

St George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery



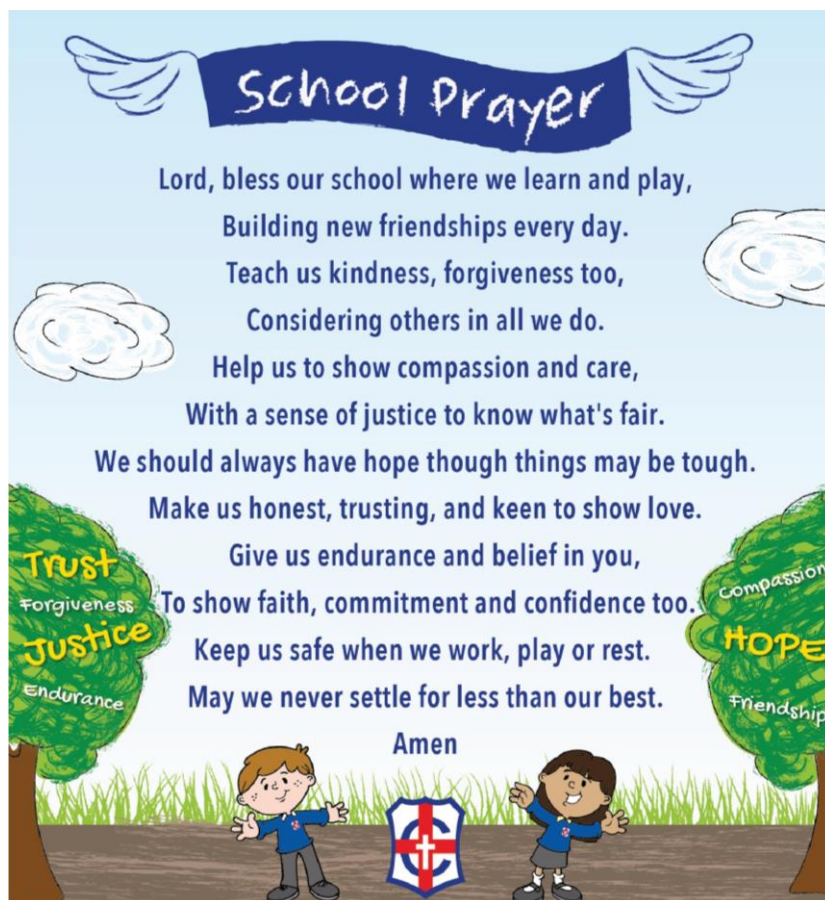
Newsletter – Friday 26th January 2024

Click the link to view a [digital version of this newsletter](#)

As we returned to school at the start of this term, some new things arrived in school, that the children had helped to develop, during the final months of 2023. Children who have various roles in school will now wear lanyards, like staff, to denote their role. These can be left in school and, unlike the badges we previously had in place, will not 'become lost in the wash'. The designers we work with developed some initial ideas but our children helped to 'finish these off'. I think you will agree how good they look:



Children across school, also helped to amend our school prayer. After a subtle change, the new design below was installed in our hall over the Christmas holiday with the children saying the new school prayer for the first time in worship during the first week of 2024:



'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

Class attendance updates:



Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%
YR:KB	93.6%	Y1NT	95.1%	Y3ES	93.9%	Y5HJ	93.5%
YR:OB	94.8%	Y1/2TL	96.1%	Y3/4EH	94.9%	Y5/6GC	95.5%
		Y2VG	95.1%	Y4NC	94.9%	Y6AM	94.3%
Whole school attendance: 94.18%							



*%s are up to and including Friday 19th January 2024

On the first day of term, your child came home with the termly attendance letter. This was also sent to you via email. As I stated at the start of the school year: ***'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.'***

If ever you are unsure about sending your child into school please click: [Is my child too ill for school?](#)

If your child is going to be absent from school, please ensure you ring school at the start of each day so we can account for all our children.

Nursery places for September 2024

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 2024 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'.



Reception starters 2024

If you have a church card to support your child's application into our school for September 2024, please ensure you hand this in at the school office by **Wednesday 28th February 2024.**

Early Years update – The school year started with a visit to Reception from Rector Martin. He came into school to talk to the children about the history of St. George's Church. This month has seen the start of the CHIME music project with staff from Wigan Council coming into school to work with both Reception classes. Children are enjoying exploring rhythm, singing and using instruments to make meaningful connections with music. 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.

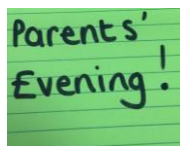


Open afternoons and 'Stay and Play' sessions – Thank you to everyone who came to our 'Open Afternoons' earlier this week. Our next round of 'Stay and Play' sessions across Early Years classes, will take place **during week commencing Monday 12th February**. Staff across Early Years will make you aware 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.

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Tree planting on Cutacre Country Park – On Thursday 1st February, Miss Cohen will be taking some Year Six children to Cutacre Country Park to work with the Lancashire Wildlife Trust. Alongside other schools and volunteers, children will be involved in planting 950 hedgerow trees to evolve the current hedgerow reserve. This is a fantastic opportunity for our children to help develop and grow a local country park.



Spring Term parents' evening – We are looking forward to welcoming you into school for our Spring Term parents' evenings. At school, paper copies of the parents' evening letter will be sent out on Monday 5th February (letters will be sent home with Year 5 children on Friday 2nd 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 2 nd February	Paper copies of parents' evening letters will be sent home with Y5 children
Monday 5 th February	Paper copies of parents' evening letters will be sent home to all other year groups
Mon 5 th – Thurs 8 th	Select a day and a 'time slot' that would be most convenient for you
Friday 9 th February	Return your child's completed form to the class teacher by today
Tuesday 13 th February	Our teachers will meet in school to arrange time slots to coordinate time for siblings
Wednesday 14 th February	Paper copies of confirmed parents' evening time slots will be sent home
Monday 26 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: KB, Reception: OB, Y1NT, Y1/2TL, Y2VG
Tuesday 27 th February	Parents' Evening in the school hall for the following classes (3:30pm – 7:00pm): Y3ES, Y3/4EH, Y4NC, Y5HJ, Y5/6GC, Y6AM
Wednesday 28 th February	Parents' Evening in the school hall for the following classes (3:30pm – 7:00pm): Darlington Street Nursery, Reception: KB, Reception: OB, Y1NT, Y1/2TL, Y2VG
Thursday 29 th February	Parents' Evening in the school hall for the following classes (3:30pm – 7:00pm): Y3ES, Y3/4EH, Y4NC, Y5HJ, Y5/6GC, 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 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.



Friday 2nd February will see us come together as a school to mark '**Heart Month**'. On this day, children can come to school wearing something red with a £1 donation for the 'Healing Little Hearts' charity.

To celebrate the start of **Children's Mental Health Week**, there will be a 'Dress to Express' Day on **Monday 5th 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, 'My Voice Matters' and we will be learning about the tools we need to express ourselves, no matter who we are or where we are in the world. We should all be able to say and believe: "My Voice Matters!".



Tuesday 6th February is **Safer Internet Day** and, as well as undertaking activities on the day, we will be visited on the day by 'Altru Drama' who will be undertaking some online safety workshops with KS1 classes and an online safety drama performance for KS2 classes.

'Lunar New Year' 2024 – On Friday 9th February, we will celebrate Lunar New Year – the 'Year of the Dragon'. Each class will experience a range of activities throughout the day to develop their understanding of Lunar New Year. All children will enjoy a Lunar New Year dance experience to celebrate the festivities and different culture. We are looking forward to children engaging fully with this celebration. What a wonderful way to join in celebrations for the year of the dragon!



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Thursday 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 4NC**, 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 7th March, we will be celebrating World Book Day in school. The theme this year follows the message: 'Our mission is to promote reading for pleasure!' 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, Dominic Berry who will work with classes delivering some creative reading and writing workshops.



'Access to Success' Boccia Competition – Thursday 11th January saw children from St. George's Central take part in the 'Access to Success' Competition at Rowan Tree Primary School against children from six other schools. Well done to our children who took part in this event.

KS1 Sportshall Athletics – Friday 12th 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 – Our children are taking part in the Tyldesley section of both the mixed football league and 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 22nd January saw the Y5/6 Dodgeball team take part in a competition against nine other schools. The team played really well, winning four games and drawing one. Well done to the children who made up the Y5/6 Dodgeball team.

Yoga Taster Session – On Wednesday 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 four other local schools.



'Active Minds' Team Building' Competition – On Thursday 25th January, our sports council members took part in a team-building event, completing a range of different tasks alongside children from other schools. Though many of the challenges were difficult, the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learned valuable skills such as communication, problem solving, leadership and collaboration. Congratulations to our team who were **joint winners** with Parklee.

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** **Y5/6 Flag American Football Taster Session**
****Y3/4 Zumba Taster Session** **All Sports Holiday Provision** **First Aid for Sport******

You will receive the Spring Term (2nd half) dates letter on Friday 16th February, the final day of this half term. The next newsletter will be sent out on Friday 1st March. Have a great month.

Mr M Grogan

Mr M Grogan, Headteacher

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