



Newsletter – Friday 3rd March 2023

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



Many thanks to School Council members who have recently undertaken some 'research' outside school with an aim to make Darlington Street safer at 'dropping off' and 'collecting' time. Click the link to view the letter from the children that was recently emailed to you all, as well as being posted through residents' doors on Darlington Street:



<https://www.saintgeorgescentral.wigan.sch.uk/Documents/home/Darlington%20Street%20letter.pdf>

As the children have stated, each day at **8:00am**, our caretaker, Mr Kieran will place our 'Pavement Signs' on the zig-zag lines on the Peel Hall side of Darlington Street. As we have over **300** children accessing Darlington Street at key times of the school day, if travelling in a car, I would personally recommend avoiding the street entirely. I hope that with these signs in place, we can contribute to making Darlington Street a little safer for all our families.

We returned to school this term to the fantastic news that our Year 4 teacher, Miss Billington is expecting her first child in July. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Miss Billington and her partner, Tyler. Year 4CB staffing arrangements, for the final weeks of this school year and staffing arrangements for 2023/2024 will be organised and communicated to you all in the Summer Term.

In newsletters this school year, we started to provide you with some background information about our school governors. The fifth one of these below is from Mr Hodcroft who is one of our foundation governors:



I have been a governor at St George's Central for many years, and as well as fulfilling this role, I am a Churchwarden at St George's Church and I currently chair Shakerley Community Partnership. Within the wider church, I am Secretary of Salford and Leigh Deanery, a Member of Diocesan Synod and since Summer 2022 a member of Bishop's Council. Both church and school work very closely together in Tyldesley and focus on welcome, hospitality and supporting families in need. I have been retired from paid employment since 2011. Originally I trained in Hotel Keeping and Catering in the late 1960's. I worked in and around London with a major catering company for a number of years, before changing direction to work with children and families. I was employed by NCH Action for Children (now 'Action for Children') for 30 years, before taking early retirement and part-time employment with children with disabilities. From 2008 to 2011, I worked in Community Development in east Bury for the Diocese of Manchester. In school, I am particularly interested in three areas – supporting children with special educational needs, school's community links and the well-being of the school community.

Class attendance updates:



Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%
YR:EH	90.69%	Y1NT	93.96%	Y3LK	94.66%	Y5HJ	93.78%
YR:TK	94.01%	Y1/2TL	94.57%	Y3/4CS	93.61%	Y5/6NC	91.55%
		Y2BR	93.93%	Y4CB	93.96%	Y6AM	91.07%
Whole school attendance: 93.55%							



*%s are up to and including Friday 17th February 2023

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Class based Worship themes – During this second half term of 2023, children will be focusing on the following:

School Value: Hope

Reflective question: What gives you hope?



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’.



‘Green Room’ projects – This year the focus of our poetry performances are the focus of our ‘Green Room’ projects. Click the link to view the recent ‘film’ created:



Spring Term (1st half): <https://youtu.be/JfHBTuvU>



Children’s Mental Health Week – We celebrated Children’s Mental Health Week around this year’s theme ‘Let’s Connect’. The children learned how we are all connected and how we can make small changes to help others feel valued. As part of this celebration, we held a ‘Dress to Express’ Day where children were welcomed into school wearing an outfit to express their individuality. It was wonderful to see such diversity within our school.



Brathay Hall – Recently, 33 children spent a week at Brathay Hall in the Lake District for the annual Year 5 residential. The children spent the week exploring the countryside, orienteering, mountain biking as well as many other outdoor and adventurous activities. I am sure the children had a great time away from home, experiencing all these different activities. Family members of the children who attended are invited to a short ‘Brathay Hall assembly’ at **9:15am on Thursday 23rd March** where the children will share their experiences with you. On this day, the winner of the ‘Alan Murgatroyd Award for Outdoor Education’ will be announced and presented with their award.

Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 7th February saw us celebrate Safer Internet Day. Even though internet safety is taught throughout the year in school, this day always provides us with an opportunity to remind ourselves of how best to stay safe online. This year's theme was ‘*Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online.*’ As part of this work, our school was recently visited by ‘Altru Drama’ who undertook some online safety workshops for children in Key Stage 1 using drama to get children to think about how to stay safe online. Key Stage 2 took part in the assembly, ‘Back to the App’, looking at the various advantages and disadvantages to life online. Click the link below from our school website should you wish to find out more about E-Safety: <https://www.saintgeorgescentral.wigan.sch.uk/computing.html>



On Wednesday 15th February, we came together as a school to mark **International Childhood Cancer Day**. It was heart-warming to see children honour this by wearing something orange. We learned about the brave children, adolescents and families that are affected by cancer and how we can show support as a community. On this day, we raised **£269**, which was donated to The Azaylia Foundation to support the fight against childhood cancer. Thank you all for your support.

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Musical performance – Parents/carers were recently treated to our usual half termly musical performance. As well as hearing the choir sing, it was really good to see all the children who learn instruments in school perform for everyone. The next choir and musical performance in school will be on Wednesday 29th March 2023.



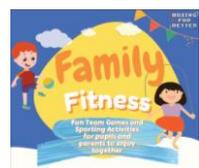
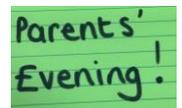
Tri-Kidz (Resilience Day) – Thursday 16th February saw a return to school of Tri-Kidz' with our Year 5 and Year 6 children (and even some of our staff) turning into triathletes as part of a 'Resilience Day'. Everyone enjoyed taking part in the usual 'swimming', cycling and running sessions. Well done to everyone! Tri-Kidz will return to our school in June as they lead a multi-school ATSA event.

RSPB Big Birdwatch – As part of their Biodiversity work, our Eco Council have supported the RSPB Big birdwatch campaign. The children shared ways to get involved in this campaign both at home and in school. Cardboard boxes donated from home were used as part of our Wildflower garden project and used milk bottles have been recycled into bird feeders. Well done to our children.



World Book Day – This year, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of World Book Day. The theme followed the message 'You Are a Reader' with a focus on encouraging a love of reading for all children. To celebrate this, children brought their favourite book to school and we welcomed poet, Debra Bertulis, to work with classes.

Spring Term parents' evening – Thanks to everyone who attended our Spring Term parents' evenings earlier this week. It was great to see so many of you meet with our teachers as we reach the 'half-way' stage of the school year. This year, we will be continuing with the additional Summer Term parents' evenings, which we introduced last year. Information about these evenings will be sent out to you nearer the time.



KS2 Family Fitness Sessions – Next week will see the start of the KS2 Family Fitness Sessions. Sessions take place each Wednesday after school and are for KS2 children and their parent/carers. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to have lots of fun, exercising with your child. The sessions will be led by 'Boxing for Better' coach, Dave Morris and will take place in our school hall or school field. Children will need to bring their kit with them to school as they will get changed in school. Any parents/carers who have signed up for these sessions, please come to the main entrance at home time and a member of staff will take you to meet your child for the session. I hope to see you there!

British Science Week – Our Science leader, Mrs Malley, will be arranging a variety of Science based activities during week commencing Monday 13th March to celebrate British Science Week.



Red Nose Day – We will be supporting Red Nose Day on **Friday 17th March** by having a non-uniform day for a £1 donation for all children and staff.

Easter Bingo in school – At 6pm on Tuesday 28th March there will be an Easter Bingo event taking place in school. Tickets will be priced at **£3 per person or £10 for a family of four**. They will be on sale from Mrs L Kearns in school from **Monday 6th March**. Please note, you must bring your ticket with you on the night. To support this event, there will be a non-uniform day in school on **Friday 24th March**, for a donation of an Easter Egg. We hope to see you there.



Easter Worship/Service – On Tuesday 28th March, Rector Martin will lead an Easter Worship for our school nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 children in school. Due to space in school, we will be unable to accommodate any parents/carers for this. Our Key Stage 2 Easter Service will take place in St. George's Church at 10:00am on Thursday 30th March. All members of the St. George's Central community are invited to this service in church. We hope to see you there.

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'Kickstarterz' Taster Session – On Wednesday 1st February, six Reception children took part in a fun, fitness 'Kickstarterz' Taster Session. This was a great opportunity for some of our children to take part in their first ever 'after school' ATSA event alongside children from other schools.

KS1 Kurling Competition – Friday 3rd February saw our KS1 Kurling team take part in a competition against six other schools. The children played really well and narrowly missed out on qualifying for the final. Well done to the children who represented our school at this event.



Sports Council – Some members of the ATSA Sports Council came together at St. George's Central on Wednesday 15th February to help create a **new** ATSA event. The children made use of some of the 'team building' equipment we have in school and started to think about how they could organise a competition using these resources. The children will continue to feedback their ideas to Mr Cooke over the coming months so that we have a final competition planned, for when the children return to our school in June.



Zumba Taster Session – Some Year 3 and Year 4 children took part in a Zumba Taster Session. The session was led by Anna Collins from Astley Zumba.



All Sports Holiday Provision – February half term saw children from our school join with children from seven other schools to attend the ATSA 'All Sports Holiday Provision'. A varied programme of sporting opportunities (Dancing with Abigail Bibby, Multi-skills/Football with Wigan Athletic and Multi-skills/Tennis with Sphairistrike Tennis) were on offer over 3 days with children being able to sign up for different days for £4 a day (with lunch included)! The programme for the Easter holiday has been finalised and will be advertised next week to children in Year 2 – Year 6.



First Aid for Sport – Earlier this week, some of our Y6 children took part in a First Aid for Sports session at Garrett Hall. The children learned basic first aid skills with a focus on the types of injuries children may experience in competitive sports.

Good luck to all our runners taking part in the Graham Jackett Cross Country event at Leigh Harriers tomorrow morning.

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

- **KS2 Swimming Gala**
- **'Access to Success' Event (Yoga and Dance Taster Session)**
- **'Active Minds' Event (Road Safety Quiz)**
- **Y1/2 Yoga Taster Session**
- **KS1 Dance Competition**

The next newsletter will be sent out on Thursday 30th March (paper copies will be available in the letter holders in the entrance area at school and at our Lancaster Avenue Nursery). This will be the last day of the Spring Term and our school site and Lancaster Avenue Nursery site will close on this day and re-open to children on **Monday 17th April 2023**. Have a great month with your family.

M. Grogan

Mr M Grogan, Headteacher

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