



Friday 30th November 2018
St Nicholas CE Primary Academy
Weekly Newsletter
Headteacher: Christopher Dale

Dear Parents and Carers,

Next week sees the start of the season of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation and like many in our community it represents a very busy time for families getting ready for Christmas.

In school this term the children have been focused on our school Value of Community and Compassion. The phrase I have used in our Acts of Worship has been 'noticing the need' particularly when thinking of others.

This year we will be repeating the Reverse Advent Calendar where we ask parents and carers in our community to help and 'notice the need' in others at a time of year which can be very difficult for many families. Please do watch out for the Reverse Advent Letter and help in whatever small way you feel able. My thanks in advance to all those who are able to support us and others with this.

I am sure many of you were as delighted as I was to see the Police outside the school this week ensuring the children were able to walk into school in safety. Although the Police are not able to be there every day, they have given their assurance that they will return and next time not just provide friendly warnings but tickets to those who disobey highway regulations. Our JRSO's (Junior Road Safety Officers) will be meeting with representatives from Highways next week looking at how this can be followed up.

Now that the weather has started to turn much colder can you please ensure your child comes to school wearing a warm waterproof coat, hat, scarf and gloves. On wet days if your child wears their boots to school they must bring their school shoes to change in to. I am shocked as to how many children still arrive at school without a coat.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Dale
Headteacher

Cashless Payments

From 1st January 2019 the School Office will no longer be able to accept cash payments to purchase school items or pay for trips. All payments in future will have to be made via ParentMail.

The school is looking into the option of paying for school meals through ParentMail. A survey will be coming out shortly for your view.

If you do not have a ParentMail account please come in to the School Office and Hayley or Clair will help you in setting one up. You will need to have an email account to enable them to set an account up for you.

Dates for your diary

December

Saturday 1st

Tree of Love Service
at St Nicholas Church
5pm onwards

Thurs 6th

St Nicholas Day
School Service at St
Nicholas Church
9.30am

**St Nicholas House
Non-uniform Day**

Fri 8th

Year R *Relax & Read*
Session 8.35am –
8.50am

Mon 10th

Whole School Panto

Thurs 13th

KS1 Nativity
performance at
1.45pm

Parent Council Forum
6.30pm

Fri 14th

KS1 Nativity
performance at
9.30am

Christmas Disco
KS1 5pm - 6pm
KS2 6:30pm - 7:45pm

Wed 19th

Christmas Dinner &
Christmas Jumper Day
KS2 Christmas
Service at St Nicholas
Church 9:30am

LAST DAY OF TERM



Attendance – Every Day Counts

It is essential that your child comes to school on time every day. Learning begins immediately with Early Morning Work when the class doors open at 8.35am, when many additional interventions are also scheduled for this time which may include your child.



This term's collective worship focus is:
COMPASSION

Our whole-school attendance this week was %.

Class attendance rates this week			
Hedgehog		Rowan	
Squirrel		Beech	
Badger		Birch	
Otter		Maple	
Fox		Willow	
Hare		Oak	
Chestnut		Elm	

Well done this week to

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Thank you for realising the importance of sending your child to school every day.

Reverse Advent

We would like to invite you to be a part of our school's reverse advent calendar. The purpose of a reverse advent calendar is to encourage everyone to think about how much we have and to support us in giving a something away each day.

Items for our reverse advent calendar can be brought to school from Monday 3rd December until Wednesday 18th December. Each day a different class will be asked to bring in one item from home and place it in the reverse advent calendar box which will be in the main school hall, please see the class list below.

Mon 3 rd	Elm	Mon 10 th	Fox	Mon 17 th	Otter
Tues 4 th	Oak	Tues 11 th	Hedgehog & Squirrel	Tues 18 th	Willow
Wed 5 th	Rowan	Wed 12 th	Birch	Wed 19 th	Maple
Thurs 6 th	Chestnut	Thurs 13 th	Beech		
Fri 7 th	Hare	Fri 14 th	Badger		

St Nicholas House – Non Uniform

On **Thursday 6th December** children in St Nicholas House (Green) do not have to wear school uniform.

This year the children in each House will be celebrating their House Saint by not having to wear their uniform. The only thing we ask is that the children in St Nicholas wear something green! The other Houses will have their turn throughout the year.

Star Awards



Star of the week awards went to:

Hedgehog: Megan D, **Otter:** Logan A, **Fox:** Bailee G, **Rowan:** Leo L, **Birch:** Chloe B, **Willow:** Joshua L

Nicholas Bear was awarded to SQUIRREL!

Lantern Parade

On **Tuesday 4th December** children from KS1 will have the opportunity to make their own lanterns for the Lantern Festival taking place on Friday 7th December. Thanks to everyone's help we now have enough bottles for every child to make a lantern.

ParentMail – Android App

Message from ParentMail - There have been updates to the Android app to improve user experience. Users of the Android ParentMail app should update their app immediately by navigating to the Google Play Store.

Term Dates

Spring Term

First day of term: Monday 7th January 2019

Half-term: Monday 18th to Friday 22nd February 2019

Last day of term: Friday 5th April 2019

Summer Term

First day of term: Tuesday 23rd April 2019

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May 2019

Half-term: Monday 27th to Friday 31st May 2019

Last day of term: Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Free School Meals

We are currently updating our records to ensure that we have captured the details of all families whose children are entitled to receive Free School Meals.

If you receive any of the benefits below then your child will be eligible to receive Free School Meals:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross household income of no more than £16,190)
- The Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Working Tax Credit run on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

If your application for Free School Meals is successful the school will also receive extra funding from the Government of approximately £1300 per year.

Even if your child already receives a free school lunch because they are in Reception or KS1, we can still claim funding to support their learning. If you would like to apply for Free School Meals you can apply online at; <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

Young Cooks

Yesterday Boglar B-G took part in the Young Cooks Competition held at East Kent College in Broadstairs. This is the south east's annual masterchef-style event. Entrants need to prepare a dish they have created, which they think is delicious, healthy and showcases their cooking skills.

Kent Cooks is part of the Young Cooks competition, serving Kent, London, Sussex and the South East. The aim is to develop the confidence and abilities of young people to prepare meals to a fixed budget, as well as to increase awareness of healthy options and locally grown produce.

Finalists will not only have to cook their dish, they will have to spend a few minutes explaining to the judges how and why they created it, so confident presentation skills are also needed.

CONGRATULATIONS BOGLAR – OVERALL CHAMPION!

