

St Nicholas School Weekly Newsletter

Learning Together

Friday 22nd
September 2023



Dear Parents,

Welcome to all of our Reception Parents whose children started at St Nicholas School this week. The children have confidently explored their new classrooms, outside spaces, the Reception Playground and other areas in the school. They have enjoyed going to the dining hall for the lunch and meeting new friends. We are proud of how well they have settled in to their new school.

Changes to the end of day pick up arrangements: Once again, I want to say thank you to all of the parents who collect your child at the end of the day. This week has been a test to see how it works as we have had the new Reception children starting, 3 bus cancellations and quite a lot of wet weather when it is time for home time! Please continue to be mindful of the residents on Reedham Drive and ensure that they have enough access to drive up and down the road. It is also really important that parents leave as soon as possible as I start letting taxis out at 2:55 and I need to ease the congestion outside of the gate. 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 2nd October: Coffee Morning
'Introduction to SaLT and visuals 10-11

Monday 9th October – Friday 13th October : Sensory Week

Tuesday 10th October: Chill and Chat coffee morning to all parents. We especially welcome our new parents.

Monday 9th October: SEND strategy launch

Friday 13th October: Mufti day for sensory week

Tuesday 17th October: Flu immunisation
Tuesday 17th October: Parent Coffee Morning – How the school can support your family with Juliet and Gaynor

Wednesday 18th October: Harvest
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 1st November: Chill and chat Coffee Morning

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

Thursday 23rd November: Introduction to Little Wandle Phonics Scheme Coffee Morning

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

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Year 6 Savvy Theatre: Over the next term, all of our year 6 children will be working with the Savvy Theatre Company on a community project that is taking place whilst Croydon is the London Borough of Culture. Some of the children will be taking part in some drama workshops and some children will take part in a Lantern Making workshops. There will be an opportunity for the children to take part in the community presentation at Fairfield Halls later in the term. A letter to our Year 6 parents will go out next week with further information. We are really excited to have been invited to take part in this exciting project.

Year 4 Swimming: Those children who are in Year 4 will have swimming lessons at The Hayes Primary School this year. A letter has gone out to Year 4 parents with further details.

Year 5 Secondary School Letter: Year 5 parents have been sent a letter detailing the process for choosing your child's secondary school. We urge that you take the time this academic year to visit the SEN secondary schools so that you are better informed about what they offer. If you need any support with this, please either contact your child's teacher or a member of SLT.

Little Wandle Phonics Scheme: This academic year, we have introduced a new phonic scheme at school. The new scheme is called 'Little Wandle Phonics'. We have chosen this scheme as it has developed an SEND (special education needs and disabilities) programme that mirrors the main Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised Phonics Programme. It has adaptations and support in place that make it possible for schools, special schools and providers to meet the needs of all their learners. It has been created to help children learn to read using the right level of challenge for each child and using the graduated approach if needed. It also considers the needs of sight-readers and support children with fluency and comprehension.

We have lots of new exciting resources in school too! The English Team are currently supporting teachers to roll out the programme of phonics learning, and we are starting by assessing all of the children in the next few weeks. There will be new reading books and online books coming soon. We have also put in a coffee morning on Thursday 23rd November to introduce this to parents so that you can also support your child with their phonics and reading at home.

Weduc Lunches: We are aware that there is a problem with parents being able to select the lunch choices for their children on Weduc at the moment. This problem lies with the Weduc app and we are liaising with them to fix the issue. As part of the morning routine, teachers also support the children to select the lunch option they would like.

Nuts in 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.

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.

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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

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.

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

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. **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.

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