



Newsletter – Friday 17th December 2021

Click the link to view a digital version of this newsletter: <https://youtu.be/s-yAdugDhol>

Well we have arrived at the final school day of 2021. With everything that has happened in the world over the last 18 months, I do sometimes have to think hard about what year we are actually in! I do know that we will next see you in school in 2022 and so may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the past 12 months. There have been many changes that we have had to account for in 2021, with some being beyond our control. At the same time, our aim has been to maintain some level of consistency for you and your children. I thank you for your understanding.

Over the past four months, we have been working with a reduced staffing number in many different areas across school. During this time, we have not only continued to offer the same number of opportunities for your children, we have provided more! I therefore pay tribute to all of our staff who have continued to work to the usual high standard for your children. As usual, the children have been fantastic over the course of this term. We will need their support in the new year with the advertisement for our vacant Deputy Headteacher position which we will be posting to the Wigan Council online recruitment page in January 2022. Please see below for some recent staff updates that have taken place over the last few weeks:

Miss Peaty was recently appointed as a permanent, full time teaching assistant, working in Y6AM. You may have seen **Mr Morris**, our new caretaker/site manager, outside school in a morning or afternoon. In January 2022, **Miss Davies**, will be joining Mrs Davies (just to confuse the children!) in our Darlington Street Nursery as well as working in both Reception classes. January 2022 will also see **Mrs Skinner** start as an Early Years Assistant at our Lancaster Avenue Nursery and finally **Mrs Carr** will join our school as our new Admin Officer. I am sure you will join me in welcoming all our new staff members to the St. George's Central team:



Miss Peaty



Mr Morris



Miss Davies



Mrs Skinner



Mrs Carr

Class attendance updates:

Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%
YR:KB	94.5%	Y1NT	95.3%	Y3LK	95.0%	Y5HJ	92.6%
YR:TK	96.2%	Y1/2TL	95.7%	Y3/4CS	95.1%	Y5/6NC	96.0%
		Y2JY	93.5%	Y4CB	94.8%	Y6AM	94.5%
Whole school attendance: 94.8%							

*%s are up to and including Friday 10th December 2021

In the new year, we will be continuing with the individual attendance meetings that we have been undertaking as we look to improve individual attendance at school.

'Never settle for less than your best'

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' John 8:12

Christmas at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery



Click the links below to view our school based Christmas performances.

Year group	Performance details
Darlington Street Nursery (all children)	Children sang some Christmas songs: https://youtu.be/t_iAvRz0NyI
Reception (both classes)	Children performed 'Away in a Manger': https://youtu.be/Fkj6Sfd5Xvo
Year 1 and Year 2 (all children)	Children performed 'Keeping Mr Inn in the Inn' https://youtu.be/zxE7GuHLorA

Congratulations and well done to all the children who took part in these performances at school and the ones at our Lancaster Avenue Nursery. I know how, in these situations, it is a real team effort in school/nursery 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 and bringing them into nursery for extra sessions to perform. A big thank you should also go to all the school staff involved with the shows who not only had more performances to prepare the children for this year, but they also ensured that all photographs were uploaded to Seesaw and that a final recording of the performance was ready to be shared for you to enjoy. You can see from some of the comments from our school visitors' book below how much people enjoyed all the opportunities to see their children perform:



"Lovely performance. Well done to all the children and staff involved."

"A magical performance by all the children!"

"Every single pupil was absolutely outstanding. So brave and talented."



Thank you to everyone who attended all the performances. Through purchasing raffle tickets at school based performances, you helped to raise **£350** which was then used to fund Christmas parties and events in school. Thank you for your continued support.



PTFA event – Many thanks to everyone who supported our recent Bingo night! We raised **£870.60**. It was great to see everyone coming together as a school community to raise funds to support events in school. Thanks to our school staff and parents/carers who organised and supported this event. The money that has been raised from this event was used to support Christmas parties and events in school. We will be looking to host more events like this in the new year.

United Utilities visit – On Wednesday 1st December, children in Year 3 and 4 had a wonderful day learning about the water cycle with United Utilities in association with Kingfisher Education. This was an excellent opportunity for children to recap their Science knowledge on 'States of Matter'. Children learned about the importance of water efficiency, water safety and the value of water. Children have developed a great understanding of the importance of water and how we can make simple changes to preserve this vital resource.



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Musical performances and school choir events



Parents/carers of children in Year 4 were recently treated to a tuned percussion performance from the children in Year 4CS and Year 4CB. Our school 'buys in' to the Wigan Music Service 'Wider Opportunity Music' scheme which means that each week a specialist music teacher (Mrs Lord) comes into our school to teach the children to play musical instruments. Our children learn to play a different percussion instrument each term. It was a great performance from the children. After Christmas, the children will be learning to play a different percussion instrument and there will be another whole school performance just before Easter.

Our school choir has been involved in a few events over the last few weeks. First, the children were invited to take part in the first ever 'Manley Christmas Markets' event that took place in Tyldesley on Saturday 11th December. The children sang a range of Christmas Carols at this event. Earlier this week, the children sang at the Rotary Club Community Carol Service at St. George's Church. This event last took place in December 2019 and so it was great to see our children sing: 'When Christmas Comes to Town' from 'Polar Express' (including a solo from Caden Womersley) and 'Child in a manger born' (including solos from Nina and Evie Bailey).



Also this week, our half termly musical performance took place with our choir being joined by our musicians from across school so that they could perform to the many visitors who came along. As well as hearing the choir sing, it was great to see all the children who learn instruments in school perform for everyone. The next musical performance in school will be on Wednesday 16th February 2022.

Thanks to all the families who attended and supported these musical events and to Miss Gray who brought the children together.

Opening of Aldi store – It was an early start yesterday morning for four of our children who were invited along to the opening of the new Aldi store in Tyldesley. The children were joined by GB Athlete, Anyika Onuora, who was on hand to formally open the store. Anyika then led a 'virtual' assembly, with KS2 children asking her questions about her achievements.



Table Tennis Taster Session – On Monday 22nd November, children from St. George's Central joined with children from another school to take part in a Table Tennis Taster Session at Fred Longworth High School. Thanks to Mr Gregory from Fred Longworth High School for leading this session.

Yoga Taster Session – On Tuesday 23rd November, some of our Year 3 and Year 4 children took part in some Yoga activities at a Yoga Taster Session. The session was led by Toni Aspinall from Toni Marie Yoga.



KS2 Dance Competition – Wednesday 24th November saw our KS2 Dance team take part in a competition against three other schools. The children danced really well to 'Livin' on a Prayer' by Bon Jovi. Once all the scores were collated, our team came 2nd. Well done to the children who represented our school at this event.

Zumba Taster Session – Some Year 5 and Year 6 children took part in our first ever Zumba Taster Session. The session was led by Anna Collins from Astley Zumba. Zumba Taster Sessions for Year 3/4 and Year 1/2 children are planned for the new year.



Before the next newsletter, children from St. George's Central will be taking part in the following ATSA events:

****Mixed and Girl's Football** **KS1 Sportshall Athletics** **KS2 Dodgeball Competition** **Y1/2 Yoga Taster Session****

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January 2022

Attached to the newsletter email today is our Spring Term 2022 (2nd half) dates letter 2022. Clicking the link below will also take you directly to the letter on our school website. Paper copies of this are available in our entrance area. It will be a busy start to the year and so make sure you continually refer to this letter so that you know when things are happening:

<https://www.saintgeorgescentral.wigan.sch.uk/Documents/home/Spring%201%20dates%202022.pdf>

Earlier this week, our Spring Term (1st half) extra-curricular clubs letter was emailed to you. Clicking the link below will also take you directly to the letter on our school website. Paper copies of this are available in our entrance area:

[https://www.saintgeorgescentral.wigan.sch.uk/Documents/home/Spring%20Term%20\(1st%20half\)%20clubs%202022.pdf](https://www.saintgeorgescentral.wigan.sch.uk/Documents/home/Spring%20Term%20(1st%20half)%20clubs%202022.pdf)



Class based Worship themes – During the first half term of 2022, children will be focusing on the following:

School Value: Friendship

Reflective question: What qualities do I value in a friend?

Reception starters 2022 – Applications need to be submitted by **15th January 2022** for your child to start in our Reception class in September 2022. **Please ensure that if you have a church card to support your Reception application you hand this in at the school office by Monday 28th February 2022.**



 **Brathay Hall** – Upon our return to school, some children in Year 6 and most children in Year 5 will make the journey to Brathay Hall in the Lake District for a 5 day residential. Year 6 children will leave school on Monday 24th January and return on the afternoon of Friday 28th January. Year 5 children will leave on Monday 7th February and return on Friday 11th February. The children will spend the week exploring the countryside, orienteering, kayaking as well as many other outdoor and adventurous activities. I am sure everyone is looking forward to the experience away from home. Any children not attending these trips should come to school as normal during these weeks.

This is the final school newsletter of 2021. Doors will re-open for children on Wednesday 5th January 2022 at both our Darlington Street school site and our Lancaster Avenue Nursery site. Thanks again all for your support over the past 12 months. It is very much a team effort to ensure that we all follow the mantra of 'Never settle for less than your best'. I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you all in 2022.

Mr M Grogan – Headteacher

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