

# St George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery



## Newsletter – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Click the link to view a digital version of this newsletter: <https://youtu.be/rJBah36nxH4>

We had a busy start to the month of March. We had a visiting poet for World Book Day, we celebrated 'World Hearing Day', visits to Hillcrest Residential Home started and we introduced our new 'Maths mornings'.



The 'school day' consultation also took place. An email was recently sent out, with a letter attached about the changes that will be made, starting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April. As a reminder, the new school day times are below:

School day: April 2023 onwards			
Year groups	Start of school day		End of school day
	Doors open	Doors closed for start of school day	Doors open for end of school day
Lancaster Avenue Nursery	8:55am*	As children arrive	3:00pm
Darlington Street Nursery	8:50am**	As children arrive	3:00pm**
Reception – Year 6	8:40am	8:50am	3:20pm

**Please note:** officially, nursery sessions start at 9:00am and finish at 3:00pm. As a sign of good faith and to support you with any other children attending our school:

\*we will open our Lancaster Avenue Nursery doors at 8:55am at the start of the day.

\*\*we will open our Darlington Street Nursery doors at 8:50am at the start of the day. We will also allow families who have **siblings further up school** to collect nursery children up until 3:10pm.

We will continue to make use of our school bell to signify when doors will open and close each morning for Reception – Year 6 and also at the end of each day. You are able to access our school playground from 8:30am, our library opens at this time too, should your child wish to come and select a book. Darlington Street is very busy each morning and so please remember to factor in extra time for your child to make their way to their classroom door, as being on Darlington Street, as the second bell rings is not early enough and your child may be late for school.

It is never too early to promote good time keeping with your children. The standards you set with your children in terms of being on time will help prepare them effectively for the future, a future where most roles require some element of good time keeping.



**Mrs Kearns** – At the end of this academic year, Mrs Kearns will be retiring from her Learning Mentor role. Mrs Kearns started working at the original St. George's School in 1995. She has always been a dedicated and committed staff member and we will be sad to see Mrs Kearns leave. We are in the midst of the recruitment process for this position and I will communicate our progress with this appointment in due course.

**Mrs O'Brien** – Earlier this week, Mrs O'Brien was formally appointed as our permanent Deputy Headteacher. Mrs O'Brien has recently been undertaking this role on a temporary basis and we are happy to appoint her to this position on a permanent basis.



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### Class attendance updates:



Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%
YR:EH	91.30%	Y1NT	94.38%	Y3LK	95.17%	Y5HJ	93.73%
YR:TK	93.30%	Y1/2TL	94.93%	Y3/4CS	93.53%	Y5/6NC	91.63%
		Y2BR	94.24%	Y4CB	94.06%	Y6AM	91.29%
<b>Whole school attendance: 93.48%</b>							



\*%s are up to and including Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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



*I have lived in the area since 1999 and in Tyldesley itself for five years. I have four children, two of which are boys and both attend St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery: one is in Year 6 and, at the other end of the school, my youngest has just started in the Nursery this year. My wife, who many of you will know, is the Reverend Cath and you will find me around at all the Parish Church events and services. My day job as a full-time secondary school teacher in Salford keeps me current with changes in educational policy and safeguarding and I am happy to lend my experience to St. George's Central in my capacity as a governor when required.*

**KS1 Kenyon Hall Farm Trip** – To complement their Science topic, 'How do seeds and bulbs grow?', children in Key Stage 1 spent a morning at Kenyon Hall Farm where they were able to discover all of the things that seeds and bulbs need to grow. They also used the time to complete some observational drawings of plants that were growing in the environment. The visit really supported the children's understanding in this area.



**International Women's Day** – To celebrate International Women's Day 2023, four of the girls in Year 6, worked with Georgina from Wigan Council to contribute to a video recording to share their hopes for the future. They discussed their future job ambitions, women that inspired them and the importance of equal opportunities for boys and girls. Please click the link to view this: <https://youtu.be/8P1doYLyKiY>

**Year 3 and Year 4 Art Experience** – On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January Year 3 and 4 had a visit from three artists from the Lowry Gallery in Salford, linking to our art topic 'What can you see in Lowry's paintings?' We learnt about L.S. Lowry's life and experimented with different techniques, perspectives, scales and textures used by this great artist. Following this, using our knowledge from our artist visit, we created and framed final pieces inspired by L.S. Lowry. Earlier this month, we turned our school hall into an art gallery, where we displayed and sold our work. With the help of everyone who visited our gallery and our great entrepreneurial skills, we were able to raise over £100 for the school. Thank you for your support with this, the children gained so much from the experience.



**International Maths Day** – To celebrate mathematics and its importance in the wider world, International Maths Day saw us complete a range of special maths-based games and challenges. The children looked at the use of maths in different careers and considered how important the subject will be for the future. The theme for this year's celebrations was 'Mathematics for everyone' and children across all areas of school were able to apply their mathematical skills to enter several competitions.

**British Science Week** – Our children took part in lots of activities as part of British Science Week. The theme for 2023 was 'Connections'. Throughout the week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March, children across school took part in a number of activities including: exploring how plants, animals and humans are connected and how the organs in our bodies are connected. The children also took part in online sessions with 'The Science Live Farm' to find out how tractors are connected to space, how pigs are connected to jumbo jets and how sheep are connected to seaweed.



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**Reception Kenyon Hall Farm Trip** – Reception children recently enjoyed a trip to Kenyon Hall Farm. They had a fantastic time exploring the farm, discovering where our food comes from and the steps it takes to successfully grow these foods from ‘farm to fork’. They were inspired by a hands-on experience of learning how to grow their own vegetables and participated in discussions around food and farming. They ended the day with a treat on a tractor tour of the farm.



**Thanks to your support, we managed to raise £237 on Red Nose Day. Thanks again for your support!**



**Mothing Sunday** – Thank you to all who came along to the Mothering Sunday Service at St. George’s Church – it was lovely to see so many members of our school community in church to celebrate this special day. Some children read out prayers and others helped Reverend Cath with the talk and took part in the distribution of flowers. The service was enjoyed by all. Thank you to the staff members who supported this event.



**Smithills Farm Trip** – Children from both our nurseries had a fabulous day at Smithills Open Farm on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month. They had a fun tractor and donkey ride. They enjoyed a hands-on experience with chicks, rabbits and guinea pigs and loved feeding milk to the lambs and goats. They met a large array of other animals and the trip enhanced the learning in school about new life and growth in the Spring. Thank you to all the family helpers who supported the trip, it was a brilliant day.

**Neurodiversity Celebration Week** – We recently took part in Neurodiversity Celebration Week. The children learned how important it is to recognise that everyone’s brain works in different ways and that seeing individuals as neurodiverse helps to break down the stigma around learning differences. We explored how these differences can be challenging, but can also allow people to shine through other talents. We learned to embrace neurodiversity to help people thrive as their own person and experience the world with their own strengths.



**Year 5 Brathay Hall assembly** – Last week, children from Year 5, who went to Brathay Hall in February, led a short assembly to feedback on their experience of their week in the Lake District. It was good to see so many of you here to listen to the children as they shared stories about the residential. Congratulations to Annie who was announced as the winner of the ‘Alan Murgatroyd Award for Outdoor Education’ for their efforts during the week in the Lakes.

**Wider Opportunities Music** – 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 Opportunities 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 Easter, the children will be learning to play a different percussion instrument and there will be another whole school performance just before the end of the school year.



**Year 3 Low Bank Ground trip** – Last weekend, 26 children spent a weekend at Low Bank Ground in the Lake District for our **new** annual Year 3 residential. The children spent time exploring the countryside, orienteering and kayaking 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 ‘Low Bank Ground assembly’ at **9:15am on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May** where the children will share their experiences with you.

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**KS1 Edith Cavell Workshop** – As part of their history topic 'How did Edith Cavell and Mary Seacole make the world a better place?', children in Key Stage 1 took part in an educational workshop where they learned all about the lives of Edith Cavell and Mary Seacole. They learned how hospitals were different during World War 1 and how Edith Cavell and Mary Seacole had an influence on nursing today. This helped to bring the learning to life and the children really enjoyed the experience.

**Easter Worship/Service** – Thank you to Rector Martin who came into school to lead an Easter Service for our Early Years and Key Stage 1 children on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March. Children discussed the Easter story, they also sang 'When I think about the cross' and considered what Easter means to them. Also Nursery and Reception shared songs and poems on the theme of Easter and Spring and Key Stage 1 offered reflections about symbols associated with Easter and their meanings and significance. Our Key Stage 2 Easter Service in St George's Church took place earlier today and this year once again told the familiar Christian story, as Jesus makes his way from the celebrations of Palm Sunday, through the pain of Good Friday to the disciples' joy on Easter Sunday. Years 5 and 6 used this opportunity to display their Flower Show gardens, completed within Science this half term and they will help to form part of the church's Easter display this year.



**Easter Bingo** – Many thanks to everyone who supported our Easter Bingo night earlier this week either through providing Easter Eggs to school or through actually attending on the night! We raised **£395.75**. 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 will be put towards resources to support children with their learning in school. We will aim to have another Bingo night towards the end of the Summer Term.

**Musical performance** – Parents/carers were recently treated to our usual half termly musical performance. As well as hearing the choir sing, it was 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 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023.



**Reception starters 2023** – If you have applied for a September 2023 Reception place for your child, you will receive an email from Wigan Council informing you of your school place on 17<sup>th</sup> April. Please ensure that you read and follow the information within the email, which will guide you on what to do following confirmation of your school place offer.



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

**School Value:** Justice

**Reflective question:** Does justice matter?

**St. George's Day celebrations** – We will be celebrating St. George's Day in school on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April. On this day, all children can come into school wearing red and white clothing. In the morning, Rector Martin will lead whole school Worship and the children will take part in various St. George's Day activities throughout the day.



**ADVANCE NOTICE: King's Coronation Celebrations** – To celebrate the King's Coronation in school the children in their year groups will be focusing on the life of our new King and his achievements. On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May we will be having a celebration day with a Worship in the morning and a Garden Party in the afternoon. Children can wear red, white and/or blue. We have made a card from the whole school, which will be posted, to the King. Look out on Seesaw for the 'Coronation Challenge' where the children will be asked to design a new one pound coin to celebrate this event. Similarly, to the Jubilee Garden, we will be developing an area of school to celebrate the King's Coronation – further details about this will be in our next newsletter.

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**Leigh Harriers Cross Country** – Children from St. George’s Central recently gave up their Saturday morning to support our school in the fifth ‘Graham Jackett Cross Country Challenge’. The 27 St. George’s Central children competed against children from eight other schools over a tough course. Our Y3/4 boys team came 3<sup>rd</sup> in their category, with the Y5/6 girls team finishing 1<sup>st</sup>. Once the combined girls and boys



scores from both Y3/4 and Y5/6 were totalled, St. George’s Central finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and helped ATSA to retain its title.

Thanks to all our children who took part in this event and the staff that attended too.

**Residential Sports Weekend** – A meeting took place for parents/carers of our four Year 6 children who will be taking part in the ATSA residential Sports Weekend at Low Bank Ground, in the Lake District, at the end of June. The children will be competing against children from seven other schools in kayaking, orienteering and running. We will be hoping for a good performance from our children in what will be one of their final ATSA events representing St. George’s Central.



**KS2 Swimming Gala** – Eight children from St. George’s Central School recently took part in a swimming gala against children from seven other primary schools. The four boys and four girls took part in both individual and team races at the Pelican Centre. Well done to the children who made up our team.

**‘Access to Success’ Yoga and Dance Event** – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March saw children from St. George’s Central take part in the second ATSA ‘Access to Success’ Event at Rowan Tree Primary. Our children joined with children from seven other schools to take part in a Yoga and Dance event.



**‘Active Minds’ Road Safety Quiz** – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March saw four Year 6 children from St. George’s Central make up a quiz team as part in the first ever ATSA ‘Active Minds’ Event. The children had spent the last month brushing up on their road safety knowledge and did very well against children from four other schools. Providing a ‘workout’ for our minds, as well as our bodies, is important in maintaining positive health and well-being. We have plans for three further Active Mind events to take place before the end of the school year.



**Yoga Taster Session** – Some of our Year 1 and Year 2 children recently took part in a Yoga Taster Session. The session was led by Toni Aspinall from Toni Marie Yoga.



**KS1 Dance Competition** – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March saw our KS1 Dance team take part in a competition against seven other schools. The children danced really well to ‘Just Can’t Wait to be King’ from The Lion King. Well done to the children who represented our school at this event.

**‘Kickstarter’ Taster Session** – On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, three of our children were joined by Reception children from five other schools to take part in a fun, fitness ‘Kickstarter’ Taster Session. This was a great opportunity for some of our children to take part in their first ever ‘after school’ ATSA event.



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**ATSA All Sports Holiday Provision** – Don't forget that next week, sporting activities have been organised for children in **Y2 – Y6** for **£4 a day (with lunch included)**. I hope to see some of our children taking part in these sessions during the Easter holiday:

Days	Provision	Venue	Time
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2023	Boxing Fun and Fitness	Parklee Community School	9:00am – 3:00pm
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Wigan Athletic FC Community Trust	Hindsford CE Primary School	9:00am – 3:00pm
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Sphairistrike Tennis	Astley and Tyldesley Tennis Club	9:00am – 3:00pm
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Rookie Lifeguard and Fun Swim	Sacred Heart Primary School	9:00am – 3:00pm

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

**\*\*Golf Taster Session\*\*    \*\*'Access to Success' Event (Football)\*\***

**\*\*KS2 Mini Water Polo Competition\*\*    \*\*'Active Minds' Event (Spelling Competition)\*\***

The next newsletter will be sent out on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April (paper copies will be available in the letter holders in the entrance area in school and at our Lancaster Avenue Nursery). Our school site and Lancaster Avenue Nursery site will close today and re-open to children on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023**.

***Please remember that, when we return to school after Easter, the school day for children in Reception – Year 6 will start at 8:50am with classroom doors opening at 8:40am each morning. The school day will end at the new time of 3:20pm.***

Please find attached to the newsletter email the Summer Term (1<sup>st</sup> half) dates letter. Have a great Easter with your family.



Mr M Grogan, Headteacher

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