



St George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery

Newsletter – Friday 27th January 2023

Click the link to view a digital version of this newsletter: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FD0hReAleio>

We are already well ‘into the swing’ of 2023 with lots happening across school. The new term started with us celebrating World Braille Day. Miss Taylor provided a range of activities for classes across school as the children celebrated the birth of Braille’s inventor, Louis Braille, whilst developing an awareness of Braille and how it brightens the life of people around the world who are blind or visually impaired. It is also pleasing to see how elements of the ‘All Being Well’ project have re-started as we now have classes regularly undertaking litter picks within our local community and soon classes will be working with Hillcrest Residential home. The work of the ‘All Being Well’ project originally started in January 2020. We are hoping that the vision behind this project can now be realised and fully developed to benefit our Tyldesley community.

In newsletters this school year, we started to provide you with some background information about our school governors. The fourth one of these below is from Mrs Malley who is our staff governor:



I am the staff governor at St George's Central CE Primary and Nursery School. I became a governor in 2020 to further develop the links between staff, governors and the school. I have worked at St George's Central for the last 16 years and have experience of teaching across Key Stages One and Two. Currently, I teach Year 6 and have responsibility for the KS2 department.

I have recently taken on the role of Assistant Headteacher and lead English and Science in school as well as mentoring Early Career Teachers. I am married with two children. Both of my children are currently at primary school; my daughter Katie-Lou is 10 and my son Thomas is 7. We enjoy family time together and my personal hobbies are making cakes, running and attending the gym.



Class attendance updates:

| Class | *% | Class | *% | Class | *% | Class | *% |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| YR:EH | 90.23% | Y1NT | 93.87% | Y3LK | 94.16% | Y5HJ | 93.13% |
| YR:TK | 93.58% | Y1/2TL | 94.32% | Y3/4CS | 93.16% | Y5/6NC | 91.10% |
| | | Y2BR | 93.19% | Y4CB | 93.22% | Y6AM | 90.88% |
| Whole school attendance: 92.87% | | | | | | | |

*%'s are up to and including Friday 20th January 2023



Reception starters 2023 – If you have a church card to support your child’s application into our school for September 2023, please ensure you hand this in at the school office by **Tuesday 28th February 2023**.



Nursery places for September 2023

It is never too early to have your child’s name down on our nursery lists for either our Lancaster Avenue Nursery or our Darlington Street (school based) Nursery. If you have a 2 or 3 year old child who will be needing a nursery place at either of our nurseries for September 2023 then please contact Mrs Smith at our school site (01942 883773) who will add you to our lists so that you will then receive letters in April/May inviting you to our ‘Welcome Sessions’.



‘Never settle for less than your best’

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Parent View survey – Many thanks to everyone who completed the Parent View online survey at the start of this term.

Please click the link below to view the full results from the survey:

<https://www.saintgeorgescentral.wigan.sch.uk/Documents/ParentPupil/Parent%20View%20Jan%202023%20results.pdf>

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

Early Years update – This term we have welcomed ‘Kickstarterz’ back into school to work with our Reception classes, each Monday morning, on a rota basis. The children enjoy these fun-filled active sessions, which provide an opportunity for the children to develop their gross motor skills. This month has also seen both Reception classes start the CHIME music project with staff from Wigan Council. Children enjoy exploring rhythm, singing and using instruments to make meaningful connections with music. Last week, children from both our Darlington Street Nursery and Lancaster Avenue Nursery came together for a joint visit to Tyldesley library. The children listened to a fabulous story and enjoyed looking at the wide range of books and learning about how to join the library. Thank you to everyone who attended the ‘Prime Parent Partnerships’ workshops that Mrs Davies led in school and at our Lancaster Avenue Nursery. We really appreciate your support with these events so that we can work together to help your children develop confidence, make good progress and be ‘Reception ready’ when the time comes.



School Council survey – You may have recently noticed some of our School Council members outside school, on Darlington Street, at ‘dropping off’ and ‘collecting time’. As a result of some feedback to school, we are looking to take some steps to ensure that all people accessing Darlington Street at these times are safe. I am sure the School Council will update you all soon with the plans for this.



‘Lunar New Year’ 2023 – On Monday 23rd January, Lunar New Year celebrations started in school. As this is the year of the rabbit, we were pleased to see the amount of different rabbits we received, that children had created at home. Earlier today, there was a fantastic celebration of Lunar New Year coupled with cultural learning in art, craft and writing from each year group. Throughout this week, children have enjoyed traditional lantern making, performing Tai Chi, sketching the incredible Great Wall, zodiac puppet making, re-writing the story of Nian and much more. The children confidently modelled the attribute of cultural understanding that is key to becoming a global citizen.



Open afternoons and ‘Stay and Play’ sessions – Thank you to everyone who came to our ‘Open Afternoons’ earlier this week. Our next round of ‘Stay and Play’ sessions across Early Years classes, will take place **during week commencing Monday 13th February**. Staff across Early Years will make you aware of the sessions available during that week and so please see Miss Cowley at our Lancaster Avenue Nursery or your child’s teacher at our school site, to sign up to a session.

Year 5 Brathay Hall residential trip – Monday 6th February will see most children in Year 5 make the journey to Brathay Hall in the Lake District for a 5-day residential trip. The children will spend the week exploring the countryside, orienteering and kayaking as well as completing many other outdoor and adventurous activities. I am sure everyone is looking forward to the experience away from home.



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Parents' Evening!

Spring Term parents' evening – We are looking forward to welcoming you into school for Spring Term parents' evenings. At school, paper copies of the parents' evening letter will be sent out on Monday 6th February (letters will be sent home with Year 5 children on Friday 3rd February as most Year 5 children will be away on their residential trip on the Monday). Miss Cowley will be asking parents/carers at Lancaster Avenue to sign up for an agreed time slot to meet. Please see the table below, with our 'plan' for how we will manage the Spring Term parents' evenings:

| Date | Event |
|---|--|
| Friday 3 rd February | Paper copies of parents' evening letters will be sent home with Y5 children |
| Monday 6 th February | Paper copies of parents' evening letters will be sent home to all other year groups |
| Mon 6 th – Thurs 9 th | Select a day and a 'time slot' that would be most convenient for you |
| Friday 10 th February | Return your child's completed form to the class teacher by today |
| Tuesday 14 th February | Our teachers will meet in school to arrange time slots to coordinate time for siblings |
| Wednesday 15 th February | Paper copies of confirmed parents' evening time slots will be sent home |
| Monday 27 th February | Lancaster Avenue Nursery Parents' meetings will take place throughout the whole week |
| | Parents' Evening in the school hall for the following classes (3:30pm – 7:00pm): Darlington Street Nursery, Reception: EH, Reception: TK, Y1NT, Y1/2TL, Y2BR |
| Tuesday 28 th February | Parents' Evening in the school hall for the following classes (3:30pm – 7:00pm): Y3LK, Y3/4CS, Y4CB, Y5HJ, Y5/6NC, Y6AM |
| Wednesday 1 st March | Parents' Evening in the school hall for the following classes (3:30pm – 7:00pm): Darlington Street Nursery, Reception: EH, Reception: TK, Y1NT, Y1/2TL, Y2BR |
| Thursday 2 nd March | Parents' Evening in the school hall for the following classes (3:30pm – 7:00pm): Y3LK, Y3/4CS, Y4CB, Y5HJ, Y5/6NC, Y6AM |

For all appointments, please ensure that you arrive 5 minutes before your allocated time. In order to ensure we are able to accommodate all families, there will be with a time limit of 10 minutes. I will be available in the school hall on all school based evenings should you need to speak to me – no appointment will be necessary for this. I look forward to seeing you then.

To celebrate the start of **Children's Mental Health Week**, there will be a 'Dress to Express' Day on **Monday 6th February** where children will be welcomed into school wearing an outfit to express their uniqueness. Children may choose to dress in a colour to express how they are feeling or an outfit to represent their favourite things. This year's theme is 'Let's Connect' where we will be learning about the positive impact that meaningful connections can have on our mental health and wellbeing.



Tuesday 7th February is **Safer Internet Day** and, as well as undertaking activities on the day, we will be visited by 'Altru Drama' who will be undertaking some online safety workshops with KS1 classes on Tuesday 7th February and an online safety drama performance for KS2 classes on Friday 17th February.

Wednesday 15th February will see us come together as a school to mark **International Childhood Cancer Day**. On this day, children can come to school wearing something orange with a £1 donation for The Azaylia Foundation. Over the day, children will be learning about the brave children, adolescents and families that are affected by cancer and how we can show support as a community.



School Swimming – Our children in Year 3 and Year 4 will start school swimming lessons at The Pelican Centre after February half term. For parents/carers of children in **Year 4CB**, it is worth noting that the children will be attending their first swimming session on the **first day back after February half term**. More information has been included on the letter that has been sent home with all Year 3 and Year 4 children today.

World Book Day – On Thursday 3rd March 2023, we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of World Book Day. The theme this year follows the message 'You are a Reader' with a focus on encouraging a love of reading for all children. To celebrate this in school, children can come to school in non-uniform and bring in their favourite book to share. We will be receiving a visit from poet, Debra Bertulis, who will work with classes delivering some creative reading and writing workshops.



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'Access to Success' Boccia Event – Thursday 12th January saw children from St. George's Central take part in the first ever ATSA 'Access to Success' Event at Rowan Tree Primary. Our children joined with children from Rowan Tree School to make up a Boccia team in the competition against children from seven other schools. Boccia is a similar game to bowls where children aim to land a ball on a central target, with points being scored for how close to the centre of the target the ball lands. Our children did really well in this event. There are three further 'Access to Success' Events planned before the end of the school year.

KS1 Sportshall Athletics – Friday 13th January saw the KS1 athletics team take part in different running, jumping and throwing events against other local schools. Well done to the children who made up the KS1 team.



Football leagues – This year, our children are taking part in the Tyldesley section of the mixed football league and the Tyldesley section of girls' football league. Matches have been taking place over the last few weeks at Fred Longworth each Monday and Friday. Our mixed team have already made a start to their fixtures, with the girls starting their matches in March. The eventual winners of the leagues will play the winners of the Atherton section of the leagues in July.

Y5/6 Dodgeball Competition – Monday 23rd January saw the Y5/6 Dodgeball team take part in a competition against ten other schools. The team played really well, winning two games and drawing four. Well done to the children who made up the Y5/6 Dodgeball team.



Yoga Taster Session – On Tuesday 24th January, some of our Year 3 and Year 4 children visited Toni Marie Yoga Studio in Atherton to take part in a Yoga Taster Session with children from three other local schools.

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

Kickstarterz Taster Session **KS1 Kurling Competition** **Y3/4 Zumba Taster Session**
All Sports Holiday Provision **First Aid for Sport**

On Friday 17th February, the day we break for our next half term, I will email you the Spring Term (2nd half) dates letter. The next newsletter will be sent out on Friday 3rd March (paper copies will be available in the letter holders in the entrance area at school and at our Lancaster Avenue Nursery). Have a great month.

Mr M Grogan, Headteacher

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