



Newsletter – Monday 18th December 2017

Well another term has come to an end. School will close for children at **2:15pm tomorrow** and re – open for children on **Wednesday 3rd January 2018 (first bell at 8:50am with school starting at 8:55am)**. You will find, attached to this email/newsletter, a list of the key dates for the first half term of 2018.

New things for 2018:



Reading letters – Please help us to support your children with their learning by remembering to listen to them read at home. Our expectation in school is that you listen to your child read **at least three times a week**. Staff will be looking for at least three signatures comments from home, and page numbers read, each week so that we can see how we are working together to support your child's progress in reading. Reading to and with your child can make a dramatic difference to their achievement within school. The aim of home reading is for practise and enjoyment. We do not expect you to teach your child at home. The time you spend creating an enjoyable experience in which children can practise skills and strategies they have learnt at school is important and appreciated. From January, 'reading alert' letters will be issued where we feel the above expectation is not being met.

PE kits – From January, children in Y1 – Y6 will be able to come dressed to school in their outdoor **school PE kit** on the following days:



Wear outdoor PE kit to school	
Class	Day
Y1CS, Y1/2EG	Monday
Y5NC, and Y4HJ	Tuesday
Y5/6AJM and Y6JY	Wednesday
Y3JW, Y3/4NL	Thursday
Y2OB	Friday



We will do PE in all weathers and so children could actually wear their shorts for outdoor lessons and girls could wear dark leggings. Please note however, as your children may also have PE in school on a different day (as good practice advises), they will need to have an indoor PE kit in school on the following days:

Have indoor PE kit in school	
Class	Day
Y5NC	Monday
Y2OB and Y6JY	Tuesday
Y1CS and Y1/2EG	Wednesday
Y5/6AJM	Thursday

School Uniform – From September 2018, we are aiming to bring a more consistent approach with our school uniform. We have been considering several options and are now down to two choices that, with your help, we need to decide between:

Option 1: All children throughout school (Nursery, KS1 and KS2) wear the yellow polo shirt that is currently worn in Nursery and KS1

OR

Option 2: All children throughout school (Nursery, KS1 and KS2) wear a navy blue polo shirt, like the one that our staff wear.

We did look at having a tartan option for girls, however, we could not find a suitable tartan to match our school colours and it would have proved too expensive to have a one made specifically for our school. Throughout January and February we are asking for 'volunteer' children to trial the two options – we only need KS2 volunteers for the yellow polo shirt option, but would need children from Nursery to Y6 for the navy option. We will provide the polo shirts for all our volunteer children. Please let the school office know if you would volunteer your child for this. Feedback slips for all parents will be available at the end of January with a final decision being made in March/April.

'Never settle for less than your best'



Parent/carers questionnaire results – Below are the results from the recent parent/carers questionnaire. Many thanks to everyone who returned a completed questionnaire to us in school. Remember, should you wish to ‘formally’ register your responses, then please click onto the Parent View link on our website and submit the questionnaire for our school online. As part of our continual improvement we will use this valued information to amend elements of our provision in order to ensure that next time we have a higher percentage in the ‘*Strongly agree*’ section:

95 questionnaires returned/completed

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	No response given
1. My child is happy at this school	77.8%	21.1%	1.1%			
2. My child feels safe at this school	81.1%	17.9%	1.1%			
3. My child makes good progress at this school	68.4%	29.5%	1.1%			1.1%
4. My child is well looked after at this school	78.9%	20.0%	1.1%			
5. My child is taught well at this school	76.8%	20.0%			2.1%	1.1%
6. My child receives appropriate homework for their age	65.3%	31.6%	1.1%		1.1%	1.1%
7. This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	65.3%	28.4%	1.1%	1.1%	4.2%	
8. This school deals effectively with bullying	43.2%	25.3%	3.2%	1.1%	26.3%	1.1%
9. This school is well led and managed	63.2%	33.7%	1.1%		2.1%	
10. The school responds well to concerns I have raised	67.4%	25.3%	2.1%		4.2%	1.1%
11. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	66.3%	31.6%	2.1%			
12. I would recommend this school to another parent	YES 96.8%	NO 1.1%				2.1%

Should you wish to discuss the results of this questionnaire, or provide any further comments, please do not hesitate to contact me in school.

Parents/carers workshops – Many thanks to everyone who attended our recent Reception Phonics workshop. Our next workshop will be an E-Safety workshop aimed at all parents/carers, led by Mr Simmons. This will be in the new year, Mr Simmons will send out letters nearer the time.



Christmas Fair – Many thanks for all your support with our recent Christmas Fair. Your donations for non-uniform days, plus your attendance on the night helped school to raise a fantastic **£1166!** Most of the funds raised will support our annual **FREE** trip to the pantomime (R-Y6) and some will be used to pay for ‘Kevin the Clown’, our annual visitor to our Nursery children. Thanks again to everyone involved.

School choir events – Our school choir has been involved in a few events over the last few weeks. First, they sang at the turning on of the Christmas lights in Tyldesley and then there was the annual Rotary Club Community Carol Service at St. George's Church. This year our children sang: ‘Journey of the Magi’ and ‘When Christmas Comes to Town’ (including a solo from Poppy Ottiwell!). Last week, our children also sang at Hillcrest Nursing Home. Thank you to all the families who attended and supported these events and to Miss Gray who brought the children together.



'Never settle for less than your best'

School productions – Congratulations and well done to all the children who took part in the most recent school performances. I know how, in these situations, it is a real team effort in school and at home, to ensure that ‘everything is alright on the night’ and so thank you for all your help and support with providing costumes and helping the children to learn lines. A big thank you should also go to all the adults involved with the shows. This is only the second time our Nursery children have done a separate performance with a stay and play session and you can see from some of the comments from our visitors’ book below how much people enjoyed all the opportunities to see their children perform:



“Wonderful! Really enjoyed the children’s performance”
“Brill performance. The traditional play was a credit to the children and school”
“Amazing performance KS1 – well done”



Thank you to everyone who attended the performances and purchased raffle tickets – your contribution helped to raise **£619** which was then used to fund class Christmas parties. The money raised from the ‘Cauliflower’ Christmas cards, **£213**, also helped contribute towards Christmas events for your children – thank you for your continued support.



Theatre trip – Last week, children from Reception to Year 6 travelled to the Opera House in Manchester to watch Dick Whittington. The show was a great success and enjoyed by all. Thanks to Mrs Morris for organising this annual event and thanks also to the PTFA who ‘part funded’ the trip.

Nursery treat – Children in nursery will receive their annual visit from Kevin the Clown tomorrow as part of their party day. Like last year, nursery children from Lancaster Avenue will be coming to our school to spend part of their day seeing our special visitor. Thanks again to the PTFA who fund this for our nursery children.



KS2 Carol Service – Tomorrow morning will see our annual KS2 Carol Service at St. George’s Church. This gives the KS2 children a chance to sing carols and remind us what Christmas is really about. Thanks to Miss Gray who has organised the service, which will start at 10am – I hope to see you there.

NEW Service in school – Friday 5th January will see Rector Martin lead a new service in school for all our children and families within the St. George’s Central community. Our first ‘Eucharist for Epiphany Service’ will take place in our school hall, 9:15am – 10:00am with refreshments served afterwards in our school hall. You are all very welcome to attend this. I hope to see you there.

Reception starters 2018 – Applications have almost closed for parents/carers to submit an application for their child to start our Reception class in September 2018. Applications need to be submitted by **15th January 2018**.

Headteacher drop in’s – Next term, we will be amending our approach to our usual Headteacher Forum meeting so that a wider audience of people can attend. We have already had two open afternoons with Headteacher Forum during the day this school year, and so for the next one, we have made a slight change. I will be available in school to answer any questions about life at St. George’s Central on **Wednesday 24th January, between 5pm and 7pm for Nursery, Reception and KS1 parents/carers only**. Obviously, because of the time, there will no ‘open afternoon’ part to this. It will simply be an opportunity to come into school and speak to me. Please arrive at the main school entrance from 5pm onwards and come through to my office – please wait outside should I already be meeting with someone. I hope to see you on this day.



‘Never settle for less than your best’



Swimming (Cope Shield) – Children from St. George’s Central recently took part in the Tyldesley Swimming Club gala, competing against other schools for the Cope Shield. Well done to Jenna Binks, Lewis Edwards, Saad Kashif and Amelia Zgierun who made up the St. George’s Central team that finished **2nd overall**.

Leigh Harriers Cross Country – Children from St. George’s Central recently gave up their Saturday morning to support our school in the third ‘Graham Jackett Cross Country Challenge’. The 24 St. George’s Central children who took part helped the ATSA schools win the overall ‘Graham Jackett’ trophy! Y4 runner, Jack Reeder, can be seen (pictured right) with representatives from the other ATSA schools receiving the trophy from Mrs Jackett.



KS2 Dance festival – Eight children from St. George’s Central School took part in a Dance Festival at 180 Dance club, with children from six other primary schools. The children performed an Addams’ Family themed dance. Well done to Olivla Armstrong, Jessica Hogg, Mia Jackson, Eva Molyneux, Leah Molyneux, Noah Molyneux, Ella Meskell and Mia Riches who made up the St. George’s Central team that were judged **3rd overall**.



Squash taster session – Children from St. George’s Central were recently joined by children from other schools to take part in a squash taster session at Howe Bridge Leisure Centre. Many thanks to local headteacher and Lymm Squash Academy coach, Mr McCann, who led the session on behalf of ATSA.

Before the next newsletter, children from St. George’s Central will be taking part in:

- **KS2 Football league starts** **Chris Kirkland Goalkeeping Academy** **Golf taster sessions**
- **Table Tennis taster session** **KS1 Sportshall Athletics**

See more about all these ATSA stories above on the ATSA Facebook page.

Attendance update –

Class attendance update (%’s are from September up to and including Friday 8th December):

Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%
YR:EB	94.91%	Y1CS	95.13%	Y3JW	96.14%	Y5NC	95.65%
YR:NT	93.29%	Y1/2EG	96.89%	Y3/4NL	96.61%	Y5/6AJM	96.31%
		Y2OB	96.61%	Y4HJ	96.32%	Y6JY	96.46%

This is the final school newsletter of 2017, I hope that this has been a great year for you. For me, the last few months in school have shown me how much positive work our school does with the opportunities that are provided in school for your children and the work that we do within our local community. Our Ofsted inspection in September and the work that our staff and governors have done behind the scenes since, have only confirmed to me what I already knew – that we have a committed group of people all wanting the very best for everyone in our community. I would of course, like to thank you as parents/carers for all your support over the past 12 months. It is my role to ensure that we all follow the mantra of ‘Never settle for less than your best’ and we could not do that with the children without your help – it is very much a team effort, and your children do not let you down! I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you all in 2018.

Mr M Grogan - Headteacher

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