

# St Nicholas School Newsletter

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Dear Parents and carers

We are really enjoying the better summer weather and the opportunities it provides for us to take classes offsite and outdoors. The pandemic though is, unfortunately, not over and we continue to need to follow all the restrictions set out in the government's guidance. The children and young people in the school are coping extremely well with all these changes we needed to make. I want to thank you for all the support you are giving to us as we move towards the end of the academic year. I know it has been another difficult school year for you as your child's education has been so disrupted. We are looking forward now to the slow careful resumption of normal schooling.

We have begun planning for a wider range of summer events involving transition days, sports days and celebration assemblies. We are doing this in the hope that the government's roadmap out of the pandemic restrictions will proceed as they have outlined. The recent rise in the Delta variant of the Covid -19 virus in the Canterbury area has led us to be more cautious though. This means that the first transition day we scheduled will be cancelled. Therefore at the moment we are looking towards events happening in July and towards the end of the term but this remains subject to the latest government advice and guidance.

We are now into the new financial year and have been able to finalise last year's accounts. We ended the last financial year with a large underspend of £800,000. This was on a total budget spend of nearly six and a half million pounds. The underspend was high because a lot of the normal spending of the school had to stop because of the epidemic. We also received additional funding for more pupils but were not able to employ the additional staff until this financial year. The school also needs to have

an underspend because at the moment it operates with an in-year deficit budget. This means that within the financial year we spend more than we receive back in funds from the local authority. The governors are working closely with me to ensure over the next three years that this is not the case and the school is financially sound going into the future. A lot of this underspend has been allocated to additional staffing, learning resources and building works over the next year.

Best wishes

Daniel

## Get to know the Key Stage 1 Teachers

### Jamie Daniels



Jamie has been the onsite Reception teacher at St Nicholas School for two years and is thoroughly enjoying the position. He has also recently taken on the role of Primary Maths Lead and hopes to continue the excellent standards already in place. Jamie has experience of working in SEN for over 12 years and six of them at St Nicholas.

### Lee Gore



Lee is Key Stage 1 Manager and teacher of the wonderful Bear Class. He began teaching at St Nicholas in 2015 and has worked across the primary department. Lee is a PROACT-SCIPr instructor, Makaton Regional Tutor and the Stonewall Champion for primary. He is currently studying for a MA in Special Needs and Inclusion at Canterbury Christ Church University and

### Kirstie Phillpot



Kirstie is a Newly Qualified Teacher who started working at St Nicholas in September 2020. Prior to attending university; she worked with children who had visual and hearing impairments for nine years. In class Kirstie promotes the use of a range of communication methods and uses the TEACCH approach to engage all children in their learning.

Jamie has recently moved to Herne bay and is looking forward to enjoying a summer by the beach. He enjoys long walks with his dog and his partner and being active outside.

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work very closely with them by delivering workshops on their initial teacher training programmes. Lee is also the Earwig guy, so if you have any queries about it - let him know! Lee loves watching films and spending time with his family.

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Outside of work life Kirstie enjoys playing rugby, hiking and baking a variety of vegan treats.

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## Focus on Toucan Class

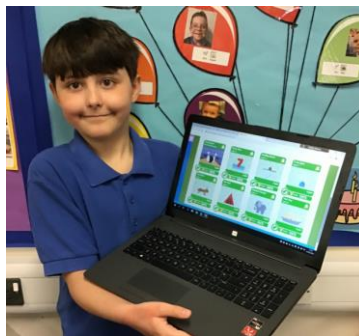
Each newsletter will focus on a class. Please use our website to see up to date news on your individual classes.

### Art



During term 5 Toucan class have had Art sessions with the specialist Art teacher and have used their theme of the Seaside for inspiration. The students have explored Floating and Sinking using differing materials and objects, created bubble prints and experimented with mark making using wax crayons and chalks as

### Phonics



Toucan Class have worked so hard on their phonics and have been putting their efforts into practise with in their reading and their writing. All children have made progress with their sound recognition as well as writing tricky words and cvc words. Everyone thought it was very funny to use their skills to write their own sill sentences!

### Maths



We have been learning about using money. Pupils have been identifying coins, adding up different amounts and role playing shops. Here is Finley, in charge of the fish and chip shop, serving the customers and working out the total of the bill!

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well as the process of 'wax resist' using paint, candles and crayons.

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## Letter from the Chair



Dear Parents and Carers

Governors met in May to discuss ways of improving our engagement with everybody involved with the school, most especially parents and carers. As I mentioned in the April newsletter, it is vital we know what is important to you and your children so that we can take proper account of your ideas, suggestions and concerns when considering how best to improve the school.

We agreed to look at opportunities for governors to attend events already taking place at the school where we can talk to, and invite questions from, parents and carers. The events could include sports days, school performances, prize giving assemblies and parent/carer evenings. I shall let you know what we decide and which events governors will attend and when.

We also agreed to strengthen the existing links between the Governing Board and the school's PTFA. As a first step, I along with Sharon Godden and Heidi Dawson attended the PTFA meeting on Thursday 10 June at 10 am at the Forest School at Ross Wood campsite near Herne Bay - <https://www.rosswoods.org.uk/find-us> - to discuss how the school can work with and support the PTFA.

Once again the months seem to have raced past and the final meeting this school year of the Governing Board will be held on 21 June. I shall report back to you following the meeting on the important matters discussed.

Nigel Wootton

## PTFA



As we don't have the normal school gate meeting opportunities; being part of the PTFA is a great way to meet other parents and carers as well as some of the staff in the school that you wouldn't otherwise be able to. It doesn't mean you have to commit to coming along to PTFA meetings or getting involved in every event we hold.

You can be part of the St Nick's community and contribute to making it a fun and well-resourced place for your children:

- You may have skills you never knew you had that might help with fundraising.
- You might work for a company that will fund match?
- You might be able to sell a few raffle tickets or get a raffle prize donation.
- Or you're happy to help out on a stall at a school fair or help tidy up afterwards.

There are so many ways you can be involved without too much effort. It just takes a tiny bit of your time.

Please email, text or call me to join our PTFA

Mandy Stratton

[mandy@stratton.org.uk](mailto:mandy@stratton.org.uk)

07800725229



ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21

Term 5

Start: Monday 19 April 2021

Finish: Friday 28 May 2021

Term 6

Start: Monday 7 June 2021

Finish: Wednesday 21 July 2021 at 2 pm

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