

June 2019 Newsletter St Nicholas School

ACADEMIC YEAR 2018 -19

Term 6

Start: Monday 3 June 2019
Finish: Tuesday 23 July

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020

Term 1

Start: Wednesday 4 September
End: Thursday 17 October
Staff Development Days:
Monday 2, Tuesday 3 September and
Friday 18 October

Term 2

Start: Monday 28 October
Finish: Wednesday 18 December at 2 pm

Term 3

Staff Development Day: Monday 6
January 2020
Start: Tuesday 7 January
Finish: Friday 14 February

Term 4

Start: Monday 24 February
Finish: Wednesday 1 April

Term 5

Staff Development Day:
Thursday 16 April
Start: Friday 17 April
Finish: Friday 22 May

Term 6

Start: Monday 1 June
Finish: Wednesday 22 July at 2 pm

ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021

Term 1

Start: Thursday 3 September 2020
Finish: Thursday 22 October
Staff Development Days
Tuesday 1, Wednesday 2 September and
Friday 23 October

Term 2

Start: Monday 2 November
Finish: Friday 18 December

Term 3

Start: Tuesday 5 January 2021
Finish: Friday 12 February



Creepy Claws Workshop



Enjoying the Cricket

Dear Parents and Carers

There is plenty happening this term and I hope I will see many of you at the events. We are also running transition mornings to prepare the children and young people for the changes in September. You should have had notification of your child's class details for then by now. This information has been a bit late because we had a major problem with our administrative computer system last week and we have only just got it fixed.

There are a number of exciting developments underway currently and by September we should have our new accommodation at The Spires Academy and at Canterbury Primary School. This will help us to further develop our very successful satellites programme.

We are looking afresh at our school curriculum - everything that we teach to your children and I will have more news about this in the autumn.

Can I thank you all again for your continuing support for the school.

Best wishes

Daniel

Key Stage News

Rainbow Fish Class

Rainbow Fish Class will be planning a trip to Flip Out Trampoline Park in Ashford courtesy of the Canterbury Rotary Club in July - watch this space.

We will also be having a horse riding picnic on Monday 8 July. Can parents make sure they have sent in horse riding consent forms in advance.

Our topic this term is *Superheroes*. We have been reading *Supertato* and will be doing lots of topic work based around this book. Please continue to read with your child daily and fill in the reading records. We are continuing with our phonics program and Write Dance, together with Attention Autism and Active Education.

Owl Class

As always Owl class have a busy term of learning planned. We have athletics on a Monday and will need PE kits for this. With the warm weather here; we will have water play in the playground as the opportunity arises and we will use PE kits as our wet play clothes. On Tuesday we will continue our cross curriculum activities, going out and exploring environments. Wednesdays will be classroom based. Thursdays will continue to be either ICT or swimming - so please send in swimming kits and on Fridays we are beginning to go into Canterbury undertaking cross curricular activities in our local community. If possible, please could the children continue to bring in £1.50 each Friday to put into practice their money skills in real situations. I will let you know about any extra trips we plan.

A big thank you to all of you who send in snacks and squash, we are always running out of squash so please do continue to send it in.

Lion Class

Welcome back to Term 6; I hope you all had a wonderful half term. This term we will be continuing with our topic, *Wellbeing*, where our main focus will be our *environment, trying new things and reaching out*. We will be taking part in gardening activities, as well as creating random acts of kindness for our friends. Lion Class are very excited because this term we also have Music with Yiannis, Art with Micaela and Drama with Anita; we are very lucky!

A piece of exciting news to be shared with you - as part of the PE curriculum, some of Lion Class were lucky enough to join other schools and take part in a local Pentathlon. Declan, Kieron and John completed a range of fantastic activities and ended the day by winning a medal and a certificate - well done boys, we are extremely proud of you!

Lion Class will be starting community-based learning this term, so can I please remind you to bring £1.20 snack money each Thursday. We will also start cooking on Fridays; many thanks to those who have kindly donated £5 to cover costs. There are many opportunities and exciting activities happening over the next couple of weeks in Lion Class; transitions, Sports Week and a summer trip; dates will soon follow.



Penguin and Polar Bear Classes

We have been working very hard in class and this term we will be looking at *Changes in Science* and simple fractions in Maths. Please talk to your child about whole, half and quarters when you can as this is the vocabulary we will be using.

In Drama and Art we are working on a play based on *20,000 Leagues under the Sea*. The play is about recycling and re-using. Students have written the play and we will be performing it to our friends at the end of July and in Art we are busy creating under the sea creatures for the performance. We will be asking you to send your child in black or blue clothes on the day, but we will inform you nearer the time. As we have been thinking about recycling, we are collecting dried up felt pens and markers as well as crisp bags. We have collection boxes in school so get collecting please!

In PE we have been learning about and practising team games in preparation for our Sports Day in July. Please remember to send in sun hats and named sun cream as the weather improves.

Key Stage News

Toucan Class

In Toucan Class our topic for Terms 6 is *Mini Beasts and Lifecycles*. We have already been observing tadpoles from the pond and we are looking forward to discovering what little creatures we will find in our gardens at school.

We are going to be working to improve our outdoor area immediately next to our classroom. We will need to clear the area and prepare it to build planters. We will plan what we would like to grow and how we could decorate the area to make it a nicer garden for us to spend time in. If you are able to donate anything that could be used to improve our garden we would be very grateful! This could include compost, seeds, plant pots, tyres and brightly coloured old wellies (for planting things in). This term we have the opportunity to attend Forest School led by our own, trained staff, Simon and Nigel. A group of students from Lion and Toucan Class recently took part in a Panathlon; joining other schools to take part in a range of fun and inclusive activities. They had a great time and represented our school fantastically!



Class S1A

S1A have been studying *Invaders and Settlers* and enjoyed visiting Reculver Towers, Richborough Roman Fort and Dover Castle to see the Roman remains. The group enjoyed exploring the site and completing activities there.

The group have been examining growth cycles and have created a flower bed at Spires Academy which now have a row of sunflowers planted by students to track growth. We are making terracotta ceramics in DT to hang in the garden too. The group have been working hard in PSHE on the mini enterprises and have been planning stalls for this event and researching costs and potential profits.

Class S4

Some students had a lovely day sailing at Westbere Lakes and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Westbere Sailing Opportunities is a registered charity with the sole purpose of giving an experience of sailing to people of all ages with disabilities. They have a motorised hoist for wheelchair bound students and a fleet of 12 sailing dinghies, each skippered by qualified and experienced sailors.

This is the eleventh consecutive year St Nicholas School has been attending the lake and enjoying its surroundings.

The whole of KS4 went to watch a Cricket Match at The St Lawrence Ground. The Kent Cricket Board held a Cricket Day on Tuesday 11 June. They kindly offered St Nicholas free tickets, for the whole of Key Stage 4, for the Kent Vs Somerset match.



St Nicholas Sports Week

This year we are putting on a whole week of sports. There are plenty of exciting opportunities for our pupils to take part in. We have an Olympic athlete holding assemblies, Community Sports Coaching for Hockey, NFL, Cricket, Volley Ball and Dance on Monday. On Tuesday there will be class lead activities and the Hydro Gala. Wednesday morning will be the Primary Sports Day held at St Nicholas and The Orchard School ground—**ALL PRIMARY PARENTS WELCOME**. The Senior Department will be taking part in a Swimming Gala at Kingsmead Leisure Centre (except the children who are having their own special Hydro Gala) -**ALL SENIOR PARENTS WELCOME**. In the afternoon we will be visited by a local chef who will talk about healthy eating.



Thursday is Senior Sports Day; held at Simon Langton Boys School. **ALL SENIOR PARENTS WELCOME**. All higher needs pupils will be contacted regarding their own very Special Sports Day. Friday is our UNICEF Football tournament and Tough Mudder Assault course.

News cont.

Animal Workshop—Creepy Claws



Creepy Claws

Animal Displays

Students had a fantastic time at the workshops lead by Michael from Creepy Claws. They had the opportunity to get up close and personal with a wide range of species during the sessions in a relaxed setting, many thanks for your donations towards this activity - without these we wouldn't be able to offer these experiences.

Music



This has been a busy year with a number of performances at the Marlowe Theatre, Marlowe Kit and Five Acres Wood. Children have been learning about the musical aspects as tempo, rhythm, dynamics and melody. They have been putting everything in to practice through performance and musical collaborations. Additionally we worked with Christ Church University and had a number of students visiting and introducing children to various different musical sounds and textures. Our students had the opportunity to experience musical instruments; the

saxophone, clarinet and violin and perform for their peers and parents/carers. We are all looking forward to the next academic year where a number of activities have already been booked. We wish you all a great summer and looking forward seeing you all in September.



Duke of Edinburgh Award



Last week the group went on a Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition and walked 28 km in two days. They walked from Womenwolds to the campsite on the first day and then Lower Hardes to School on the last day.

They camped over night at The Canterbury Caravan Club in Bekesbourne Lane Canterbury. The students made their own sandwiches and cooked their shared evening meal at the Campsite.

Creative Arts News

We are proud to announce that we have been awarded the Arts Council Gold Artsmark for our creative work in the school which is valid for the next two years :



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

“St. Nicholas School is to be highly commended for your commitment to providing a wide range of high quality cultural and artistic opportunities for pupils. You have successfully engaged with a wide range of professional artists and partners to provide stimulating and challenging experiences for pupils whilst providing professional support for other schools, leading CPD and training sessions...

Arts Council England celebrates your ongoing commitment to arts and cultural education at a leadership level, and the opportunities established across your whole setting. Your children and young people are offered equal opportunity to plan, experience, participate in, and evaluate a broad range of high-quality arts and cultural activities, and you recognise the importance of development opportunities delivered by specialists for your staff that have measurable effects in these areas. You engage with a range of arts and cultural organisations and other settings, and can evidence the positive impact of these partnerships. Your children and young people have an opportunity to further develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of arts and culture, and you are working to share the good practice you have established. “

Term six will be the busiest so far for Creative Arts at St Nicholas. All classes have been working towards our school immersive show, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, which will be performed at the end of July. The show is based on the famous 1950s Disney film of the same name, with a contemporary twist to highlight the environmental issue on plastic pollution in the sea. The show will feature an interactive steampunk- style submarine and a sensory undersea world with all kinds of sea creatures. Students have been making jellyfish, sea-turtles, coral and giant puppets as well as animations and musical instruments. Several classes have prepared drama sequences and sensory stories and the Senior Satellite classes will be forming the production team.



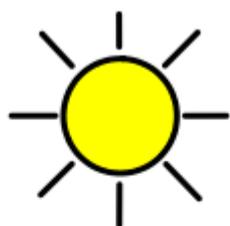
We are excited to be performing for the second year running in the Marlowe Dance Network Showcase. This year twelve Kent dance, primary and secondary schools are creating work based on Holst's *Planet Suite*. The artistic lead for the project is the Brazilian dancer, choreographer and director Vinicius Salles from Yasmin Vardimon Company; who will be visiting school to work with the students. We are devising our own dance piece to the Venus section which will be performed on Wednesday 3 July by the KS3 PE Enrichment/College dance group.

Class S2A gave an outstanding choral performance at the KsENT Music and Performing Arts Celebration Event on Wednesday 19 June held at Five Arce Wood School in Maidstone. They performed their own adaptation of One Republic's *Counting Stars*.



Our highly successful Romeo and Juliet project with the RSC/Marlowe Theatre Associate School Project will continue with Jack, Stevie and Lily from S4A travelling to Stratford Avon to perform at the Swan Theatre Stage with students from all over the country. They will be performing the final scene from the play with a group of students from our East Kent cluster of schools. The students have been attending all day rehearsals at the Marlowe Kit and the performance promises to be memorable.

Useful Communication Aids



Sun



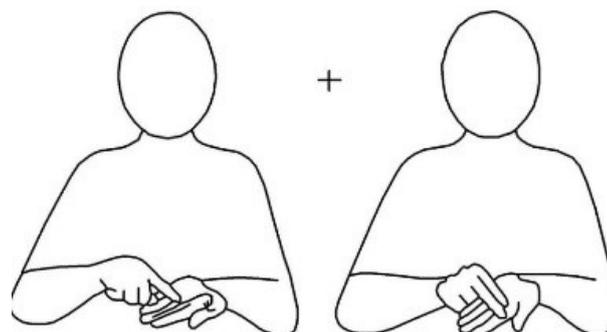
Ice-cream



Beach



Butterfly



Finger spell 'J' then 'N'

June

St Nicholas Communication Clinic

Communication Clinics are run three times a year—please look out for next years dates. Please feel free to drop in to see Sam and Sandra from the Therapy team to have a look at all the visual supports/resources we offer.

On display will be items such as Now/Next boards, sequence strips, social stories, timetables, keyrings and resources to help with emotions and behaviour. You will be able to request 1 resource which will be made for you and sent home with your child a week or two after the clinic.

SLCN Workshop for Parents



Canterbury District
STLS & Outreach

The Specialist Teaching and Learning Service and Outreach from St Nicholas would like to offer our parents/carers support in the form of workshops to be held at St Nicholas School. We would welcome any suggestions from you as to what these workshops could consist of. Is there anything you would like more support with, or training in? Please let [Gillian Newport](#) know so that these can be arranged.

◆ Intensive Interaction Workshop

Friday 27 September from 10 am and Friday 7 February 2020 from 10 am

Parents are welcome to attend this workshop which is aimed at Very Early Education.

◆ Understanding Sensory Needs Workshop

Thursday 23 January 2020 from 10–12 pm

Parents are welcome to attend this workshop where we will be exploring the senses and understanding their impacts.

Parent/Carer information

Breakfast Club

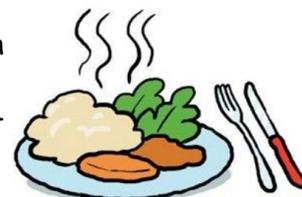


We run a daily breakfast club from 8 am Monday-Friday. The club runs in the food technology room and is run by St Nicholas School staff; the club costs £3 per session. If you would like to book a place at breakfast club please contact: [Emma](#) or [Stephanie](#) or [Kate](#).

School Meals

A reminder that school meals are £2.40 per day which can be paid termly or weekly in advance. School meals at the 6th form block are £3 per day.

If you are in receipt of Free School Meals please go to www.kent.gov.uk to check that you are still eligible or contact the school office.



School Voluntary Fund

Can I remind you that we ask for a voluntary donation of £5 each term to help towards the cost of the community based education programmes, swimming trips, shopping trips and outings; which the pupils take part in. This can be paid termly or yearly (£30) if more convenient. If you have already made your contribution - many thanks.

Wellbeing Award for Schools—WAS

We will be focusing on wellbeing and mental health over the next academic year, by attaining the Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS). Everyone will receive an evaluation form shortly and your input is vital.

The team consists of Emma, Wellbeing Lead and Counsellor, Heidi Dawson, Parent Governor, Charlotte, Primary Teacher, Caroline, Secondary Teacher and led by Nathalie, Assistant Headteacher, Certified Play Therapist and Clinical Supervisor. We value wellbeing for pupils, parents and staff in our school and look forward to working through the award as a forum for celebration and improvement.

If you have any questions about the award please contact [Nathalie](#).

Born Anxious



Born Anxious is a *Label Free* organic clothing line specialising in awareness clothing for special needs, Autism and disabilities; carrying a message highlighting ASD, Autism, Sensory Processing Disorder, sensory seeking. Be kind, be aware, spread awareness, Unpredictable and amazing, winging it, princess syndrome. Please click [here](#) for their website.

The Wellbeing Team



The St Nicholas Family Support Team has been supporting families for over ten years. During our lives, when we experience life events and challenges, the concept of *family* may seem a million miles away. After a period of consultation and reflection, we will now be known as **The Wellbeing Team**. Steph and Kate are working hard on their counselling training journey and will be working as Counsellor's in training. Once they have finished their training they will become Counsellor's and Well-being Support Workers. I, Emma, will be leading the team as Wellbeing Team Lead, Specialist Learning Disability Counsellor and Staff Governor.

We will still have our CORE services such as:

- Transport applications, queries and issues
- Sign posting and referring to other agencies and services
- An offer of a safe space to talk about any worries, concerns or queries you may have via face to face school meetings, home visits and phone/e-mail contact
- Support during meetings
- An alternative point of contact from the class teacher
- Arranging and running parent/carer workshops
- Funding information and support
- Support with filling out forms
- Arranging social work clinics
- And much much more!

We would also like to add new offers to our services ...so would love to hear any ideas you may have
Please keep in touch: [Emma](#), [Kate](#) and [Stephanie](#)

KCC Support

Concerned about an adult? (During the day and in office hours)

Call **03000 41 61 61** (text relay 18001 03000 41 61 61) or [email](#)

Concerned about a child? (During the day and in office hours)

Call **03000 41 11 11** (text relay 18001 03000 41 11 11) or [email](#)

Out of hours and in an emergency

If you need to contact us outside of normal office hours, for example during the night; call **03000 41 91 91**.

If you think someone is in immediate danger, the best thing to do is call 999 for the emergency services. Tell us as much as you can.

The more information you can give us about what's happening and where it's happening, the better. We encourage you to give your name, but we won't tell anyone else you called unless you give us permission to do so. We take every report of abuse seriously and investigate all of them.

Abuse is a breach of someone's rights, and may be a single act or happen repeatedly over a period of time. Abuse may be deliberate, but may also be caused by neglect or ignorance. It can happen anywhere, including your home, your child's school, a residential or nursing home, at hospital, or in a public place. In many cases, abuse is a criminal offence.

Don't assume that someone else will take responsibility. You could help to save someone's life. If you are worried, report it.



The Wellbeing Team

Social Work Clinic



We offer a Social Work Clinic, run by Corrine Laidlaw from the Children's Disability Team, here at St Nicholas School. Please feel free to drop in or phone on the days of the clinic if you have anything you would like to discuss. The next date will be Wednesday 17 July from 12–3.15 pm. For further information please email [Emma](#)

SNAAP Sports Club



St Nicholas School are running a free bus service from the school to the SNAAP fortnightly sports club (for children aged 8 years and older).

If you would like to book a place at the club please contact SNAAP- 01227 367555.

To book a place on the bus run please contact [Emma](#), [Kate](#) or [Steph](#) on 01227 464316.

The dates for SNAAP Sports Club: 21 June and 5 July

Sixth Form Social Work Drop In Clinic



The Social Work Drop-in Clinic is held at the Sixth Form Block from 12 pm - 3.30 pm on Tuesday 25 June. These are led by Emily Jones, Social Worker from the 16-25 Learning Disabilities Team. For more information please contact the Wellbeing team: Emma, Kate or Stephanie or call 01227 464316.

KCC Independent Travel Training

The Post 16 travel team has changed, the independent travel training team has merged with the Post 16 transport team and is led by Gaynor Fraus. The St Nicholas Wellbeing team met with her to discuss any changes that may affect the pupils and young people at St Nicholas School and 6th form.

Transport will still need to be applied for at all transition times, and then every year Post 16. This is something that can be actioned by parents/carers or by the Wellbeing team. All applications for transport September 2019 ; will be completed by the end of March.

With all post 16 transport applications, KCC will firstly assess if it is appropriate to offer the KCC Independent Travel Training scheme (ITT). If it is an application to the ITT team can be made. If this isn't appropriate for the young person and they meet the KCC transport criteria then transport will be provided. More information for all of these processes are available on the KCC website. If you have any questions, concerns or worries about this please don't hesitate to contact the Wellbeing team.

Change of address: If you are planning to move; Home School Transport needs to be informed so they can reassess transport eligibility against KCC criteria. Even if you aren't moving very far away and feel your child or young person will likely be on the same transport, a reapplication still needs to be made. Please contact the Wellbeing team if you need any help with this: [Emma Wellard](#), [Stephanie \(Steph\) Box](#), [Kate Taylor](#) or 01227 464316 or pop a note in your child or young person's home contact book.

Alternatively if you wish to discuss or process anything in your home; we can arrange to meet you on a home visit.



kent.gov.uk



Letter from the Chair

Dear Parents and Carers

It hardly seems possible that we are now fast approaching the end of another successful school year at St Nicholas. This will, therefore, be my last letter until the school returns after the summer holidays in September 2019.

One of the successes highlighted by Daniel Lewis in the May 2019 Newsletter was the currently strong financial position of the school. This excellent result is due to careful planning by Daniel and his team throughout the 2018/19 financial year, together with making sure that everything we spend meets the needs of our pupils in the best possible way. Consequently, the Governors have been able to approve a new three-year financial plan running until 31 March 2022 that will help ensure the school continues to provide what it does now. The plan not only takes account of unavoidable increases in the pay and pensions of staff, but also properly funds developments such as the planned new satellite classrooms at Spires and The Canterbury Academy.

We must all hope that the government promotes schools to the top of its spending priorities when these are reviewed in the autumn. I mentioned in my last letter that I would be joining the National Governance Association's (NGA) lobby of Parliament on 28 February as part of their *Funding the Future* Campaign. It was a useful day that enabled governors from across the country to get the message across to politicians from all the major political parties that proper funding levels are essential for the education and wellbeing of children and young people at schools nationwide. We wait to see what happens later this year.

I am pleased to report that there has been some further progress regarding the provision of an NHS specialist nurse at the school. The Kent and Medway Sustainability and Transformation Partnership is now actively developing standard arrangements which will be phased in at all special schools in Kent. As the implementation of the full service at St Nicholas, could take some time, the school will continue as now to employ an agency nurse. I shall continue to update you on progress in future newsletters.

Governors will be holding their final full meeting of the 2018/19 school year on 18 June. Items to be discussed include the new plan for developing the school next year, as well as how we could further develop the skills of governors.

Last but most certainly not least, the governors were delighted to learn that the school had won third prize in the Year 7-9 Artwork Category in the Show Racism the Red Card Competition. The winning team visited the Etihad Stadium, Manchester on 25 April to receive their award. Well done and many congratulations to all involved but most especially Kyle, Isaac, Thomas, Alfie, Lee and Bobby.

If I don't get chance to say so at the various end of term events in July, may I wish you all a pleasant and relaxing summer break. The Governors greatly appreciate your continuing support of the school.

Nigel Wootton

PTFA News

Summer Fete

The Summer Fete is being held on Saturday 29 June from 11–1 pm. There will be hotdogs, chips, burgers and all the usual stalls and outside entertainment. As always, we appreciate your generosity in sending in raffle prizes, cakes and bric a brac. Text requests and further information will be going out over the next week. Please contact me if you can help out in anyway.
vanessaajoakes@gmail.com.

Facebook



Please join our PTFA Facebook page to keep abreast of what's going on in school and all the latest PTFA news.

Future dates:

PTFA Meeting—Tuesday 24 September from 10 - 12 pm

PTFA AGM Wednesday 16 October

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 18 June	9.30—11.30 am	All School Transition morning
Monday 24—Friday 28 June		Sports Week
Tuesday 25 June	9.30—11.30 am	All School Transition morning
Saturday 29 June	11—1 pm	PTFA Summer Fete
Tuesday 2 July	9.30—11.30 am	All School Transition morning
Tuesday 9 July		Optional Parent's Evening
Friday 12 July		Leaver's Prom
Monday 15—Thursday 19 July	All day	Immersive Drama Production
Friday 19 July	1.30 pm	Yrs 2 and 6 Graduation Ceremony
Monday 22 July	1.30 pm	KS4/5 Celebration Assembly
Tuesday 23 July	10 am	Primary Celebration Assembly
Tuesday 23 July	11 am	Secondary Celebration Assembly



VE DAY
75TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
8TH MAY 2020

To mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day, Central Government has announced that the May Day Bank Holiday will move from Monday 4 May 2020 to **Friday 8 May 2020**, and KCC have updated their [school term dates](#) for 2019-20 to accommodate this change.

School closes on Tuesday 23 July at 2 pm.

We look forward to seeing you back on Wednesday 4 September.