

St Nicholas School Weekly Newsletter

Learning Together

Friday 8th
September 2023



Dear Parents,

Welcome back after a long summer break. I hope that you all managed to have a restful summer with your families. We have welcomed back the children in Years 1-6 and they have settled well in their classes. All of the class teachers will be making contact with you all this week via their class weekly newsletter.

Changes to the end of day pick up arrangements: Now that the school is full, this has meant that there has been an increase in taxis and minibuses that transport the children into school and has meant that there hasn't been enough room in the car park for them at one time. Following a meeting with Croydon Transport, we have now staggered the arrival times of the buses and taxis in the afternoon.

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.

These arrangements will start on **Tuesday 12th September**. Parents, I urge you to please park sensibly and respectfully. I continuously receive complaints from the neighbours about parking and the local MP has also contacted me. He has told me that council officers are working out possible options for the road. I obviously want to avoid any further restrictions on parking and driving on Reedham Drive being introduced as this will impact our parents in the first instance. Thank you for your co-operation. I will also send this as a separate letter to parents.

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

Tuesday 12th September: New end of day pick up arrangements will start

Thursday 14th and Friday 15th

September: Reception Transition

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.

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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.

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](#)

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. Further, if your child is sick or unwell 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.

New staff at St Nicholas:

We welcome the following members of staff to the St Nicholas School team.

Class Teachers: Dai Reed (Year 1). We also welcome back Hayley Carr and Katie Bayer (Year 1 + 2) from maternity leave.

Teaching Assistants: Georgette Thomas, Elizabeth Fernandez, Mya-Leigh Atkins, Rachel Jones, Amira Marouani, Courtney Smith-Hoffman, Afiya Riley.

Office Staff: Oliwia Roszak (who officially started in June) and Kirby Amankwah (started in July)

SalTA: Katy Bourne

We also have some agency staff working with us and are hoping to recruit them as permanent members of staff over the next term. One of these is Daniel who is the caretaker. You may see him at the school car park gate in the mornings.

We welcome all of our new staff to St Nicholas School.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend in the glorious summer weather we are finally having!
Many Thanks
Katie Goodwin
Head Teacher