acceptable. They may also bring a favourite cuddly toy and or blanket/cushion.

Tuesday 4th March - KS1 Reading cafe - 8.00 - 8.30am. The children and parents of KS1 are invited to come along to our cafe in the hall to enjoy some reading activities together as well as enjoy a quick breakfast bite.

KS2 drama workshop - We are delighted to welcome back Looping the Loop Theatre company who will be introducing KS2 children to the joys of Shakespearean drama.

Wednesday 5th March - KS2 Reading cafe - 8.00 - 8.30am. The children and parents of KS2 are invited to come along to our cafe in the hall to enjoy some reading together and demonstrate their reading skills, as well as enjoy some our our delicious breakfast buffet.

Thursday 7th March - Dressing up. Children are invited to come to school dressed ready for a daytime 'sleepover'. They will enjoy a variety of book and reading themed activities during the day with their class.

Book tokens - Children will receive their complimentary World Book Day token which will be exchanged for one of the special World Book Day books. We are very fortunate that The Little Green Bookshop of Herne Bay has agreed to provide the WBD books for the children. The Little Green Bookshop can be found at their store in Herne Bay or online @ <https://www.thelittlegreenbookshop.com/>

Friday 8th March - We are pleased to welcome KIC theatre who will be leading KS1 in a drama workshop throughout the day.

THE MASKED READER - BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND



Yes! It's back! No-one can resist the lure of the Masked Reader and staff have been persuaded to pitch in once more for some World Book Day fun. Several members of staff have disguised themselves as 'The Masked Reader' and have been recorded reading the blurb of their favourite books. Are any the same as last year? Can you recognise your teacher? Why not see if you can spot who are The Masked Readers by watching the videos? These will be available to view in the week after the half-term holiday and can be found on the school website - look for the 'Video Resource Centre' under the 'Children' section of the site. The readers will be unmasked on World Book Day.

COMPETITION TIME - BOOK IN A JAR

Children are invited to decorate a simple jam jar, with all the elements of their favourite story-book or character. You can use paints, crayons, fabric, glue, feathers, stickers and anything else you can lay your hands on, plus of course, the children's amazing imaginations. Entries should be brought into your child's class wc 3rd March 2025, labelled with their name, as well as the name of the book. The Reading Influencers will judge all entries and award a first place prize to each year group. Winners will be announced on World Book Day.



Reading is the key to your next adventure



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.