

# St Nicholas School Newsletter

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## St. Nicholas School Canterbury

Dear Parents and Carers

The autumn term has started successfully. We have welcomed new children and staff to the school.

The school has lifted many of the Covid-19 restrictions that were in place over the last academic year which has enabled a wider range of activities and curriculum opportunities to happen again. We are, though, still operating with a range of precautions: hand hygiene, cleaning of surfaces, good ventilation and staff taking Lateral Flow Tests twice a week. We are also asking staff and visitors to wear face coverings in the social areas of the school. If we have a positive case of Covid-19 in the school, as we did have earlier this week, then we follow the advice of the Department for Education, The NHS Test and Trace Service and Public Health England. Can I remind you of the importance of keeping your child off school if they are unwell and if they are displaying symptoms of Covid-19 obtaining a PCR test for them and communicating to us the results as soon as you have received it.

The government's plans for Flu Immunisations (all primary aged children and secondary years 7-11) and Covid-19 vaccines for children (aged 12 – 15) will happen shortly and so look out for text messages that inform you of the details and your options.

The Canterbury Specialist Teacher's Service who are based at St Nicholas are offering coffee mornings/afternoons for parents and carers on a range of subjects including de-escalation, social communication and dyslexia. More information is available through the school's website.

We begin this term working closely with Canterbury Academy and Simon Langton Boys School in the Concordia Learning Alliance. This will deliver training

programmes for staff in special educational needs and a wider range of curriculum and management courses. This exciting initiative ensures we will continue to have training opportunities for our staff that are relevant and local.

The County Council are consulting currently on a plan to shorten the summer term by one day as the additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee falls in the half-term break. If this is agreed then the summer term will finish on Thursday 21 July 2022.

Teachers will be meeting with parents to discuss your children in the week beginning 18 October. Look out for the communications from class about this.

Emma Wellard who leads the Wellbeing Team is also now the school's Designated Lead for Mental Health. Do contact her if you have any questions on how the school is addressing this issue.

Best wishes

Daniel

## Get to know the Support Staff

### Sam Smith



Sam has worked at St Nicholas school for 13 years, the first three years in class and since then in the therapy

### Tracy Obee



Tracy is a Lead Practitioner, with a diploma in Welfare Studies and training in Multi-Sensory Impairment, who works within our shine

### Alexis Zacharia



Alexis is the Forest School Lead at St Nicholas school. He began working with St Nicholas school in 2005 as Swimming Instructor became a TA, a HLTA,

team. He creates communication resources/visual supports for our pupils from Caterpillar Class up to 6th Form and for our pupils at home.

Sam has attended lots of training to learn about communication needs including training with the creator of the social stories Carol Gray, and has learnt a lot from staff past and present! Popular resources that Sam is often asked for are reward boards, social stories, symbol keyrings and behaviour supports (such as Now/Next boards).

Sam has many pets including dogs, cats, tortoises and a scorpion! His hobbies include collecting autographs and cross stitch. Sam is a proud member of the LGBTQIA+ community and loves meeting drag queens at gigs, conventions and pride events!

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curriculum (Sensory, Holistic, Innovated, New, Education).

Tracy has worked at St Nicholas School for 16 years, firstly working in class as a teaching assistant, then working with some of our more complex medical needs students, transitioning into school.

Tracy works in our secondary department within small group settings in the shine classroom. Due to this holistic approach the sessions are bespoke, and tailored to ability and personalities of the students, to provide the best learning outcomes.

One afternoon a week Tracy works in Orangutan class; sharing some of the activities she has created, promoting different techniques and ideas. She works closely with staff, learning from each other and from our students to promote the best learning outcomes for individuals.

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Mountain Bike Leader and Forest School leader.

Alexis is passionate about the benefits of nature, exercise and experiencing the outdoors. Working as a Forest School leader across the primary and secondary department Alexis has observed the positive impact and effect the outdoors and the woodland environment has on both students and adults. Alexis is also an Archery Instructor, sports leader, FA qualified coach, OAA, Dance and Gymnastics Instructor and is currently studying Community Counsellor Training to become a Forest Therapist.

Alexis also enjoys, spending time with his family, going on outdoors adventures singing, playing guitar and watching films.

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## Focus on Keller Class

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



Over the last few weeks Keller Class have been getting to know each other through playing games and circle times. The students have really enjoyed learning how to play pictiorir and have shown their amazing drawing skills. They have also enjoyed playing small group games working hard on communication and taking turns with each other.

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Our topic this term is cultures in Keller Class and the students have been talking about the different countries they know and will be exploring a range of celebrations through out term 1 and 2. In cooking the students have enjoyed making food from different countries and practicing their life skills including cutting, oven safety and washing up.

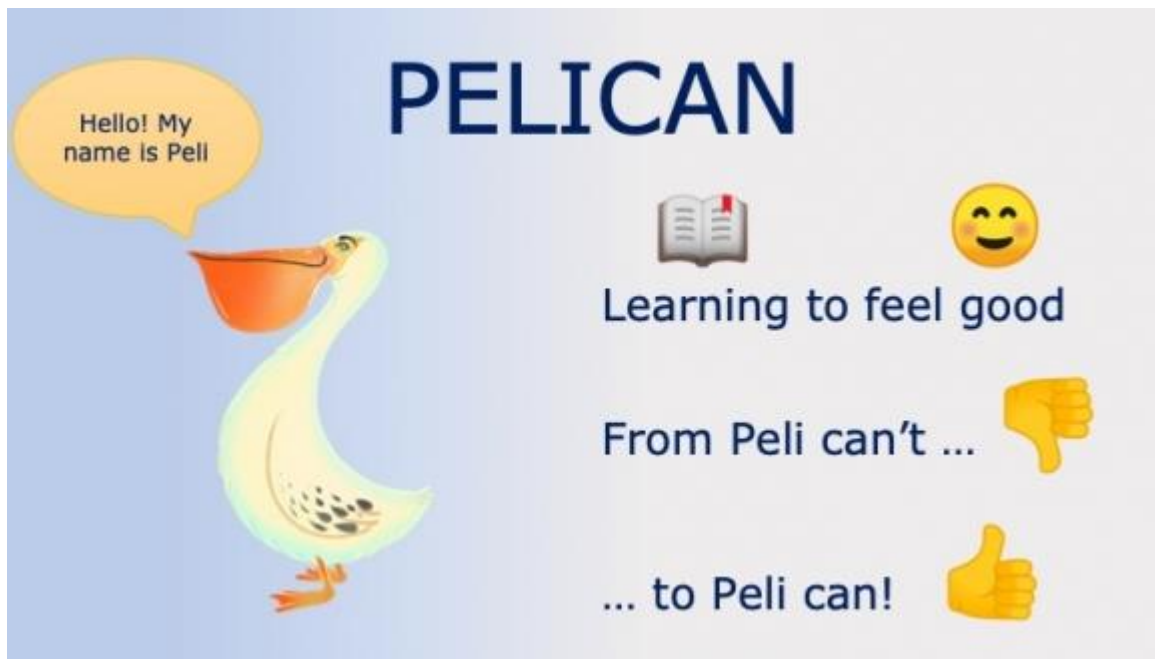
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This term we also have drama with a specialist teacher. The students are exploring friendship and relationships through acting out different ideas and emotions. The focus is around The Croods 2 movie; the students have been making mini dens and pretending to be the different animals in the movie.

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**Heading**



The Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities is delighted to launch PELICAN - Promoting Emotional Literacy In Children with Additional Needs.

Please [click](#) here to find out more.

## The Wellbeing Team

Kent Community Health - School Health Service

This service supports children and young people aged four to nineteen, including those who do not attend school. The team works with schools, parents and carers as well as other professionals like health visitors or community paediatricians to prevent ill health in children, families and the wider community, support safeguarding of children and young people and address any health needs including incontinence.

Contact details:

0300 123 4496, [email](#) or [Website](#)

## We are with you

This is a free NHS Service to support people with their mental health. This service is



available to anybody over the age of 17yrs old, registered with a GP in Kent or Surrey and worried about your mental health. You can access online webinars and courses. To find out more [email](#), 0300 0120012 or [website](#)

This service works with your GP and NHS and will share key information with them in order to join up your care.

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## Important Dates

### Flu Immunisation

St Nicholas Years R – 6 - Tuesday 5 October  
Spires Academy - Thursday 7 October  
St Nicholas Years 7-11 - Monday 11 October  
Parkside Primary - Friday 15 October  
Canterbury Primary - Tuesday 2 November  
Chartham Primary - Thursday 25 November  
Canterbury Academy - Thursday 18 & Friday 19 November  
St Johns Primary - Tuesday 14 December

### School Photographer

St Nicholas Site only - Tuesday 5 October

Off-site - dates to follow

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22



### Term 1

Staff Development Days: Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 September 2021

Start: Friday 3 September 2021

Finish: Friday 22 October 2021

### Term 2

Staff Development Day: Monday 1 November 2021

Start: Tuesday 2 November 2021

Finish: Friday 17 December 2021 at 2 pm

### Term 3

Staff Development Day: Tuesday 4 January 2022

Start: Wednesday 5 January 2022

Finish: Friday 11 February 2022

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