

St Nicholas School Newsletter

November 2022

Please add m.lindsay_admin@stnicholascanterbury.onmicrosoft.com to your address book.



Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to start my first entry into a newsletter with a thank you to our community as a whole. I have been welcomed into the St Nicholas family by our pupils, staff, parents, carers, taxi drivers, cleaners and everyone that forms a part of our community and have really enjoyed the autumn term. It has been enlightening to get to live and breathe St Nicks, whilst I have been able to gather and process a lot of information across all our provisions, there is still so much more to learn and plenty to be moving forwards with.

My sole aim is to improve outcomes for our pupils. I will work my socks off, alongside our staff teams, to strive for the best that we can do. We won't be perfect, but we will do our best, think outside the box and learn along the way, together, as a team. To be as effective as possible being able to work closely and openly with parents and carers will be paramount.

One specific area your Governors at St Nicholas have asked me to explore is how we can ensure that the communication that takes place between St Nicholas and our parents/carers can be enhanced to enable engagement between home and school to be developed. I would like to gather your views about the type of information, you feel is important to be shared and the best way for information to be shared with you. We will be looking to utilise technology as best as we can as part of the communication package that we utilise in school alongside more traditional methods. I have drafted a survey and I would appreciate your feedback. If you can spend five minutes completing this by clicking on the link below, I would be grateful, and will report back the findings from this in the next newsletter.

[Parent/Carer Survey](#)

We have exciting news regarding the building work at Parkside primary school, where we have four classes from St Nicholas based. Two brand new classrooms are being built for our use and we are expecting that this work will be completed by 16 December. Once we have the keys, we will then be able to set these classrooms up ready for pupils in Ladybird and Bumblebee classes to move into after Christmas.

Our PFTA has had a period of slumber, most notably due to the pandemic. This is an area that I am keen to support and generate some excitement and opportunities to fund raise for projects that help to enhance the experiences of our pupils as well as bring our community together. A separate letter from the PFTA will supplement this school newsletter, please have a read, and get involved in any way that you are able to.

We will have a range of events coming up prior to the Christmas break. A number of these will be specific to the sites that pupils are based on and information for these will come via class teams. We will be holding events at the Church which will be open to parents, and letters will come home for classes that will be attending if you would like to join us.

All the best
Richard

New Teachers for 2022

Verity Thornhill



Verity with Dwayne Johnson!!

I teach Knox Class, one of our Cedar Pathway classes. I have loved spending time in Term 1 getting to know the wonderful children and staff in my class. I am also one of the school's PROACT SCIPr Instructors, this is one of the reasons I'm working at the school

Zak Davies



My name is Zak Davies and I am new to the School this year and I am the teacher of S2A over at Spires Academy Satellite. I have spent the last few years teaching in a mainstream secondary school supporting pupils with

Mark Sayer



Hello! I'm Mark and I've been at St Nicholas school since January 2020. I first started as a teaching assistant in Matt's class. Over the last year and a half, whilst training as a teacher, I had the opportunity to work in

as I came to do my training here back in 2021 and immediately knew it was somewhere I wanted to work.

Although I only joined the School in September; I've been a teacher for 18 years teaching both mainstream and special provision classes. In 2011 I completed a MA in Enabling Learning with a particular focus on an international comparison between inclusion in England and Norway. It was fascinating spending time in another country to see how schools there supported children with their learning and considering what we can learn from each other.

Away from the classroom I have two sons who keep me busy outside of school! I love singing and am a member of a local choir – The Lemon Zingers. I'd always enjoyed singing as a child at school but hadn't sung with a choir since I left (many years ago!). I hadn't realised how much I missed it until I started

a variety of different needs and I felt like I needed a new challenge; so here I am!

This year S2A will be focusing on developing their independence and social skills in preparation for life after school. This will involve a variety of trips into different social settings where they can try new things while being supported by the S2A team. In addition to this we will be looking into qualifications we can aim for over the next few years in order to prepare them for post-16 education. I am also keen to support students and their adults across St Nicholas School with pastoral needs and keeping them safe both in and out of school, and I am interested in working with other teachers in promoting online and real-life safety. In my spare time I like staying active, taking part in different sports and outdoor activities. I also enjoy watching films and documentaries and I'm always on the lookout

Bear and Mercury class alongside Lee and Helen.

Since September, I have been the teacher of an amazing, new KS3 class, Webster. Webster is on the Beech Tree pathway, which has proven to be challenging but exciting at the same time.

We have a wonderful team and a fantastic group of pupils. My favourite lesson to teach is English, specifically focussing on communication between pupils and staff.

I have recently bought a house with my partner, Taylor, who I have been with for over three years now. We have two dogs, a dachshund called Oscar and a Jack Russell called Teddy – which can be very chaotic.

I am also a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community. The perfect night for me would be binge watching TV and snacking on a *share* bag of crisps to myself.

[Click Here](#)

singing with a group again.

[Click Here](#)

for something new and interesting to watch!

[Click Here](#)

New Teachers for 2022

Louise Belfield



I previously worked as a teaching assistant, in the primary department, for three years at the school. Last year I completed my teaching studies and am now the teacher for Owl Class. I have been in education, however, for 13 years and over this time I have worked in early years and forestry schools undertaking many roles within these settings. I am a passionate advocate for outdoor learning and learning through play with a child centred approach. I am very family orientated and enjoy

Ellie Foster



My name is Ellie, and I am Rainbow Fish Teacher. I have worked in Early Years for eight years and have been an Early Years Teacher for two years, previously working at another Special Needs School. During terms 1 and 2 Rainbow Fish have been focusing on settling into their new classroom and developing relationships with adults and peers. During the term we have enjoyed doing lots of attention autism sessions to develop our engagement skills, communication

Cassy Revella



I am the new teacher in Bayley class. I have been teaching for 8 years. Before coming to St Nicholas, I taught in America, specifically Texas. I taught special educational needs as well as coached a high school cheerleading team. I went to uni at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and majored in Anthropology and minored in Maths. I am currently finishing my masters in Intellectual and Developmental Disability at the University of Kent and I am a trainer for the

spending time with my family and friends- I also love to travel as often as is possible!

[Click Here](#)

sessions to develop our communication skills and a lot of sensory play- getting very messy!

My favourite things to do during the weekends are socialising with my friends, going to the cinema, and watching TV.

[Click Here](#)

SPELL Framework program.

In my free time, I love to travel, read, and spend time with friends and family.

[Click Here](#)

Focus on Storey Class

World studies – Canterbury a comparison



This term in Storey class we have been looking at Canterbury and comparing it to other places and cities in the UK including London and seaside towns.

The students in Storey class have become very good at recognising the landmarks in Canterbury and are able to sort them out from landmarks from other parts of the UK. We are now moving on to comparing Canterbury with famous cities from around the world including Paris, Berlin, and Sydney.

Film with Tim



This term in Storey class, the students have also had access to film lessons with Tim. The students really enjoy these lessons as it is a chance for them to be creative and make their acting debuts in class.

These sessions are not only fun and exciting, but they build the students confidence in the classroom and in front of the camera.

The students have made some brilliant films over the course of this term and will begin to do some of their own film making and editing during the lead up to Christmas.

[Click Here](#)

As part of these lessons, we will be going on a virtual tour of some of these far away cities and even trying some of the food that comes from them and comparing it with food that you often find in Canterbury and England.

[Click Here](#)

Wellbeing Information

Children's Therapy Pod

the pod
Children's therapies

Please click below to access The Pod! Here you will find films, resources and links that can help your child achieve their therapy goals.

We support children and young people to develop their skills to their full potential, so they can participate in everyday activities. We work in partnership with you, your child and any other important people in their life.

The Pod has been developed by the Integrated Children's Therapies teams, provided by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust. Find your nearest team below.

[Click Here](#)

ERIC



ERIC is the national charity dedicated to improving children's bowel and bladder health. Our mission is to reduce the impact of continence problems on children and their families.

Information and advice

Find out how you can keep your child's bowel and bladder working properly from birth. Clinically approved information and resources to help you and your child.

[Click Here](#)

RSC Associate Schools Programme News

On Thursday 10 November, Shane and Jaqueline, from our Spires Academy Satellite Class, travelled to The Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon to take part in the first ever Young Leaders meeting. They worked with representatives from other SEN Associate schools to create a manifesto for inclusion. They will be advising the RSC company on youth and disability issues and taking a lead role in running a symposium in the new year. As well as taking part in workshops, the students went on a guided tour of the theatre and attended a special performance of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.



S4A and the St Nicholas College drama group have also been devising their own plays for the 37 Plays Project. Class S4A will be attending a playwriting workshop with a professional playwright on Tuesday 22 November at the Marlowe Kit. Extracts from these plays will be performed at the Marlowe in January 2023.

[Click Here](#)

St Nicholas School PTFA



Here at St Nick's we are fortunate enough to have a PTFA that is an integral part of our school community. All schools are increasingly reliant on fundraising to bridge the gap in funds to maintain the quality of education necessary.

Over the past few years, we have raised funds for:

- Minibuses

- A playground with inclusive equipment
- Sensory Room equipment
- Electronic equipment including 3D printer, digital cameras
- Contributions towards trips
- And so much more....

We have held fundraising activities including raffles, Christmas and Summer fairs. We take great pride in bringing together our school's community and aim to support each other to build friendships

Lend Your Support

As parents/guardians, you are automatically members of the PTFA (together with all the staff). You do not have to become a member of the committee to help raise funds for our school. There are many ways to get involved without committing a huge amount of time.

- Do you have any fundraising ideas? - We'd love to hear them. The more the better!
- Do you have skills or connections that might help us raise funds or make events run more smoothly? – Maybe you're a baker or have artistic skills? Maybe you're able to help with our social media groups or can pursued businesses to sponsor events etc.
- Do you work for a company that does fund matching? - Often bigger companies like supermarkets or banks etc can do this.
- Could you spare some time to help at an event? - Even if it's only to help set up or tidy away or sell raffle tickets - any help is always greatly appreciated.
- Or maybe collect a raffle prize or two? - Raffles are always a popular and lucrative way to raise funds.
- Have you always wanted to run a marathon, or swim the channel, or some other crazy hair-brained challenge but didn't have a charity to do it for? - St Nick's is a registered charity and I'm sure the children would lend all their support to get you over the line!

We desperately need your help to raise much needed funds to make our children's time at school the enjoyable, fulfilling and exciting experience they deserve.

Please contact me, [Mandy Stratton](#) or [Kellie Barker](#). Thanking you in anticipation

Mandy Stratton (Chair)

[Raise funds for free!](#) From the comfort of your own home by logging into easyfundraising and choosing St Nicholas school as your charity.

[Click Here](#)

Important Dates

Friday 25 November	Diwali Dancers
Thursday 8 December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 9 December	Social Work Clinic
Wednesday 7 December at 10 am	Primary Christmas service at St Mary Bredin church - all welcome
Wednesday 14 December at 10 am	Secondary Christmas service at St Mary Bredin church - all welcome
Thursday 15 December	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 15 December	Father Christmas visiting
Friday 16 December	Christmas Carols - Pupils only

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022 - 23



Term 2

Staff Development Day:

Monday 31 October 2022

Start: Tuesday 1 November 2022

Finish: Friday 16 December 2022 at 2 pm

Term 3

Staff Development Day:

Tuesday 3 January 2023

Start: Wednesday 4 January 2023

Finish: Friday 10 February 2023

Term 4

Start: Monday 20 February 2023

Finish: Friday 31 March 2023

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