

# St Nicholas School Weekly Newsletter

*Learning Together*

Friday 9<sup>th</sup>  
February 2024



Dear Parents,

We have come to the end of the half and the children have continued to work hard in their classrooms. I have been around many of the classrooms this week watching some of the Little Wandle Phonic sessions and have been impressed with how engaged the children are with their Early Reading Skills.

**Well-being Wednesday:** This week in school, the children took part in some well-being activities in their classrooms. Some classes did some yoga, others set up a classroom spa where they were treated to a food spa and hand massage. Other classes worked on the children's social skills and played some sharing games. Today it has been wonderful to see the children wear their favourite clothes to school.



## Important Dates

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February:** Half Term  
**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February:** INSET (school closed to pupils)  
**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February:** Children return to school  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March:** Book Week  
**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March:** World Book Day – mufti  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March:** Science Week  
**18<sup>th</sup> March:** SaLT coffee Morning – Behavioural and sensory feeding  
**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March:** Parents Evening – Whole school  
**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March:** Last Day of Term – finish at 1:30  
**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April:** Easter Holiday  
**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April:** Children return for summer term

**Safer Internet Day:** Earlier in the week, we also celebrated Safer Internet Day with the children and taught them about keeping themselves safe on the internet. The children learnt about what to do if they saw something that upsetting on the internet and who they could tell. Some children also looked at technology across the years and how it has developed.



**Friends of St Nicks:** We were delighted to host the first 'Friends of St. Nicks' meeting this morning. It's so lovely to have so much support for this new venture. If you are interested in being part of the new committee please follow this link [Forming the Friends of St Nicks Committee \(office.com\)](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIKWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAANAAWpPTQ5UMk5KN0tQODJRWEY3NzVEMTBDRkNNMIEzSi4u) to show your interest. You are also able to suggest ideas for future events. If you have any questions regarding the Friends please contact [friendsofstnicks2024@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofstnicks2024@outlook.com) for any further information. We are also looking for any donations for our first event which will be a 'Mothers day present wrap'. If you have any donations for this please do send them in to school for us. More information regarding this will follow after half term.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIKWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAANAAWpPTQ5UMk5KN0tQODJRWEY3NzVEMTBDRkNNMIEzSi4u>

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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](mailto:Katherine@croydonmencap.org.uk)

**Parent Policies:** Last 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 (we are waiting for 60 responses) 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.

**Off The Record Parent Workshops:** Off The Record will hold some free online workshops for parents. These are free to attend although it is first come first served. Please click on the link to take you to their webpage to sign up. Eventbrite Sign up: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/mhst-parent-webinars-2674189?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=creatorshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=odclsxcollection&utm-source=cp&aff=escb>

**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 half term. Please remember, children will return to school on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February as the Monday is a training day for teachers.

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> February - Communication**  
 Identifying what communication is and the different communication methods that may be helpful for Autistic children.
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> September  
Last day for pupils: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October

Half term: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October

Open to pupils: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October  
**Training day: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November**  
Last day for pupils: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

## Spring Term 2025

Open to pupils: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January  
Last day for pupils: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Half term: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February

Open to pupils: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February  
Last day for pupils: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

## Summer Term 2025

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

Half term: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

**Training day: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**  
Open to pupils: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
**Training day: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June**  
Last day for pupils: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July