



Newsletter – Friday 1st September 2023

Welcome back to the new school year everyone and a special welcome to all our new Nursery and Reception families. I hope you have all had a good summer and have enjoyed getting out and about as much as possible. This newsletter contains some useful information, as you prepare for your children returning to (or starting at) our school or one of our nurseries. Over summer, our staff have worked really hard to ensure that everything is in place for your children returning to school and we are very much looking forward to seeing you all next week.



Returning to school – On Tuesday 5th September, classroom doors for **children in Year 1 – Year 6**, will open when the first bell rings at **8:40am**. Our second bell will ring at **8:50am** and this will signal to class teachers that they need to close their classroom doors for the start of the school day. All children who are not in school at this point will need to enter via the main school entrance (which is not ideal and is something children have fed back to us that they do not like to do!) Doors will be open for you to collect children at **3:20pm**. During next week, home visits will be taking place for children who will be starting at our Darlington Street Nursery and in Reception. Please see the table below which shows returning to school information for all year groups:

Year groups	Date starting back at school/nursery	Arriving		Leaving
		Doors open	Doors closed	Doors open
Year 1 – Year 6	Tuesday 5 th September	8:40am (bell)	8:50am (bell)	3:20pm
Lancaster Avenue Nursery	Tuesday 5 th September	*8:55am	As children arrive	3:00pm
Reception	Monday 11 th September	8:40am (bell)	8:50am (bell)	3:20pm
Darlington Street Nursery	Monday 11 th September	**8:50am	As children arrive	**3:00pm

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.

***When on our school site, in order to ensure everyone is 'safe', we ask that you and your children stick to the paths, keep off any of our school equipment, avoid riding bikes and scooters on school grounds and do not play any 'ball games' on the playground before and after school:
Please support us by taking full responsibility for your children at all times when on our school site.***

Attendance – Good attendance at school is not just valuable, it is essential. Going to school is directly linked to improved performance in school which should in turn lead to further learning opportunities and better job prospects for your children. As well as this, good attendance helps your children to develop positive relationships with others and a sense of responsibility. Therefore please ensure your child is in school, on time, every day to benefit from all that St. George's Central has to offer.



SGC Life Skills – This year will see the introduction of SGC Life Skills where the children in each year group will work towards 'completing' their SGC Life Skill. Although we will work on this in school, your support at home will be appreciated with this. Click the link to see our [SGC Life Skills](#) in full. I look forward to seeing children achieve these skills over the course of this year.

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September 2023 PE kits



Like last year, children in Year 1 – Year 6 can come to school in their PE kit on the day that they have outdoor PE and on the day they have indoor PE. The only item of PE kit that will need to remain in school are pumps as children may prefer to walk to school in trainers. So that your child feels 'comfortable' all day in school when it is their indoor PE day (especially on a cold Autumn day), they could wear their full school tracksuit for both days that they have PE (with maybe their shorts underneath on the indoor days). Some children may prefer to come in their shorts on these days.



For the first week only, we are asking that:

*On the first day, all children come to school wearing their 'normal' school uniform;

*Children in Y5HJ, Y5/6GC and Y6AM come into school wearing their outdoor PE kit on **Wednesday 6th September only** and

*Children in Y3ES, Y3/4EH and Y4NC come into school wearing their outdoor PE kit on **Thursday 7th September only**.

Outdoor PE kits will not be needed on any other days for children in KS2 during this first week back.

Click the link to see information regarding [PE kits and our 2023/2024 PE timetable](#)

School Uniform reminders:

****All uniform and PE kit MUST be named****

****One pair of stud earrings (silver/gold studs) – no other piercings are permitted****

****A smart and sensible wrist watch may be worn****

****Make-up, nail varnish, false nails, nail extensions and temporary tattoos are not permitted****

****Hairstyles not considered appropriate for school include:**

brightly-coloured/dyed hair, shaved lines, headwear with bold patterns or colours, excessive hair accessories**

****Hair products such as wax, gel or hairspray should not be applied and long hair must be tied up****

****No trainers – plain black school shoes only****

Click the link to see the full version of our: [School Uniform Policy](#)

Meet the Teacher meetings – There is an opportunity for you to come into school to meet with your child's new teacher next week at our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings. These will take place for all children in Year 1 upwards. These meetings will take place in your child's classroom. At the meeting, lots of information about the year ahead will be communicated to you and it is also a chance for you to ask any questions. Meetings will start at **3:30pm** for those who are able to attend at this time and they will also be repeated at **6pm** should this time be more convenient for you. The meetings will last approximately 15 – 30 minutes. For the 3:30pm meetings you can access the classroom via your child's classroom door. If you are attending at 6pm, then please come to the main school entrance. This meeting is for adults only and so all children will be taken to the Computing Suite where you will be able to collect them when the meeting is over. We hope to see you next week:



Class/teacher	Date	Time
Y1NT – Miss Taylor Y1/2TL – Mrs Leech Y2CS – Mr Simmons	Tuesday 5 th September	3:30pm or 6:00pm
Y3ES – Miss Scotting Y3/4EH – Miss Hobson Y4NC – Mr Cooke	Wednesday 6 th September	3:30pm or 6:00pm
Y5HJ – Mrs Jeffries Y5/6GC – Miss Cohen Y6AM – Mrs Malley	Thursday 7 th September	3:30pm or 6:00pm

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Class pages on school website



For information about your child's class, make sure you refer to their class page on the [school website](#).

For school and class information in 'real time', make sure you follow our staff on 'Twitter' (or 'X' as I think it is now known!). We have recently discovered that when accessing class accounts, it has asked people to 'log-in' or 'set up their own account'. We are currently working with our IT providers to

remedy this so that all people can access these accounts, however, we think this may linked to new setting controls on 'Twitter/X' and could be something that is beyond our control:

My Twitter account links to the opening page of the school website: **Mr Grogan @MrGSGC**.

Link to class page on website	*Twitter/X accounts
Lancaster Avenue Nursery	Miss Cowley @LancAveSGC
Darlington Street Nursery	Mrs Davies @MrsDSGC
Reception: KB	Miss Beswick @MissBSGC
Reception: TK	Miss Killian @missksgc
Year 1NT	Miss Taylor @MissTSGC
Year 1/2TL	Mrs Leech @MrsLSGC
Year 2CS	Mr Simmons @MrSimSGC
Year 3ES	Miss Scotting @MissScottingSGC
Year 3/4EH	Miss Hobson @MissHSGC
Year 4NC	Mr Cooke @MrCookeSGC
Year 5HJ	Mrs Jeffries @MrsJeffriesSGC
Y5/6GC	Miss Cohen @MissCSGC
Year 6AM	Mrs Malley @MrsMalleySGC

*Other school Twitter/X accounts include: Mrs O'Brien @MrsOBSGC and Miss Gray @missvgsgc



Seesaw (Home Learning) – This year, teachers will be continuing with the use of the online platform Seesaw to: communicate with you at home and to set weekly home learning. Please see your child's teacher if you have any difficulties logging on to Seesaw. Children will require a device at home to access their Seesaw account – **we do have some devices in school, which are available for families to loan and so please contact the school office if your child requires support in order to access their home learning on Seesaw.** Paper copies of all home learning will be made available in the classroom for your child to take if they wish. **Weekly home learning will be set on a Friday, to be returned for the following Friday.** More time will be provided for any longer term 'projects'. Click the link below to access our: [Home Learning Policy](#)

Extra-curricular clubs – The Autumn Term (1st half) extra-curricular clubs letter will be emailed to you on Tuesday (paper copies of the letter will be in letter holders in the entrance area on Tuesday also). The clubs on offer change each half term and so look out for the emails throughout the year. With some clubs, staff may be looking to select a team to take part in an event against other schools and so we do not want anyone to miss out on the opportunity to potentially represent our school and so when these letters come though, please have a chat with your children and see if there is anything they wish to sign up to. Clubs will be starting week commencing **Monday 11th September.**



Class based Worship themes – During the first half term of the Autumn Term, children focus on the following:

School Value: Compassion **Reflective question:** Does compassion make us weak?

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Breakfast Club (7:30am – 8:40am) – A choice of toast, cereals, fresh fruit and juices are available at our breakfast club each morning:



Prices	
Arrival between 7:30am – 7:55am	£4.00 per day
Arrival after 7:55am	£3.50 per day



Please remember to book your place at Breakfast Club by emailing: breakfastclub@saintgeorgescentral.wigan.sch.uk

Dinner money – For Nursery children this is **£8.75 per week** and for KS2 children, this is **£12.00 per week** and can be paid online via our Tucasi system or money can be sent into school each Monday in the yellow coloured envelopes (available for free from the school office).

****We have water coolers in both KS1 and KS2 so please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school each day****

Snack options: Nursery and Reception – There is **no snack charge** for all our Nursery and Reception children. Your children will help prepare some of the snacks on offer, which will include cheese and crackers, plain brioche, rice cakes, scotch pancakes and fruit.



Snack options: Year 1 to Year 6 – Current options for snack provided by school are: milk and toast.

Children can have both or just milk, or just toast. Payment for this is made **half termly in advance**, online using the Tucasi payment system or by cash in the white payment envelopes that are provided. See the Key Dates letter for all payment dates and the emails from school about the different costs. Please note



that your child cannot change options mid-term. If children are not accessing the snack provided by school, the only other snack option is for children to bring their own fresh fruit and plain water (**no cereal bars or flavoured drinks/juice**). **Information regarding school snack will be emailed to you today. All children will receive FREE snack on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. Please ensure you pay online by 3:30pm on Wednesday 6th September for your child to be on the list from Thursday onwards.**



Payments to school – Remember that with our Tucasi online payment system, no change will be returned – any funds overpaid will be carried forward to meet future payments. Please send all money into school in the correctly coloured money envelope (available for free from classrooms or the school office).

Pupil information – Next week, we will be sending home our 'official' data collection sheets and health care plans for you to complete and return to school. Our data collection sheets contain all the contact information we currently have on file and so this is an ideal opportunity for you to update any names and numbers. Your child's medical information is included on your child's health care plan and so again, if you could please ensure you update these with the most up-to-date information. We would appreciate it if you could return these to school as soon as possible so we can update all the information on our school files.



Nursery and Reception Swimming – Thursday 14th September will see our first ever group of Nursery and Reception children take part in swimming sessions at The Pelican Centre. The children will go in small groups over a six week period so that by the end of the year, all the children will have accessed these new sessions. Information was sent to our Nursery and Reception families before summer and Mrs Davies and Miss Beswick/Miss Killian will be informing parents/carers if their child will be taking part in the first sessions, during home visits next week.

Forest School sessions – Friday 15th September will see our **Year 5 children** start **Forest School sessions**. Half of the year group will have a Forest School session in the morning, and the other half of the children during the afternoon. For our Year 5 children, these sessions will take place each Friday, up to and including Friday 20th October, and will be led by Miss Killian. Further information will be sent out to Year 5 parents/carers next week. Some additional clothing is required for these sessions and we do have resources in school to support your children with this. More information will be provided in a letter Miss Killian will be sending out to Year 5 parents/carers next week.



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Secondary School applications – For parents/carers of children in Year 6, the closing date for Secondary School applications is **Tuesday 31st October 2023**. Most Secondary Schools will be organising their ‘open evenings’ and so over the next few weeks, please take the opportunity to visit the different ones on offer within the community.

Welcome to our School Worship – On Friday 22nd September, we look forward to welcoming the parents/carers of all our Reception children into school for a special ‘Welcome to our School’ Worship. Rector Martin will lead this special Worship with our Reception children. All Reception family members are welcome to attend this service, which will start at 9:10am. I look forward to seeing you on that morning.



Harvest celebrations in school and church – Our children are also invited to be part of a Harvest Service at St. George’s Church on Sunday 24th September as part of the 10:00am service – a letter will be sent out about this over the next few weeks. For Harvest gifts this year we are again asking that children bring in a food item from home (please bring these in W/C Monday 18th September) which will be collated for the staff from Atherton and Leigh Foodbank to collect. Harvest celebrations will then continue in school on Friday 29th September with Reverend Cath Eccles leading a service at 9:05am involving Reception and KS1 children and the service with KS2 children will start at 2:30pm. Due to the number of classes involved, and the space available, we are unable to safely accommodate any family members at either of these services on the day. Each class will be contributing to the services, which will be co-ordinated by Mrs Jeffries.



Parent/carer residential meetings – Over the next few weeks meetings will take place for parents/carers regarding the various [residential opportunities](#) that will be taking place this year. These meetings are for **all parents/carers** in the appropriate year group as we would like everyone to hear all the information about the trip before fully



committing to your child attending. Please see below and look out for the letters sent home regarding these upcoming meetings:

Date	Residential
Wednesday 13 th September	Meeting for Year 6 parents/carers re: Year 6 residential trip to London – 6:00pm start
Wednesday 20 th September	Meeting for Year 5 parents/carers re: Year 5 Residential trip to Brathay Hall – 6:00pm start

There will be a crèche available for children at these meetings as they for adults only. The children will have a similar presentation the day after the parent/carer meeting after which, the ‘official’ letters are sent home. Spending time away from home and having new experiences with their friends is something I would wholeheartedly promote for your children and so I hope you take advantage of these opportunities provided.

Parent/carer workshops – Throughout this first half term (and at regular points throughout the school year) parent/carer workshops will take place on a variety of themes, aimed at different year groups across school. Sessions are repeated so you can select which one you can attend (a crèche will provided at all meetings). Please see below for the sessions planned for the first half term:

Date	Event
Thursday 14 th September	Inclusion Workshop for all parents/carers: 3:30pm – 4:00pm & 6:00pm – 6:30pm.
Thursday 21 st September	KS1 Reading and Phonics Workshop for KS1 parents/carers: 3:30pm – 4:00pm & 6:00pm – 6:30pm.
Thursday 5 th October	Reception Reading and Phonics Workshop for Reception parents/carers: 3:30pm – 4:00pm & 6:00pm – 6:30pm.
Monday 9 th October	Maths Workshop for Year 5 and Year 6 parents/carers – 9:00am – 9:45am & 6:00pm – 6:45pm.
Tuesday 10 th October	Maths Workshop for Year 3 and Year 4 parents/carers – 9:00am – 9:45am & 6:00pm – 6:45pm.
Wednesday 11 th October	Maths Workshop for Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers – 9:00am – 9:45am & 6:00pm – 6:45pm.
Thursday 12 th October	Maths Workshop for Nursery and Reception parents/carers – 9:00am – 9:45am & 6:00pm – 6:45pm.

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School photographs – We will receive our first visit of the year from the school photographer on **Tuesday 3rd October**. On this day he will visit both our Darlington Street School site for the morning and our Lancaster Avenue Nursery site for the afternoon. Please note:

- *photographs will be taken of children either individually or with school based siblings (see next bullet point);
- *only children who attend St. George’s Central CE Primary School and Nursery will be photographed;

*any Darlington Street Nursery children who do not usually attend Nursery on a Tuesday morning are invited to bring their child to school at 9:00am to have their photograph taken;

*any Lancaster Avenue Nursery children who do not usually attend Nursery on a Tuesday afternoon are invited to nursery at 1:00pm to have their photograph taken.

All children will have their photograph taken and a small ‘sample’ photograph will be sent home for you to decide if you would like to complete any purchases.

Our School App – To ensure that you do not miss out on any key events over the course of the school year, on your mobile phone you can download ‘Our School App’ (the green logo on the right) and search for St. George’s Central. You will be able to save our school as your home page and this will provide you with quick links to our school website, Facebook page, my Twitter/X account and other key information. You can click the link to view the full [2023/24 Key dates letter](#) or pick one up from the letter holders in our school entrance area:



ATSA Events – Children and staff at our school regularly take part in lots of sporting events which are organised by ATSA (Atherton and Tyldesley Sports Association). Last year, our school was one of only two schools within the area to meet the ATSA ‘Gold Award’. We will be very much looking to achieve this standard this year and so see below for all the events that will be taking place during this first half term:

ATSA event	Children	Date of event	Venue
Sports Council Meeting	Y6 Sports Council members	Monday 18 th September 2023 1:30pm – 3:30pm	St George’s Central school hall
VX Taster Session	5 x Y5/6	Monday 25 th September 2023 4pm – 5pm	Fred Longworth High School sportshall
Boxing Taster Session	2 x Y5/6	Wednesday 4 th October 2023 4pm – 5pm	St George’s Central school hall
Kickstarterz (Pre-School Sports Skills)	Reception	Monday 9 th October 2023 4pm – 4:45pm	St George’s Central school hall
Yoga Taster Session	Y5/6	Wednesday 11 th October 2023 4pm – 4:45pm	Toni Marie Yoga Studio
Cross Country Competition	Y3 – Y6	Thursday 10 th October 2022 1 st race: 10:00am	Atherton High School field



For more information about ATSA, look on the [ATSA website](#), look for the green logo (left) on Facebook or search for ‘atsa2011’ on Instagram.

The next newsletter will be sent out on Friday 29th September. Please ensure that we have an up-to-date copy of your current contact details (email and mobile phone number) so that you do not miss out on any information as we send most information out via email. We do have paper copies of most documents in the letter holders in the entrance area and these are regularly updated, please feel free to nip in and pick up a copy of what you may need. Have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing you all over the coming weeks as we return to school/nursery.

Mr M Grogan, Headteacher

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