

The St Nicholas Post

11.05.25

Dear All,

We continue to work hard at school (the children and adults alike) to ensure that the children take advantage of the wonderful curriculum offer we have. We talk often with you about the importance of reading, and we know you support this through completing your child's reading record, encouraging your child to complete the reading challenges and importantly sharing stories and texts with them. We want to thank you for coming along to the book fair and buying books. The school were able to get lots of books (£350 worth!) to add to our library, off the back of your purchases—thank you! Also a thank you to Mrs Woodbridge and the 'Reading Influencers' who ran the fair :)

Mrs Kennedy

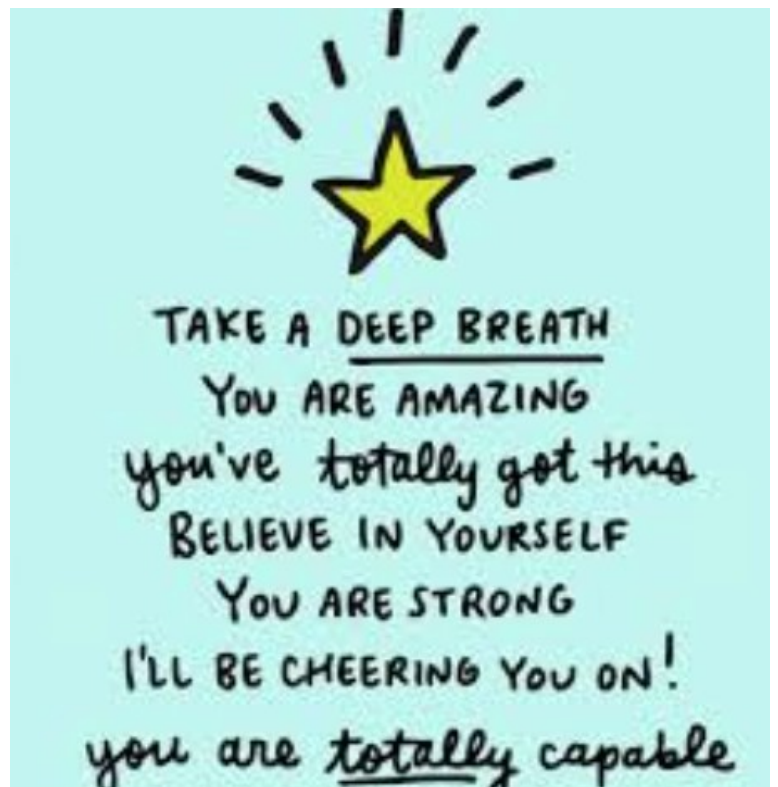
A Message for Our Wonderful Year 6 Children:

As we approach this week's tests, I just wanted to take a moment to wish you all the very best of luck! You are all incredibly well prepared and ready to shine. Just think about the hard work you've put in over the last seven years — it truly makes us proud! Remember, as you head into these assessments, that being the best you can be is what really matters, regardless of the results.

What's truly important is the amazing individuals you've become. I'm so pleased to have such courageous, resilient, kind, and honest children who work hard together. Your growth means so much to me! While I don't believe you need luck, it feels right to acknowledge that you wholeheartedly deserve for these tests to go well.

Stay confident, give it your all, and remember: you've got this!

Oh, and have an early night! :)



A huge well done to our year 1 footballers who represented the school fantastically at the football festival. We are so proud of your resilience and high spirits—that's 'The St Nicholas Way'



More Sporting News

We are absolutely thrilled to take our children to various sporting events—they truly are wonderful ambassadors for our school, showcasing our values consistently. A massive well done to our Rugby team, who not only displayed fantastic sportsmanship but also emerged victorious in most of their matches! Representing Wales, the Welsh team would have been impressed and proud of their performance.

Thanks to their hard efforts, they've brought home yet another trophy for our cabinet, which is a brilliant achievement! A huge round of applause to you all, and a heartfelt thank you to

the parents for your incredible support in helping them participate. We couldn't have done it without your involvement! Thanks Mrs Patterson for making all this possible—your dedication is appreciated! Keep up the great work, everyone! :)



Practise Gratitude

It's that time of year again! Thank you Miss Jermy for making the flowerbeds look wonderful—it means our school lives up to being a place to grow in every respect! It also means our children get to be in a lovely environment, enjoying nature. they are so lucky :)



Value Champion James

Well done to James who took part in his very first Taekwondo competition and first ever fight. That alone takes enormous courage and resilience, so to win both fights was an extra special achievement! A great result James! Mummy is super proud of you and so are we :)



Tax-Free Childcare!

Did you know that this applies to **all working families** for our breakfast club, afterschool clubs and wraparound care?

You can get 25% towards these childcare costs, provided by the government. [Here is the link to set it up](#)—it is very simple and many families are already using it. If you would like any advice or support setting it up please contact the office.

Once you have set up an account you need to:

1. Add a childcare provider
2. Pay money into your Government Childcare account using the unique reference number via your bank account.
3. The government will top-up each payment by 25%.
4. You can then make payments to your childcare provider. E.g. if you are paying £15 for golf club, you make a payment of £15.

Please let the office know your child's unique reference number so we can look out for any payments you have made. Once we have confirmed payment has been received we will register these payments on SchoolMoney.

Please note you cannot receive Tax Free Childcare and Universal Credit or Working Tax Credit at the same time.

Childcare
Choices



VE Day Celebrations

What a fantastic day we had celebrating VE Day! We kicked off the festivities with a thought-provoking assembly that highlighted the significance of this special day in history. The children lifted their voices in song with "We'll Meet Again," setting a reflective tone for the day.

After a moment of reflection, everyone enjoyed a VE Day themed lunch in the hall, beautifully decorated with Union flags. In the afternoon, the fun continued as the children savoured cake and squash on the field, with the cheerful sound of church bells ringing out from St Nicholas at Wade Church in the background. We believe it's vital for our young people to understand that our values and freedoms are a result of the endurance, resilience, and sacrifice of those who came before us. A wonderful day indeed!



Gardeners Choice!

A massive thank you to all who painted a pebble for our wild flower garden! The standard was incredibly high, and it was truly heart-warming to see the values and ethos of our school represented in such creative ways. The Gardening Club had a particularly challenging task in selecting the winning pebbles, but they managed to pick one from each year group.

The real triumph is that our wild flower garden is now beautifully adorned with these stunning pieces of artwork, each telling a story about our school community. It's a lovely way to celebrate our creativity and connection to nature.

A special shout-out goes to Mrs Hall, Miss Cox, and Mr Ford, as well as all the members of the Gardening Club, for turning this vision into reality. Your hard work and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated!



Like the wise builder, we build on rock not sand.

The winning rocks were:

Buttercups	Evie
Bluebells	Elena
Primrose	Miley-Rose
Willow	Eleanor
Beech	Iris
Acer	Amelia
Oak	Faye



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.