



Friday 10th January 2025

St Nicholas CE Primary Academy

Weekly Newsletter

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Dear St Nicholas Community,

Happy New Year to our wonderful school community! As we embark on this fresh start, I'm delighted to report that we've had a fantastic beginning to the term, despite the chilly weather nipping at our heels.

With the dawn of a new year, many of us contemplate resolutions and seek ways to better ourselves. May I suggest a resolution that could have a profound impact on your child's future? It's simple yet powerful: reading with your child.

Reading is, without doubt, one of the greatest gifts you can bestow upon your child. It's not just about decoding words on a page; it's about opening doors to new worlds, sparking curiosity, and laying the foundation for success across all subjects. When you read with your child, you're not only supporting their academic journey but also nurturing a lifelong love of learning.

This week, we've rekindled our commitment to expanding our pupils' vocabulary by reintroducing our 'Suave Words' on ClassDojo. You might wonder, "What's the point of these sophisticated words?" Well, words are incredibly powerful tools. They allow us to express ourselves more precisely and eloquently. By introducing new words, we're equipping our pupils with the means to articulate their thoughts and feelings more effectively.

Did you know that research suggests it takes about 12 exposures to a word, in various contexts, for it to truly become part of one's vocabulary? That's why we're so passionate about this initiative. It's not just about learning new words; it's about enhancing our pupils' ability to communicate confidently and clearly.

Later in this newsletter, you'll find a piece on the importance of oracy. This ties in beautifully with our focus on vocabulary. By expanding their word bank, we're giving our pupils the tools they need to become articulate, confident speakers.

As we settle into this new term, I'd like to encourage you to make a resolution that could significantly impact your child's educational journey. Commit to reading with your child regularly, engage with our 'Suave Words', and watch as doors of opportunity swing open for them.

Together, let's make this term a springboard for your child's success. By nurturing their love for reading and expanding their vocabulary, we're setting them up to excel in everything they do at school and beyond.

Here's to a year filled with learning, growth, and countless 'aha!' moments. Let's make it extraordinary!

Best wishes

Christopher Dale
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

JANUARY

Thurs 16

- 8:30 FLOs
Breakfast Bonanza
- 9:00am TTRS Y4
Parents meeting
- 1:30 Young Carers
Helping Hands
group
- 2:45 - TTRS Y4
Parents meeting

Tues 21

- 9:00 Y5 Friendship
workshop
- Y4 Knuckleball
Bros workshop

Wed 22

- **O2 Young Voices**
– choir out all day.

Thurs 23

- 9:30 Y1 & 2 Infant
agility all morning

Fri 24

- **Whole school - 6**
Ways to Wellbeing
Day.

Thurs 30

- Yr R & 3 - KIC
Theatre all day

Fri 31

- **KS1 art exhibition**

FEBRUARY

Mon 3

- **KIC Theatre PSHE**
day with Y2 /5
- 1:30 Candlemas
Eucharist
- 3:15 open classes
for all parents



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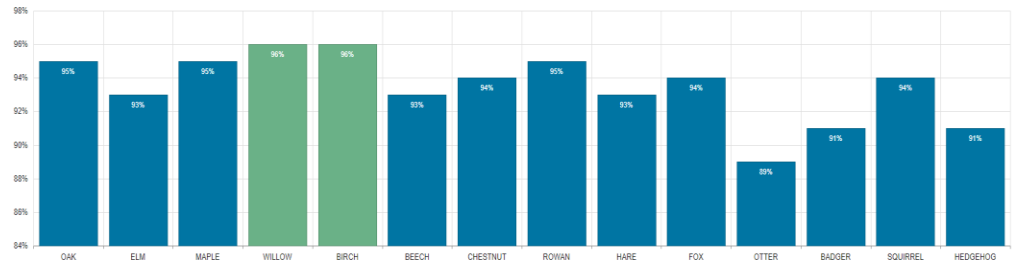


Attendance every day counts.

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	%
5	Willow	96
4	Birch	96
6	Oak	95
5	Maple	95
3	Rowan	95



Congratulations to all the classes above with their super attendance

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

Star Award



Star of the week awards went to:

Squirrel: Jacob J **Badger:** Theo W **Fox:** Charlie N
Chestnut: Lilah W **Birch:** William C **Willow:** Teddy G
Elm: Mason F



This week's Birthdays:

Willow U, Finley P, Joshua B, Freddie C, Connor P and Gracie R – many happy returns to you all!



This term's worship focus is on our value:

AMBITION

Romans 15:2

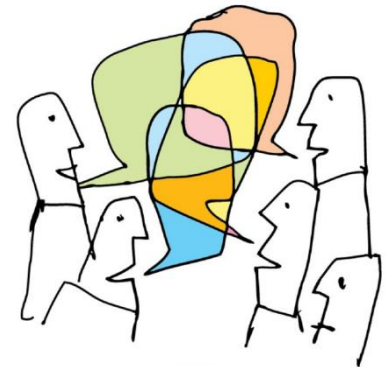
"We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord."

WHY SPEAKING AND LISTENING MATTER

Speaking and listening – also known as oracy – are essential skills that help your child succeed in school and in life. From improving vocabulary and confidence to building relationships and critical thinking, oracy is a key part of learning. By encouraging more talk at home, you can support your child's academic progress and help them become a confident communicator.

The activities below are designed to fit into everyday routines and can be adapted to suit your family's needs, whether during dinner time, on walks, or while getting ready for bed.

One of the ways parents can help easily is through the use of SUAVE WORDS - *Why it helps:* Expanding vocabulary helps children express themselves more clearly. Use our words to support children in their learning.



TALKING ABOUT THE SCHOOL DAY

When we ask children if they had a good day, the answer is often a simple "yes" or "no," which can leave us wondering about the rest of their experiences. Encouraging children to talk about their day can help them process their feelings, celebrate successes and share moments they may be proud of or need support with. Providing open-ended questions can open the door to richer conversations,



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helping them reflect on their day and build communication skills. Below are some ideas to help create this dialogue and invite more than one-word responses.

QUESTIONS TO BROADEN THE CONVERSATION AFTER SCHOOL

- What made you smile today?
- What was the best thing that happened at school today?
- What was the worst thing that happened at school today?
- What made you feel proud today?
- Tell me something that made you laugh today.
- What was the book about that your teacher read?

CALLING ALL YEAR 4 PARENTS

Are you wanting to support your child in their learning in the New Year?

Fluency with times table facts is a fundamental skill for maths and your child will be participating in the multiplication tables check (MTC) in June.



The purpose of the national check is to determine whether your child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will also help your child's school to identify if your child may need additional support.

As a School we are looking for you to support your child at home. To provide parents with more information on how to do this we will have two information sessions for parents on **THURSDAY 16 January at 9:00am and 2:45pm**. Where you will be able to speak to the class teachers and have a presentation from Miss Fellows.

Public consultation - Lower Leas Coastal Park play area refurbishment

Folkestone & Hythe District Council is planning the first major refurbishment of the Lower Leas Coastal Park play area in Folkestone since it opened in 2000. With the remaining original equipment heading towards the end of its shelf life, now is the perfect opportunity to find out what residents – especially children – want from the district's flagship play area.

A questionnaire covering a range of topics including types of play, accessibility and themes was launched just before Christmas. All feedback gained from the public consultation will be considered and used to inform the design of the refurbished facility. You can [read more about it on our website](#)

A green and purple poster for a public consultation. The top half has a purple background with the text 'We want it to be awesome too!' in white and green. Below this, on a green background, is the text: 'We're looking to transform the Lower Leas Coastal Park's play area for the first time in nearly 25 years. It's a big investment and we want to get it right – that's where you come in.' A QR code is shown next to the text: 'Share your views and complete our survey by 24 February 2025. All ideas will be considered.' At the bottom, it says 'Scan the QR code or visit folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/awesome'. On the right side of the poster is a photograph of a wooden play area with a slide and climbing structures. The Folkestone & Hythe District Council logo is in the bottom right corner.

We want it to be awesome too!

We're looking to transform the **Lower Leas Coastal Park's play area** for the first time in nearly 25 years.

It's a big investment and we want to get it right – that's where you come in.



Share your views and complete our survey by 24 February 2025.

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Folkestone & Hythe District Council

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Year 6 Celebrate the start of Epiphany

Epiphany - also known as Three Kings' Day - is a Christian feast day which falls on 6 January.

It is a special date for many Christians as it's when people celebrate how a star led the Magi - also known as the Three kings or the Wise Men - to visit the baby Jesus after he had been born.

'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal', as it is when the baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world.

This is why you might hear people say they've had an epiphany, when they've just realised something.



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