

# St Nicholas School Weekly Newsletter

*Learning Together*

Friday 6<sup>th</sup>  
October 2023



Dear Parents,

Once again, I apologise for the mix up of dates for Sensory Week. This is definitely happening this week. This week, the SLT have enjoyed observing teachers in class and we are proud of the hard work that we are seeing. The children are enjoying learning about their new topics.

**Sensory Week:** October is Sensory Processing Awareness Month where the focus is on raising awareness of how sensory processing difficulties can make it challenging for children to engage and learn. Next week, we will have a sensory week in school. The children will do lots of sensory activities in school and teachers will be incorporating sensory activities into their planning. I have also included some sensory activities that you can do at home. If you do any of these activities, please send in photos to Lisa Talbot (our Sensory Lead) via Weduc.

, On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October we will end the week with a mufti day. Children can wear bright colours on this day.

**Coffee Morning:** It was wonderful seeing many of you at the SaLT Coffee Morning earlier in the week. It was one of the most popular attended coffee mornings. I hope those of you that attended came away with further knowledge of how Speech and Language works at St Nicholas School. Beth will be sharing the PowerPoint on Weduc soon.

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, we will have a Chill and Chat Coffee Morning. This is an opportunity for you to come and meet other parents from the school and form connections and gain support. Often parents themselves facilitate the conversation and offer advice. We especially welcome our new parents to this coffee morning.

**Harvest:** On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, we will celebrate Harvest at St Nicholas School with the children. We will be asking for food donations between Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October from each class that will be donated to The Purley Food Hub and the St Nicholas School Community Cupboard. The Purley Food Hub runs from a local church in Purley and provides vital provisions for low-income families in Croydon. The St Nicholas Community Cupboard is organised by our Family Liaison Juliet Bellgambi. This can be accessed by our families here at St Nicholas School. If you feel you may need support, please speak to Juliet Bellgambi. A letter with further information about Harvest Donations has been sent out on Weduc.

**Nut Free School:** As a reminder, we are a **NUT FREE SCHOOL**. No nut products must be brought into school in lunch boxes or as snacks. This includes peanut flavoured crisps, yogurts or chocolate. We have children and staff with nut allergies in school. If staff members see nut products in lunch boxes, we will be removing them to ensure the safety of others.

## Important Dates

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**

**October : Sensory Week**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October:** Croydon SEND strategy Launch

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October:** Chill and Chat coffee morning to all parents. We especially welcome our new parents.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October:** Mufti day for sensory week

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October:** Flu immunisation

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October:** Parent Coffee Morning – How the school can support your family with Juliet and Gaynor

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October:** Harvest

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October:** Reception Parents Evening 4:00-6:30pm

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October:** Superhero Day for MENCAP (dress as a superhero).

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October:** Last Day of Term

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**October:** Half Term

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October:** Children return

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November:** Chill and chat Coffee Morning

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November:** Parents Evening for years 1-6 4:00-6:30pm  
Wednesday

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday**  
**9<sup>th</sup> November:** School Photos

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November:** Social Stories Coffee Morning

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November:** School dentist

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November:** Introduction to Little Wandle Phonics Scheme Coffee Morning

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November:** School Closed for pupils. Staff INSET

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November:** Winter craft KS1

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November:** Winter Craft KS2

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November:** M&M Productions 'Snow White'

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December:** PECS coffee morning

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December:** KS1 show am and KS2 show pm

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December:** KS2 show am and KS1 show pm

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December:** Last day of term. Break up at 1:30

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**Parent Facebook Page:** The Parents of St Nicholas Purley Facebook Page is a page that has been set up by parents as a support and information sharing network. Parents should not be using the page to raise concerns about a teacher or the school. In the first instance, you should be messaging your child's class teacher about any concerns. Staff are very good at informing the SLT when issues arise. If you feel it is necessary, you can also message a member of SLT for further support. If you feel that your concern has not been dealt with satisfactorily, you can then raise the concern with myself via the Complaints Policy (this is on the school website).

Parents should not be posting screenshots of Weduc messages they have received from a class teacher and should also not be naming the class teacher online. I have written a Parent Code of Conduct and updated the Home/School Agreement which will be taken to Governors at our next Governor meeting in October before I send out to parents.

In addition to this, if you speak to a teacher or a member of staff over the phone or face to face, please can we make sure that we are respectful to each other. In school, we teach and remind the children to 'Be Kind' and as adults we should be modelling this behaviour. I understand that as parents you have concerns, all that I ask is that you go through the correct channels to deal with them.

Thank you for your understanding.

**World Teacher Day:** Yesterday was World Teacher. Thank you to those parents who messaged myself and their class teacher yesterday. I also just want to say how amazingly proud of I am of all the teaching staff who work at St Nicholas. We are very lucky to have dedicated, caring and hard-working teachers working for us.

**Croydon SEND Strategy Launch:** On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October, Croydon LA will be launching their new SEND strategy for the next 3 years. The new strategy will turn the collective ambitions to improve service delivery and outcomes for all children and young people, with SEND or in alternative provision in Croydon, into a measurable reality that makes a lasting difference in their outcomes. Some of our year 6 children have been invited to attend the launch at Legacy and will showcase some of the work they have been doing since September.

**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.

**GDPR Form:** Please can you make sure you complete the GDPR form on Weduc that gives permissions for photo use around school and on the school website. Please can you complete by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Many Thanks

Katie Goodwin

Head Teacher

### Sensory Week Activity Ideas.

You can do as many of these suggested activities as you want or your own ideas. Some of the resources I will be purchasing, but some you may have to find from your classrooms or your recycling at home 😊 I will send out a list of resources I have nearer the time.

- Bubble wrap painting and printing



- Veg and fruit printing



- Dry spaghetti threading into colander



- Make paint and shaving foam sensory bags and stick to tables for the children to explore



- Make frozen pea sensory bags and stick to tables for the children to explore

