

The St Nicholas Post

23 April 2025

Dear All,

Welcome back to school, I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Easter break. It seems everyone has been very well rested and have come back renewed! The children have come back eager to learn and full of enthusiasm for school life. This will be a full term with only 23 school days with so much to fit in!

I was hopeful that I would have the Published Ofsted report to share with you by now, it will arrive shortly I hope, and I can't wait to share it with you as soon as I am able to. However, I would like to take a moment to thank you for your support during the inspection. The amount of responses through parent view were staggering and overwhelmingly positive - the inspector described the collected feedback as 'a thesis' of lovely words. I have the draft and one parent comment has even been quoted! So look out to see if it was your words that made it into the report! Equally, your kind words on the gate were really appreciated.

Mrs Kennedy

Fake is a Mistake



This terms PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) topic is, 'Fake is a mistake', and is linked to our Christian value 'Honesty'. The key theme is about being truthful and being proud of who we are. Understanding that being authentically ourselves is the best way to be. we strive to help children cultivate a strong sense of

self-worth and self identity. This journey is increasingly challenging in today's social media-driven environment, where comparisons are rife.

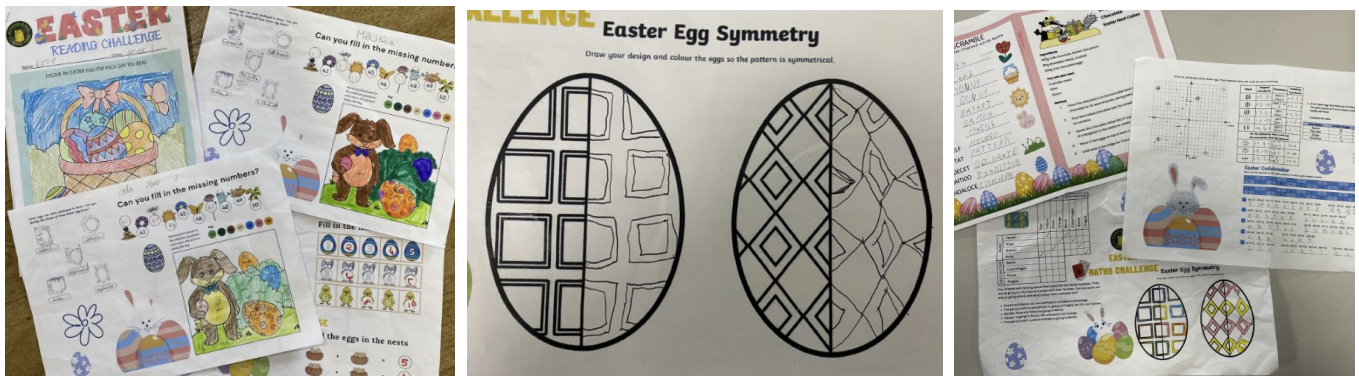
At St Nicholas we:

- Admire and appreciate others qualities
- Admire and appreciate our own qualities
- Understand that it is good to have different qualities, because 'Team work makes the dream work!'

Follow this [link](#) to the Heartsmart video all about 'Fake is a Mistake'

Maths and English Challenges

A big thank you to all the parents for encouraging your child to tackle the Easter English and Maths challenges! The response has been absolutely fabulous, and I'm thrilled to share that we've had a record-breaking amount returned. It's wonderful to see so many children engaging with their learning over the holiday period. Your support makes a huge difference. Keep up the great work, and let's continue to inspire our young learners together! Thank you also to Miss Cox and Mrs Woodbridge for putting together a great set of activities that the children will enjoy and learn from :)



Uniform Donations



As we head towards summer you may be dusting off your summer uniforms. We would welcome any donations of outgrown uniform for our pre-loved uniform pool. This will be put out next week at the end of the school day on Friday. Any donations, big or small, will go to the PTFA. Passing on uniform means that we help our environment and each other with the cost! It's a win-win.

A few thank-yous! Thank you Mrs Palmer for your hard work and organisation of the Easter service—from teaching songs to writing the service you ensure that the children get the opportunity to lead the celebration. Thank you to Mrs Moon and the British Sign Language for making such a moving contribution to the service with a beautiful rendition of 'When I Think About the Cross'

Lastly thank you to Budgie who looks after the school so wonderfully when we are not here—making sure its clean, tidy and that all the works are completed. Our hall looks great with its new wall and larger entrance :)





Value Champion Jessica

Well done to Jess who got a whopping 84 marks in her recent Tap exam—giving her a distinction! It really does require a huge amount of commitment and hard work to achieve such a great result. We are super proud Jess :)

It's who we are!

- It's the way
- Courage
- Resilience
- Honesty
- Kindness
- Being your best you

Rotary Art Exhibition

We are thrilled to be taking part in the Rotary Art Exhibition this year. Our children have all be creating some fantastic pieces of artwork under the theme, 'The Wonderful World of the Woods'. We really wanted to showcase the amazing artwork of the pupils so we will be hosting our very own art exhibition for each class so that you can come and look at their wonderful work. These will be held at 3pm in the main hall the dates are listed in the key Dates

Examples of local schools artwork will also be on display at Sainsbury's Westwood Cross. Following a very difficult selection process, we have chosen two entries for each year group that will be displayed there. Mr Ford will be letting those parents know.

Knowledge organisers

This year the team have worked really hard developing our knowledge organisers. These summarise the knowledge, skills and key vocabulary that underpin the teaching of each subject through a topic. They provide a reference for the children that they can use within class to help their understanding of key facts and vocabulary within the wider context of the subject. We expect children to have learned the content of their organiser by the end of each term, and we quiz children on their knowledge.

These are all on our website under 'class pages, term by term'. We hope they will be a great reference point for you to support your children's learning. Here is the [link](#) to class pages.

Here are some examples of organisers:

TREMORS

- Sticky Knowledge
- HISTORY
- GEOGRAPHY
- ART

What is the Earth's crust?
The Earth is made of different layers. The inner core is made mostly of solid iron, the outer core is made of liquid iron and nickel, the mantle is made of solid rock and liquid rock called magma. The crust is on top layer of solid rock that is broken into pieces called tectonic plates. These pieces move very slowly across the mantle.

What is an earthquake?
An earthquake happens when two tectonic plates move along a fault line. The earth shakes violently, especially at the centre of an earthquake, which is called the epicentre. Strong earthquakes can cause a lot of damage.

What are the types of rock?
The Earth's crust is made up of many kinds of rocks that are formed over millions of years. There are three main kinds of rock.
Metals: Is made from cooled lava. They usually contain visible crystals.
Sedimentary: These are made from mud, sand and particles that have settled in water. They have been squashed over a long time to form rock.
Igneous: These are formed when molten rocks are cooled by magma under the Earth's crust or squashed by the movement of the Earth's tectonic plates. They are usually very hard.

What is a volcano?
When a volcano erupts, liquid magma collects in an underground magma chamber. The magma pushes through a crack called a vent and bursts out onto the Earth's surface. Lava, hot ash and mudslides from volcanic eruptions can cause severe damage.

What are the continents and oceans?
There are 7 continents on the Earth and 5 oceans. In each of these there are different environments and habitats for different animals.
Animals adapt to survive in the habitat in which they live.
Can I make an animal enclosure?
Design: Think carefully about an animal's shape, size and needs.
Construct: Create the enclosure using recycled materials.
Evaluate: How does it meet the animal's needs.

What are the features of humans?
Humans have lots of different body parts that all have a use.
Ears: To hear with
Eyes: To see with
Teeth: To taste and speak with
Hands/legs: For reaching/walking and touching
Head: Protects the brain and sensory organs

What is Dean Basso?
He is a famous artist who uses vibrant colours to paint animals.

How can I make different effects?
Different pencils can create different effects.
Hard pencils make lighter lines and can be useful for making outlines and sketching.
Soft pencils make darker lines and are useful for shading.

CONNECTED CURRICULUM

PAWS, CLAWS & WHISKERS

- SCIENCE
- HISTORY
- ART
- GEOGRAPHY
- DT

Sticky Knowledge

Can I locate the continents and oceans?

Can I make an animal enclosure?

How can I make different effects?

CONNECTED CURRICULUM

Pharaohs

- HISTORY
- GEOGRAPHY
- ART

Timeline

- 15th February 1922: The team begin taking apart a third door. They discover the burial chamber of Tutankhamun.
- 16th November 1922: Lord Carnarvon arrives for his Carter and his team.
- 26th November 1922: Carter finds a second doorway and discovers a strange animal, which he calls Carter's cat. He also discovers a lot of treasure objects, but not the golden mask!
- 28th November 1922: Carter finds a hidden passage in the Valley of the Kings on the west bank of the Nile, where they discovered Tutankhamun's tomb.
- 19th November 1922: Carter writes a message to Lord Carnarvon to tell him about the tomb and invites him to visit.
- 26th November 1922: Carter writes a second message and discovers a strange animal, which he calls Carter's cat. He also discovers a lot of treasure objects, but not the golden mask!
- 28th November 1922: Carter writes a message to Lord Carnarvon to tell him about the tomb and invites him to visit.

Key Vocabulary

Word	Definition
ancient	A word the ancient Egyptians believed they would travel to, once they had died.
ancient	A chair that was believed to have magical powers.
Book of the Dead	A collection of magic spells that were thought to help a person in the afterlife.
canopic jar	A jar where internal organs were placed after they were removed from the body during the process of mummification.
hieroglyphs	A method of writing used by the Egyptians, using symbols and pictures.
mummification	The process of preserving a dead body.
pharaoh	A king or queen of Egypt.
sarcophagus	A highly decorated, large stone coffin.
tomb	The place where rich ancient Egyptians were buried.

Sticky Knowledge

Where is Egypt?
Egypt is in the North East corner of Africa and is well known for its ancient history and culture. Most of Egypt is covered in desert and there is very little rain. The Nile is the river that flows through Egypt.

Knowledge

CONNECTED CURRICULUM



Key Dates—Term 5

24 th April	Yr 3 & 4 Quicksticks Hockey
25 th April	Yr 5 & 6 Quicksticks Hockey
28 th April	Yr 1 Football Festival
29 th April	Year 1 Trip to Wildwood
29 th April	Year 3 Trip to Canterbury City Centre
1 st May	Yr 3 & 4 Football Festival
2 nd May	Class Photos
3 rd May	Yr 5 & 6 Rugby Festival
5 th May	Bank Holiday- SCHOOL CLOSED
12 th - 15 th May	End of KS2 Assessments (Breakfast provided for all year 6 children @8:15am)
16 th May	PTFA Disco
19 th May	Year 6 & Reception Art Gallery 3pm
20 th - 23 rd May	Year 6 Bikeability
20 th May	Year 1 & Year 5 Art Gallery 3pm
22 nd May	Year 2, Year 3 & Year 4 Art Gallery 3pm
22 nd May	Yr 6 Residential Meeting for Parents (3:15pm)
23 rd May	End of Term 5

Term 6 dates are on the next page



Parking Plea

Please can we ask that you are mindful of the signs places on the corners of Bridges close. They were very generously donated to the school but would cost £100 each to replace. There have been occasions where they have been bent right back by cars parking over them.



Key Dates—Term 6

2 nd June	Inset Day- SCHOOL CLOSED
5 th June	PTFA Father's Day Shop
5 th June	St Nicks Earth Day
6 th June	Year 5 Trip to Marlowe Theatre to see Pig Heart Boy
9 th - 13 th June	Year 6 Residential Trip
12 th June	Year 5 STEAM Trip at Chatham & Clarendon
17 th June	Year 5 and 6 Beach and coast Safety Trip
18 th June	New Intake Parents Meeting
20 th June	Sports Day (Family picnic from 12pm)
25 th June	New Intake Family Picnic
26 th June	Vision Screening for Reception
27 th June	Yr 5 & 6 Swimming at Joy Lane (Selected children)
2 nd July	Samba Workshop
3 rd July	Transition day for all children to meet new teachers/school
3 rd July	New Intake, Stay and Play
4 th July	Yr 5 & 6 Swimming at Joy Lane (Selected children)
8 th July	Yr 3 Trip to Monkton Nature Reserve
10 th July	EYFS Monkton Nature Reserve
11 th July	Yr 5 & 6 Swimming at Joy Lane (Selected children)
14 th July	Reports sent home
17 th July	Music Recital
18 th July	Year 6 Graduation at St Nicholas at Wade Church at 9:30am
18 th July	End of Term 6- 2pm Finish

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 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.