

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
St Nicholas CE Primary Academy  
**Newsletter**

Headteacher: Christopher Dale

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Dear Parents and Carers,

**Welcome back to the start of a new school year**, it is so nice to see all the children in their new uniform and shiny shoes. It would be great if parents would take the time to ensure **all** items of clothing are properly labelled. Things do go missing from time to time and it makes things so much easier for us if clothing is labelled with your child's name and class.

A warm welcome to all the children and their families who have joined us at the start of the new academic year. We look forward to a long and happy working relationship with all our families.

Our first 'Value' of the year is *community*. I believe St Nicholas should be a school at the heart of its community, *where diversity is celebrated and pupils are respectful*. A place where all pupils feel safe to take risks, enjoy their learning and work hard to excel to be the best they can be. A place where they challenge themselves, learn from each other and create lasting memories. But most of all to create a school we can all be proud of! By working together, we can ensure all pupils enjoy their time at school, make excellent progress and leave with the necessary skills and attitudes to lead successful and fulfilling lives.

Over the coming year, we will continue to provide opportunities for parents to get involved in their children's learning. Do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries, concerns or if there is anything I can do to help and support you with your child's learning.

We have had a very busy week this week with the children, reminding them of our expectation and rules we have across the school. Children will have made their class charters and taken part in agreeing their classroom rules. By now, every class should have uploaded their Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFS) for maths and the Curriculum overview on their Class Dojo pages for parents to see what's happening in their child's learning this term, I hope you find these helpful in supporting your child's learning journey.

Schools have also been asked to remind parents of expectations surrounding attendance. There is a piece on the back of this newsletter which I would respectfully like to draw your attention to. We have also included an overview on safeguarding and the school's commitment to the Operation Encompass programme.

Yours sincerely

*Christopher Dale*  
Headteacher

**Dates for your diary**

**SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Thurs 12**

Y6 – 11+ testing all day

**Sun 15**

**Education Sunday**

10:30am Service at St Nicholas Church – all welcome

**Mon 16**

Y1 – 6 Shooting stars Mental Health Roadshow - all day

iRock Music tuition teaching starts for pupils

Y6 – 5:30pm meeting for parents regarding the Y6 residential

**Wed 18**

EFYS parents – Phonics meeting at 9:00am

Fire service workshops for KS1 pupils all afternoon

**Mon 23**

Y6 OAA residential – Grosvenor Hall, day 1

**Tues 24**

Y6 OAA residential – Grosvenor Hall, day 2

**Wed 25**

Y6 OAA residential – Grosvenor Hall, day 3

Y1 & 2 - KIC theatre day visits

**Thurs 26**

**Whole school - European day of Languages**

2:00pm PTA new school year meeting – **all welcome**



**“Learning, loving and encouraging through Christ.”**

**“St Nicholas Church of England Primary Academy a place where pupils always come first.” OFSTED**



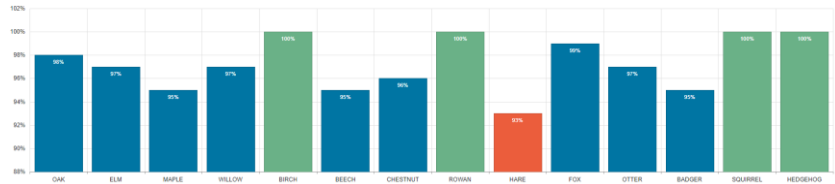
## Attendance every day counts.

It is essential that your child comes to school on time every day. Learning starts when the class doors open at 8:30am with SODA (Start of Day Activities), some interventions start at this time and this **WILL include your child** at some point!

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

### Top attenders are:

Year	Class	%
R	Hedgehog	100
R	Squirrel	100
3	Rowan	100
4	Birch	100
2	Fox	99



*Congratulations to all the classes above with their super attendance*

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

## Education Sunday

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September**, we will be holding our annual Education Sunday service at St Nicholas Church.



We will be joined by families and members of the congregation from all over the Romney Marsh Benefice and we hope that **ALL** our families will be able to join us for this special start of school year community service.

The service will be led by Rev Chris Hodgkins, along with staff and pupils from St Nicholas School. It promises to be a special service and there will be refreshments after the service.

We hope to see you there. Thank you.



This term's worship focus is on our value:

**COMMUNITY**



*"Where two or three gather in my name, there am I among them."*

**Matthew 8: 20**

## Yellow Zig-Zags - \\\\/\\\/\\\/SCHOOL DO NOT PARK HERE\\\/\\\/\\\/

Since returning to school there have been a number of individuals who have made coming into school **unsafe** by parking on the Yellow ZigZags.

These exist for the safety of all children – **Please do not park on the zig-zags during morning drop off and afternoon collection.**

## PTA

Our first meeting of the PTA in the new academic year will take place on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 2:00pm** in the staff room – All are welcome – including preschool children if that is stopping you from attending!

A PTA is a Parent Teacher Association, an organisation with a mission to make the school a better place for children to learn. St Nicholas' PTA brings together parents, teachers and children to raise funds and strengthen the school community. Money raised is usually spent on things that the school budget does not cover.

There are many reasons why you should join your PTA. From making new friends and getting to know the school environment, through to helping raise much needed funds and making a difference to the children and school community. All of these things help you grow in confidence as a parent and it feels good to know you are making a difference for your children and for generations to come.

## Abacus After School Club

A reminder to parents - breakfast and after school club opens next week on Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Sept. If you require access to before or after school care contact Abacus nursery. Thank you.

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## Attendance – Every Day Counts

We have produced this special notice on attendance to provide parents and carers with a clear outline on the absence procedures at St Nicholas and the Local Authorities responses to poor pupil attendance.

The Governors have made it clear that they will support the Headteacher and Schools Liaison Officer (SLO) in promoting high levels of attendance, and where required they will support the actions of the school where there is an unsatisfactory reasons for absence. Unbroken attendance is important for learning. However, there will be times when absence is unavoidable and acceptable. This notice explains the approach we are following to manage attendance.

### **Types of Absence:**

Each absence is classed as authorised or unauthorised. Authorised absences are given when reasons are considered valid. Unauthorised absences are given where no explanation or unacceptable reasons are given.

### **Unacceptable Reasons:**

The following reasons are not acceptable:

- shopping visits
- care for family members
- days out to theme parks or to attend concerts/shows for a birthday or family occasion
- parents' work commitments or business trips
- holidays taken in term time (including long weekends taken on Fridays and/or Mondays)
- parental illness
- sibling illness

All unauthorised absences are reviewed by the Local Authority School Liaison Officer (SLO).

### **Illness and First Day Call:**

If your child is unable to attend school through illness you should inform us by telephone on the first day of absence before 9:00am, report your child's absence on MCAS or go into the Office if able to or if dropping off a sibling. Please make sure you give a reason as to how your child is poorly. It is useful to know the expected day of return. If you do not supply us with this information, we have a duty to contact you, so we may be sure of the child's whereabouts as this is a safeguarding measure.

Where the child is absent through illness or medical appointments this will normally be counted as authorised. Where we have concerns over excessive absence patterns through illness, we will need to discuss this with parents in order to gain a better understanding of the problems and to offer support – for example by involving the School Health Services.

### **Medical/Dental Appointments:**

It is generally better if these can be arranged **outside school hours**, but we know this is not always possible. Where children need to attend such appointments during the school day it is important that parents come first to the Office before collecting children. Please bring your child to the office on returning from the appointment. Please indicate in advance whether s/he will be returning for the midday meal.

### **Emergency Occasions:**

There are some occasions e.g., bereavements, family problems, etc where it may be inappropriate for children to attend school; we will be sympathetic to such requests.

### **Lateness:**

Please try to ensure that your child arrives at school so that they are present for registration; this is done at 8:45am each day. Meeting and exchanging news with friends before school is important for the children's social development. Lateness causes problems over register marking and missed instructions at the start of a lesson and it can be embarrassing for the child.

### **What we are aiming for:**

Average attendance would be around 96% for the year, with outstanding attendance being above this.

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# Safeguarding – Looking after ALL pupils

We would like to share with you the academy's policy in ensuring that all our children are taught and encouraged to live healthy lifestyles and adopt safe practices. Policies are in place to ensure that there is a consistent approach to practices throughout the academy and that they are understood and adhered to by staff, governors and volunteers.

Adults have a tremendous impact on young children and with this in mind, it is an expectation that all adults and visitors at St Nicholas:

- Are good role models for students
- Enjoy their work and working with students
- Are conscientious and hardworking
- Welcome and support visitors to school
- Recognise and value strengths in each other and use these to support everyone.
- Work with the agreed policies of the school
- Promote a happy, caring and safe school
- Encourage students to think for themselves, ask questions and find answers
- Create an environment of trust whereby students are trusted to work seriously
- Challenge and support students in their learning.

There are numerous policies in place at St Nicholas to safeguard our children and they include:

## **Safeguarding Children and adults at St Nicholas Academy.**

All visitors to school are expected to pre-arrange their visit with the required member of staff at least 24 hours in advance of the visit.

Unannounced visitors - In the event of you or others attending a meeting in school, all visitors where they are unknown to the school are required to show proof of identity to our reception staff before the meeting takes place.

## **Child protection**

This is a sensitive area in which all staff receive regular training. Here, school and other services for children and families all work together to support the needs of students. At St Nicholas, **we have a Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mrs Turner, Deputy Headteacher**. We also have a named governor responsible for safeguarding & child protection – Mrs L Edwards. The child protection policy can be viewed on the school website.

## **Attendance and punctuality**

Students' attendance and punctuality at school is monitored on a daily basis and notable absences, lateness or patterns of absence are followed up by the Attendance Team. In cases where absence or lateness to school is persistent the Schools Liaison Officer will work with families to support them in removing any barriers to learning.

Our behaviour policy is reviewed annually and can be found on the school website. Students are reminded frequently about our school rules and they know that we have them in order to keep everyone safe and happy.

## **Health and safety**

The school has a named Health and Safety officer (Mr C. Dale – Headteacher). The school has several fully trained first aiders, who deal with accidents where they occur. There is also a named governor responsible for health and safety – Mrs L Edwards. We also aim to ensure that students are regularly informed about health and safety through assemblies, wall displays and clear instructional signs around the school.

## **Curriculum**

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Healthy eating, physical exercise and safety are taught in our curriculum. These areas of life skill development are also brought to life by the many educational visits we undertake and professionals we invite police officers and other emergency service personnel to talk to the students about issues such as road safety, safeguarding and drugs awareness.

### **Safer recruitment and selection of staff**

We are governed by law to ensure staff members are right and proper to work with children. Governors and the school ensure that all staff new to the school and volunteers who work in school on a regular basis undertake an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) identity check, rigorous interviews and full references before a person takes up a post.

### **Operation Encompass**

Our school is part of Operation Encompass which is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and Kent County Police forces.

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a police officer has visited the home of a child or young person where domestic violence has been recorded in the family home. As a school we have ensured that a member of our staff, (The Headteacher) known as the Key Adult, has been trained in the Operation Encompass procedures, allowing us to then use the information which has been shared, in confidence, to support the child/ren in our care.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identifies children who experience domestic abuse as victims of domestic abuse in their own right. We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

Parents will be contacted by the school where the police have informed the school of such a visit.