

St Nicholas School Weekly Newsletter

Learning Together

Friday
26th January 2024



Dear Parents,

I hope that you are all keeping well? January definitely felt like the longest month ever. The staff and children have continued to work hard this week. I was showing around the new Head from St Giles earlier in the week and he commented on how focused the children were in their learning. He particularly enjoyed seeing a sensory activity in Spider class, Dough Disco in Elm Class, Phonics in Giraffe Class, Money Bingo in Beech Class and a PSHE lesson in River Class.

Maths Numbers Day: Today we celebrated Number Day in school. It was wonderful seeing how inventive everybody was with their costumes. I think I need to up my game! In class, the children enjoyed many math related activities. Some of these included:

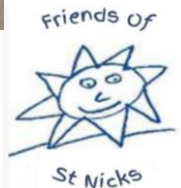
Please see some photos below.



Important Dates

Monday 5th February: Whole School Well-being week
5th February: SaLT Coffee Morning – Communication Boards
Tuesday 6th February: Safer Internet Day
Friday 9th February: Friends of St Nicholas Meeting
Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February: Half Term
Monday 19th February: INSET (school closed to pupils)
Tuesday 20th February: Children return to school
Monday 4th March: Book Week
Friday 8th March: World Book Day – mufti
Monday 11th March: Science Week
18th March: SaLT coffee Morning – Behavioural and sensory feeding
Wednesday 20th March: Parents Evening – Whole school
Thursday 28th March: Last Day of Term – finish at 1:30
Monday 1st April – Friday 12th April: Easter Holiday
Monday 15th April: Children return for summer term

Friends of St Nicholas: The Friends of St Nicholas Group will hold their first meeting on Friday 9th February at St Nicholas School from 9am-11am. If you are interested in being part of this group and raising money for the school, please do attend.



Parent Policies: Before half term, Parent Policies, the Parent Code of Conduct and the Home/School Agreement were sent home via Weduc. Please follow the link so that you can sign the form on Weduc. There are a few parents who have not yet signed so will be sending out reminders leading up to the end of term.

Colder Weather: Now that the colder weather has arrived, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. We will always try to take the children outside during the day for some fresh air as this is essential for their sensory regulation during the day.

In the event of snow over the coming months, the school will message via Weduc and the school facebook page of any school closure. We liaise with the LA and with transport to see if it is safe enough to open and once we have risk assessed we inform parents as soon as we can.

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E-PaTS Research Study: Croydon MENCAP are taking part in an E-PaTS Study. E-PaTS is Early Positive Approaches to Support. If your child has additional developmental needs (diagnosis not necessary) and is not yet 6 years old, then you can take part. To find out more, please email Katherine@croydonmencap.org.uk

Transport Date: Myself and the Head Teachers of some of the other SEN schools wrote to the LA recently to complain about the bus cancellations that were affecting all of our schools over the last few years. When we met together to look at the data from bus cancellations and totalled up all of the lost days across all 4 schools (St Nicholas, Red Gates, Priory, Bensham Manor), it totalled 4038 over a period of 7 terms. We wrote to the LA to express how much of a concern this was and how we had repeatedly raised our concerns. Most of the cancellations were due to staff shortages which were impacted further with staff sickness; they did not always have the staff to cover all of the routes they do across the borough. We had a response back from the LA and from transport detailing all the efforts made in Recruitment and Retention and from mid-December and have managed to recruit permanent drivers to cover routes. This has meant that (so far) none of the affected schools have had any cancellations this term. We hope this continues!

Safer Internet Day: On February 6th, the children will take part in Safer Internet Day. During this day, the children will learn how to keep themselves safe when they are using the internet. Some of the younger children will read a story about a child who sees something upsetting and what they can do about it. The older children will also learn about what to do if they see a scary video or if something happens to them when they are playing an online game.

Virtual Autism Parenting Workshop: We have been sent details by a Neurodiverse Training and Support organisation who have recently launched some parenting workshops. These workshops are aimed at parents who are currently awaiting a diagnosis or who have recently received one and would like more information. Please see the attached flyer for further information about signing up to the courses. These will also take place online over Zoom.

Little Wandle Books: Please can you have a look at home for any Little Wandle Reading books that have been sent home in your child's book bag. These are part of our phonics reading scheme. We have had some un-returned books which has meant we are left with short supply for other children to use as part of their weekly reading.

SEN Transport Service Independent Travel and transitions information day: Croydon's SEN Transport Team will be hosting a special event for parents, carers and young people with SEN. There will be talks by professionals and students to give strategies and advice centred on keeping safe on transport and in the community. They will also be giving advice and support with transition planning. This will take place in the Braithwaite Hall on Thursday 15th February. Flyer is attached to this newsletter.

While I am on the subject on transport, the school is working closely with Croydon SEN transport as we know that there have been some issues with Route 6 recently. We are closely monitoring the situation and have supported transport with putting some improvements in place that will hopefully mean a successful and calm journey to school and home for the children on that route. Please do let us know if any issues continue.

Term Dates 2024-2025: The term dates for the 2024-2025 academic year are attached to the end of this newsletter. They will also go on the website and sent via 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.

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Measles Update: I am alerting all families to the rise in the outbreak of Measles in the UK. It is affecting non-vaccinated children and causing them to be quite seriously ill. Whilst there are no cases of Measles at St Nicholas, it is spreading in London at an alarming rate. Therefore please read below:

What are the symptoms of measles? Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms, followed by a rash a few days later. Some people may also get small spots in their mouth. Find out more on the NHS website. **What should you do if you think your child has measles?** You should ask for an urgent GP appointment or get help from NHS 111 if you think you or your child may have measles. Don't go to the GP or any other healthcare setting without calling ahead first. If your child has been diagnosed with measles by a doctor, they should stay off nursery or school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system. **What is the best way to protect against measles?** The best protection against measles for children and adults is to get both doses of the MMR vaccine. Children are offered a vaccine free on the NHS at 12-months-old and then a second dose when they turn 3-years-and-4-months-old. But you can catch it at any age – if you or your child haven't yet been vaccinated, you should contact your GP practice to book a free appointment. You can request a version of the MMR vaccine that does not contain pork products from your GP, making it suitable for all faiths. Please note that the practice may need to order this product in specially, so it will be helpful to tell them your views before the appointment. Cold-like symptoms can be an early sign of measles. **Should you still send your child to school?** If your child has been vaccinated, it's very unlikely that they have measles. School attendance is vitally important to your child's learning and health. According to the NHS, it's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold, provided they don't have a temperature. **When should you keep your child off school or nursery and how long for?** If your child has measles, they should stay off nursery or school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears, and avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system. The school or local Health Protection Team will let you know if your child has been in contact with someone who has measles, and tell you what you need to do. The Health Protection Team may advise people who are more susceptible to contracting the virus, such as unvaccinated siblings to stay away for the incubation period. The incubation period is the length of time it can take to develop the illness after being in contact with someone with measles. For measles, the incubation period can be up to 21 days. Anyone who has been vaccinated is unlikely to be considered susceptible. If you're not sure whether your child is due a vaccination or has missed a vaccination, you can check your Red Book or contact your GP practice. If your child has missed their first or second dose of MMR vaccine, you should contact your GP practice to book an appointment. **Should you keep your child off school if another pupil has been diagnosed with measles?** Most children will be protected against measles and there is no need to keep your child off school if they have had both their MMR vaccinations. **Can I still get my child vaccinated even if they're older?** Yes. Anyone who has not had 2 doses of the MMR vaccine should ask their GP surgery for a vaccination appointment. It's best to have vaccines on time, but you can still catch up on most vaccines if you miss them. Two doses of the vaccine are needed to ensure full protection.

Absence Reporting Procedure: To report an absence please do so through the absence report section on Weduc or message the class teacher. Please follow the link for a step-by-step guide to report absence via Weduc. <https://weduchelp.zendesk.com/hc/en-gb/articles/14181580731921-How-do-I-report-an-absence-for-my-child->

Have a lovely weekend.

Katie Goodwin
Head Teacher

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SEN TRANSPORT SERVICE, INDEPENDENT TRAVEL AND TRANSITIONS INFORMATION DAY
In association with Croydon Bus Day

Join Croydon's SEN Transport team, the Independent Travel Training team and colleagues supporting Transitions for an exciting event for parents, carers and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities in the borough. We are proud to host talks by professionals and students, to give strategies and advice centred on keeping safe on transport and in the community, and giving advice and support with transition planning.

SPECIAL GUESTS

DOG WARDEN	THE METROPOLITAN POLICE	YOUTH ENGAGEMENT TEAM
TFL (BUS DAY)	INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS	ACTIVE LIVES
SAFEHAVEN NEW ADDINGTON	SEND SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP	EARLY YEARS SEND
	AND MANY MORE	SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

BRAITHWAITE HALL
 Katharine St, Croydon CR0 1NN
 10:30AM - 3:30PM
CROYDON
 www.croydon.gov.uk

THURSDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2024

JOIN US FOR WALK-IN ADVICE ABOUT THE 2024 TRANSPORT APPLICATION PROCESS AND FOR EXPERT GUIDANCE.
 > BOOK YOUR PLACE, CONTACT SEN@SENTRANSPORT@CROYDON.GOV.UK <

Come and meet professionals involved in SEN Transport, Independent Travel and Progression from 10:30AM. You will also be able to see the choices available as your child moves into adulthood.

11:00AM Welcome to the event & introductions
11:30AM Independent Travel Training: Carers and Trainees' Experiences
12:00PM Youth Engagement Team
12:30PM The Safe Haven Project
13:00PM Meet the Dog Warden and Winnie
14:00PM TFL & other guests



Parent/Carer Autism Online Workshops

Whether your child is awaiting a diagnosis or has already been diagnosed, these workshops are a great opportunity to learn more about Autism & ask questions within a supportive group of other parents & carers.

- Monday 5th February - An introduction to Autism**
 An opportunity to explore what Autism is, the many strengths and the differences that make each child so wonderfully unique.
- Monday 12th February - Communication**
 Identifying what communication is and the different communication methods that may be helpful for Autistic children.
- Monday 19th February - Sensory Processing**
 Explaining the 8 sensory systems, how the environment can impact on a child with sensory processing differences/challenges and strategies to meet an individual's sensory needs.
- Monday 26th February - Pathological Demand Avoidance**
 A look into the interesting subject of PDA, how this may present and what is the best approach to take to avoid conflict.

Workshops will be held 7:30-8:30pm via Zoom.

£25 per workshop for each family.

To book your place...Email enquiries@theautismtrainingnetwork.com

Or scan the QR code



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ST NICHOLAS SCHOOL

Term Dates: 2024-2025

Autumn Term 2024

Training day: Monday 2nd September
Training Day; Tuesday 3rd September

Open to pupils: Wednesday 4th September
Last day for pupils: Friday 18th October

Half term: Monday 21st October – Friday 25th October

Open to pupils: Monday 28th October
Training day: Friday 29th November
Last day for pupils: Friday 20th December

Spring Term 2025

Open to pupils: Monday 8th January
Last day for pupils: Friday 14th February

Half term: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February

Open to pupils: Monday 24th February
Last day for pupils: Friday 4th April

Summer Term 2025

Open to pupils: Monday 22nd April
Bank holiday: Monday 5th May
Last day for pupils: Friday 23rd May

Half term: Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

Training day: Monday 2nd June
Open to pupils: Tuesday 3rd June
Training day: Monday 30th June
Last day for pupils: Tuesday 22nd July