

St Nicholas School Weekly Newsletter

Learning Together

Friday 29th
September 2023



Dear Parents,

I can't believe we have come to the end of September already. It has been a very month but all the children are settling into their classes and routines. All of our new children have settled in really well into their new school. I have enjoyed walking around the school this week and I am looking forward to observing some lessons next week.

End of day pick up and bus cancellations: Once again, thank you to all of the parents who collect your child at the end of the day. It has made collection at the end of the day a lot calmer and smoother. Recently, we have had some buses cancelled due to staff shortages/sickness which has meant that there have been more parents collecting. On days where buses are cancelled, I have told staff to start bringing these children out at 2:40 so we have more time to clear the area. For those parents whose children are normally on buses, if your child's bus is cancelled please park on Reedham Drive and wait at the gate.

SaLT Coffee Morning: On Monday 2nd October, we have our first coffee morning of the academic year. The theme of this coffee morning is 'Introduction to SaLT and visuals'. Here you will have a chance to meet the school's SaLT team and find out more about the SaLT provision in school. The SaLT team will also introduce you to visuals. Please sign up via Weduc.

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 6th October, we will end the week with a mufti day. Children can wear bright colours on this day.

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.

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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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.

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.

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.

TA appreciation Day: Today is Teaching Assistant Appreciation Day. At school, we are thankful of all of our Teaching Assistants and Support Staff. Without our TAs and support staff, our children would not be able to thrive as much as they do here at St Nicholas. They are incredibly hard working and love the job they do. Thank you to all of my TAs and support staff.

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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

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

