

St Nicholas School Weekly Newsletter

Learning Together

Friday 15th
September 2023



Dear Parents,

We have had a good first full week back at school. Myself and Sarah have walked around the school a few times this week and are really impressed how settled the children are in their new class groups. We also had our new Reception children in for their transition days this week and they are really looking forward to starting full time on Monday.

Changes to the end of day pick up arrangements: Firstly, I want to say thank you to all of the parents who collect their children for your understanding as to why we have changed the end of day arrangements. It has made Reedham Drive much calmer for traffic moving up and down the road. Thank you also for leaving promptly once you have collected your child so that available parking can be used by taxis waiting to come into the car park. As a reminder to all of our parents:

Buses, minibuses and out of borough taxis will arrive in the car park by 2:45 and the car park gates will close. Children who are on buses, minibuses and out of borough taxis will then be taken onto their transport. Once all children are on, the car park gates will open and they will all leave.

Parents will continue to park on Reedham Drive and surrounding roads and collect your child at the school gate. These children will now be brought out at **2:45**. **When your child is handed over to you, you must leave straight away.**

This is at the request of Croydon Transport who have told the remaining taxis not to arrive until 2:55 and to park on the road until the car park is clear. Therefore we need any remaining space outside school for taxis who arrive early. Staff also need to get back to class to get other children ready. We also want to avoid a traffic jam of buses, minibuses, out of borough taxis and parents trying to get out of Reedham Drive all at the same time.

Croydon Taxis will then come into the car park at **2:55/3:00**. Gates will close again and all children will be put onto their transport. When all children are on, gates will open and children will leave.

Medications: If your child uses an asthma pump or EpiPen, please can you make sure that you have provided these to the school. As per our school policy, we are only to administer medication that has been prescribed by a GP and is in its original box and once you have signed a consent form. We are not able to give children Nurofen, Calpol or unprescribed hay fever medication such as Piriton.

Important Dates

Monday 18th September: First day for Reception children
Monday 2nd October: Coffee Morning 'Introduction to SaLT and visuals 10-11'
Monday 9th October – Friday 13th October: Sensory Week
Monday 9th October: SEND strategy launch
Friday 13th October: Mufti day for sensory week
Tuesday 17th October: Flu immunisation
Wednesday 18th October: Reception Parents Evening 4:00-6:30pm
Friday 20th October: Superhero Day for MENCAP (dress as a superhero).
Friday 20th October: Last Day of Term
Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October: Half Term
Monday 30th October: Children return
Wednesday 8th November: Parents Evening for years 1-6 4:00-6:30pm Wednesday
Wednesday 8th November and Thursday 9th November: School Photos
Monday 13th November: Social Stories Coffee Morning
Wednesday 15th November: School dentist
Friday 24th November: School Closed for pupils. Staff INSET
Tuesday 28th November: Winter craft KS1
Wednesday 29th November: Winter Craft KS2
Wednesday 29th November: M&M Productions 'Snow White'
Monday 4th December: PECS coffee morning
Wednesday 13th December: KS1 show am and KS2 show pm
Thursday 14th December: KS2 show am and KS1 show pm
Thursday 21st December: Last day of term. Break up at 1:30

Please note there are other coffee morning dates and school events to be confirmed and added to this. We are finalising these and they will be send out next week.

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School Uniforms: Please can you make sure that all school uniform including coats and fleeces, book bags and lunch boxes are clearly named. Your class teacher should have also informed you when your child's PE lessons are. Please make sure their PE kit is also named. If you have any old uniform that you wish to donate to the school, please send it in. We will regularly hold 2nd hand uniform sales at coffee mornings and other parent events.

Governors: Some of our Governors came to the end of their term just before the summer and decided not to renew their term due to work commitments. Therefore, we need a few more Governors to join the Governing Board of the school. If you have a work colleague or friend who is interested in being a school Governor and has a background in the public sector (Finance, HR, Health and Safety, Business etc), please can you put them in touch with me at kgoodwin.306@lgflmail.org or with Bernie Tetchner (our Chair of Governors) btetchner.306@lgflmail.org. Thank you

Universal Free School Meals: Starting this academic year, City Hall is now ensuring that **all** primary aged pupils receive free school meals. This was previously for just Key Stage 1 children. Children will automatically receive their free school meal. However, it is important that you still contact the school office if you believe your child is eligible for benefit based free school meals. This not only generates extra funding for the school that can be used on enrichment activities, teacher development and targeted support for children who need it most but also entitles you to other benefits such as food vouchers in the holidays and other holiday schemes. This is not available to all children but to those entitled to benefit based free school meals. Please click on the link for further information. [Free school meals and help with uniform costs | Croydon Council](#)

Croydon Disability and Access Card: Croydon Council have partnered with Nimbus Disability to offer a discount card to all children and young people who are on Croydon Council's disability register. The access card is widely accepted as proof of a child's needs and provides access to concessions such as free companion passes and tickets. Please click on the following link for further information and to apply. [Croydon disability register and access card | Croydon Council](#)

Calling the office: Please can you call the office between 9:30-2:30 as these are the least busiest times for them. If you call before or after this, please leave a message and the office staff will return your call. The start and end of the school day are extremely busy for the office as this is when children are arriving and leaving the school.

Absence reporting: If your child is absent due to illness or for a medical appointment, please can you do this via Weduc or pressing 2 on the phone system and leave a message. Please give a specific reason for the absence so that we can mark it on the registers. We urge that rather than saying your child is 'unwell', you let us know the illness they have e.g. vomiting/diarrhoea/headache etc so that we can keep a track of illnesses in the school and if there are any contagious infections. In some cases, we need to alert the Public Health Agency. **Please note that if you do not inform us of absence, it goes down as an 'N' code in the registers which is an unauthorised absence.** Further, if your child is sick or un-well when they are in school, we will call parents to ask you to come and collect them **immediately**. Please make sure that we have the correct phone numbers for both contacts.

WANTED! We are looking for a standard 3ft single mattress for a bed frame we have for our life skills curriculum. If you know of anyone who is selling one or would like to donate one to the school, please can you get in touch with Sarah Holliday. Thank you

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.
Many Thanks
Katie Goodwin
Head Teacher