

St. Nicholas News



Friday 12th June 2026

A Note from the Headteacher

Circle of the Savannah performance

I couldn't really start off this week's newsletter without mentioning last night's awesome performance of 'Circle of the Savannah'. What a spectacle it was! The students had worked so hard in rehearsals and were clearly loving being on stage. It really was a fantastic show. A huge well done to all involved and a special mention of thanks to Mrs Russell and her team of staff volunteers who made it all possible. In addition to the fantastic performance, we also raised an impressive £166 from donations and the raffle; thank you to everyone who attended for their generosity. You can read a report by Simba herself and see some fab photos of the show, on page 3 of this newsletter.



Quest Drop In - Tuesday 16th June

We have our quest drop in next Tuesday 16th June from 3.15pm-4pm. No appointments are needed, you can pop in at any point during the allocated time.

These drop-ins take place 3 times a year in your child's classroom and are a fantastic way of checking in on your child's progress and achievements over the course of the most recent quest(s). The children's individual student assessment records (ISARs) are available for you to discuss as part of this drop-in, as they form the basis for all the work covered in class. Each ISAR also includes targets from your child's EHCP, as part of our ongoing work to support our students to achieve the outcomes in their plan. Work covered in specialist subjects is also available to see and all members of the teaching team are available to speak with you. We look forward to seeing you there!

Important Changes to Free School Meals— ACTION REQUIRED

The government is widening access to Free School Meals (FSM) for families receiving Universal Credit and from the start of the 2026- 27 academic year, all children whose families receive

*Universal Credit will be entitled to FSM. The previous income threshold of £7,400 will no longer apply. **Schools will have to recheck eligibility every year using a new checking service.***

*Existing FSM eligibility cannot be relied upon without a valid check therefore **all students currently in receipt of free school meals will have to re-apply.***

The school office will be sending out the information they will require to check your child's eligibility for free school meals at the end of next week, via Ping . Please note if you do not complete this your child will not be eligible for a Free School Meal in September.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Mrs L Fox

How to contact us:

email the school at: office@st-nicholas.southend.sch.uk

Telephone: 01702 462322



KS3 HOME ECONOMICS COSTS

As part of our school's curriculum, we offer home economics to all students in KS3 (years 7, 8 & 9). This requires a small fee from parents for ingredients. Students are able to bring home their food, if a contribution is received.

The cost is **£10 per term**.

This can be paid for using our online payments system. Please contact the school office if you need help in getting set up on this system.

Thank you for your contributions.

REMAINING INSET DAYS 2025-2026

Monday 29th June

TERM DATES 2025-2026:

Summer term ends: Mon 20th July

**STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL ON
THURSDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2026**

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June

16th	10am-1pm	Megazone Trip for Discoverer class (Jack Petchey Award)
16th	3:15pm - 4.15pm	'Roar' Quest Drop-In
17th	All Day (7:30pm return)	Whole School Trip to 'Lion King'
18th - 19th		DofE Assessment Expedition @ Danbury
19th	9:00am-1:00pm	Hepatitis B Vaccinations (Only for a very small group of students that have been contacted directly by the immunisations team)
22nd		Pioneer and Pathfinder Cinema & Lunch Trip (Jack Petchey Award)
23rd	ALL DAY	Stubbers Trip
24th	All Day (7.30pm return)	Oliver Trip (Year 11)
25th	5:00pm - 9:00pm	Year 11 Prom
26th	11.30am	Year 11 Graduation Assembly
26th	2.15pm	End of Quest Awards Assembly
29th	ALL DAY	Inset Day (School closed to students)

DATES IN RED ARE ADDITIONS OR EDITS SINCE LAST WEEK'S NEWSLETTER

COTS Performance—Thursday 11th June 2026

Here are a few words from Ellie-Rose who played Simba.

‘The cast went into Pathfinder classroom. We all had to get changed into black clothes and we ate dinner together. We then waited for everybody to arrive and be seated. Once ready we went to the hall and Mrs Fox opened the show and told everybody in the audience how hard we had all been working.

I played Simba. I really enjoyed getting to do scenes with Pumbaa and Timon. I also liked that I was able to do lots of singing. My favourite part was the dancing with Pumbaa and Timon. I loved the end when we dropped our heads as the song finished.

Once we finished the show, Mrs Fox said well done to us all. We thanked all those that were involved in the show. This included Ihfaz , Mr Laker, Mr Williams, Mrs Scott and Miss Mortimer. And then a really big thank you went to Mrs Russell.





END OF HALF TERM ATTENDANCE AWARDS



SUMMER 1 2026

Due to our current quest running over the half term break, we did not have an End of Half Term Awards Assembly in May. This will be taking place at the end of June, when 'Roar!' comes to an end. However, we did not want our attendance awards for Summer 1 to go un-celebrated, so here they are! The students will all receive their certificates to take home next week.

99% or 100% Half Term Attendance Award

Schools are encouraged to promote excellent attendance for all of their pupils and so we issue half termly and termly 99% or 100% attendance awards. In Summer 1, the students listed below are all 100%, there were no 99%ers!

Adventurer—Imena, Lucas, Callum, Samuel, Lila and Mason

Discoverer—Charlie C, Edward, Salahuddin, Brandon and Caleb

Explorer—Harvey, Ellie, Kaitlyn and Ashley

Hunter—Ashton, Will and Dylan

Pathfinder—Billy, Ryan and Kaci-Lea

Pioneer—Michael, Hamish, George, Adele, Jake, Jaydon and Toby

Researcher—Ollie, Valentina and Harvey

Seeker—Jack, Regan, Freddie, Ciaran, Jaidan and Zaki

Voyager—Preston, Tegan, Jasmyn and Jacob



SCHOOL MEALS

Monday 15th June will be week 2 of the menu.

WEEK 1		WEEK 2		WEEK 3	
MONDAY		MONDAY		MONDAY	
MAINS	Beef Burger in a Bun	MAINS	Shepherds Pie	MAINS	Lasagne
VEGETARIAN	Vegan Burger in a Bun	VEGETARIAN	Tomato Pasta	VEGETARIAN	Vegetarian Lasagne
SIDE	Diced Potato - Peas	SIDE	Baked Beans - Peas	SIDE	Garlic Bread - Broccoli
JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo
SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras
DESSERT	Chocolate Sponge and Custard	DESSERT	Carrot Cake	DESSERT	Flapjack
TUESDAY		TUESDAY		TUESDAY	
MAINS	Sausages	MAINS	Chicken Nuggets	MAINS	Sausages in Tomato Sauce
VEGETARIAN	Quorn Sausages	VEGETARIAN	Quorn Nuggets	VEGETARIAN	Vegetarian Sausages
SIDE	Mash - Carrots - Gravy	SIDE	Pasta - Sweetcorn - Peas	SIDE	Pasta - Sweetcorn - Peas
JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo
SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras
DESSERT	Fruit or Yogurt	DESSERT	Plain Sponge and Custard	DESSERT	Fruit or Yogurt
WEDNESDAY		WEDNESDAY		WEDNESDAY	
MAINS	Garmon	MAINS	Roast Chicken	MAINS	Garmon
VEGETARIAN	Quorn Fillet	VEGETARIAN	Cauliflower Cheese	VEGETARIAN	Quorn Fillet
SIDE	Roast Potatoes - Carrots - Peas	SIDE	Roast Potatoes - Carrots - Cabbage	SIDE	Roast Potatoes - Carrots - Cabbage
JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo
SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras
DESSERT	Iced Sponge	DESSERT	Fruit or Yogurt	DESSERT	Jelly
THURSDAY		THURSDAY		THURSDAY	
MAINS	Chicken Tikka Massala	MAINS	Spaghetti Bolognese	MAINS	Cheese & Tomato Pasta
VEGETARIAN	Stir Fry Noodles	VEGETARIAN	Tomato Pasta	VEGETARIAN	Tomato Pasta
SIDE	Rice - Peas - Sweetcorn	SIDE	Garlic Bread - Peas - Sweetcorn	SIDE	Peas - Sweetcorn
JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo
SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras
DESSERT	Ice Cream	DESSERT	Angel Delight	DESSERT	Muffin
FRIDAY		FRIDAY		FRIDAY	
MAINS	Fish Fingers	MAINS	Pepperoni Pizza	MAINS	Cod Fillets
VEGETARIAN	Fishless Fingers	VEGETARIAN	Cheese Pizza	VEGETARIAN	Fishless Fingers
SIDE	Chips - Baked Beans - Peas	SIDE	Chips - Baked Beans - Peas	SIDE	Chips - Baked Beans - Peas
JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo
SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras
DESSERT	Fruit or Yogurt	DESSERT	Fruit or Yogurt	DESSERT	Fruit or Yogurt

***Extras - Lettuce, Cucumber, Tomatoes, Peppers or Savoury Snack**

FRESH FRUIT, YOGURTS AND WHOLEMEAL BREAD ARE AVAILABLE DAILY.



Weekly planner

Hub open Monday - Friday 9am to 3pm
Saturday 10am - 12noon.
During school holidays please contact
us directly as timings can change.



MONDAY

9.30AM - 11.30AM

Monday
Stay and Play
Session



TO BOOK YOUR PLACES SCAN BELOW
QR CODE OR VISIT...

WWW.BOOKWHEN.COM/LITTLEHEROESASD

LITTLE HEROES ASD SUPPORT HUB,
GARON COMMUNITY CENTRE,
GARON PARK,
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA
ESSEX
SS2 4FA

TUESDAY

10AM - 2PM

Wellbeing Tuesdays

It's important for parents and carers to look after
themselves, so they can look after their families.
This is why we have introduced 'Wellbeing Tuesdays'
from counselling sessions to Zumba classes.
Contact us to find out more!



WEDNESDAY

10AM - 12NOON

Wednesday
Stay and Play
Session



1ST & 2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

4.30PM - 6PM

A SOCIAL ACTIVITY ON THE 1ST & 2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH



"Two little heroes transition to big heroes"

FRIDAY

10AM - 12NOON



Parent/ Carer
Support Session

These professionals and services
will support you to manage your child's
behaviour and emotional needs.



Book an
individual
appointment

2ND SATURDAY EACH
MONTH 10AM - 12NOON

GIRLS CLUB



3RD SATURDAY EACH
MONTH 10AM - 12NOON

YOUTH CLUB



4TH SATURDAY EACH
MONTH 10AM - 12NOON
SATURDAY STAY
AND PLAY



www.littleheroesasd.co.uk  littleheroes.asd@gmail.com



St. Nicholas



Thursday 16th July — 3.15pm — 4.45pm

SUMMER FAIR

- **CRAFTS**
- **RAFFLE**
- **ICE CREAM**
- **STALLS**
- **GIFTS**
- **GAMES**



St Nicholas School

**Philpott Avenue, Southend
on Sea, SS2 4RL**



Strong oral language skills help children feel confident, connected and ready to learn. This guide explores simple, every day ways that parents, carers and educators can support children's speaking, listening and understanding, from shared conversations and story time to naming feelings and building vocabulary through play and routines.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

BUILDING SCHOOL-READY LANGUAGE SKILLS

Oral language is fundamental to children's learning, literacy, and social and emotional development, with long-term impacts. As language develops rapidly between the ages of three and six, early, evidence-based support is essential. This guide offers practical ways to help the children in your care become confident communicators, including through proven approaches such as the DfE-funded NELI programmes available to settings in England.

1 BUILD ORAL LANGUAGE

Support children to use language, not just hear it. Give them the time to talk, respond, ask questions, and share their ideas. Everyday conversations, shared activities, and reading together help children practise both speaking and listening. At nursery or school, programmes such as NELI can help build their vocabulary, storytelling, attention, and listening skills, helping children grow in confidence as communicators.

2 SUPPORT LISTENING SKILLS

Help children to listen and follow simple instructions during everyday routines. Break instructions down into short, manageable steps and check their understanding. For example, say, "Please put your coat on," rather than giving them several instructions at once. Strong listening skills support learning, attention, and participation at school.

3 GROW THEIR VOCABULARY

Talk with children about the world around them, naming objects, actions, and feelings. Use a wide range of words during everyday activities such as shopping, cooking, and playing. Repeating and explaining new words help children understand and use vocabulary more confidently, supporting their comprehension and communication.

4 SHARE STORIES TOGETHER

Read storybooks together regularly and talk about characters, events, and illustrations. Ask simple questions such as "What's happening here?" and validate children's responses with positive feedback. Acting out stories together, asking open questions, and giving children the chance to be the storyteller can all support their narrative skills and confidence.

5 NAME DIFFERENT FEELINGS

Help children learn to express themselves by talking about different feelings and naming them clearly, such as happy, sad, or angry. Visuals and role play can support their understanding of this. Being able to express their feelings verbally helps children build positive relationships with adults and peers, reduces frustration, and supports their social development as they prepare for school.

6 WORK WITH SETTINGS

Strong communication between home and the nursery, school, or early years setting can help children feel more confident and supported. Parents can visit the setting with their child before they start, helping them become familiar with the environment and key adults. Educators can share relevant information with families and colleagues, so each child's needs are understood. Newsletters can also help families continue language learning at home.

7 SPOT LANGUAGE NEEDS

Children develop their language and communication skills at different rates, so early conversations between home and settings are important. If parents have concerns, they should speak to their child's nursery, school, or early years setting. Educators can use tools such as LanguageScreen, included in the NELI programmes, to build a profile of a child's speaking and listening skills and help identify suitable support.

8 EVIDENCE-BASED SUPPORT

Prioritise language and literacy approaches that are underpinned by robust research evidence. Evidence-based programmes help ensure children receive support that is more likely to make a meaningful difference. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) provides guidance on the strength of evidence behind different strategies, supporting informed decision-making and effective use of school time and resources.

9 MEET INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

Settings can use evidence-based assessment tools to understand children's language skills and identify where support may be needed. These tools support SEND reforms, and strengthen whole-setting language development, helping children receive support that reflects their individual communication needs.

10 TAKE PART IN RESEARCH

Research trials can give schools, early years settings, and families a valuable opportunity to contribute to evidence construction and future policy. Parents may be asked to give consent, share feedback, or support activities at home, while educators help deliver and monitor approaches in practice. The EEF often has trials that settings can join, including whole-class oral language programmes designed to support children's communication development.

Meet Our Expert

OxEd is a University of Oxford spinout company specialising in early language and literacy assessment and intervention. They are the delivery team for the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) programme in reception, funded by the Department for Education for schools in England, and for NELI Preschool, which supports nurseries to strengthen children's early language development through evidence-based practice.



See full reference list on our website

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