



St. George's CEP Newsletter

Issue 13: Friday 6th December 2024

'Bringing faith and education together'



'Letting our light shine' (Matthew 5:16)

Our value this term is COURAGE

Be strong, be courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

[Joshua 1:9]

We have moved into December and whilst there is a lot happening by the children in preparation for festive performances there has also been a lot of work behind the scenes. Senior leaders in school have been working alongside teachers in professional discussion involving all classes progress. These pupil progress meetings are very important within classes and individual children but help us review whole school areas we are focusing on. It is important to triangulate children's progress alongside other important indicators such as attendance.

At the end of this term, we will do an attendance scrutiny as we will be a third of the way through the school year! Mr Jones (our School Attendance Champion) will be holding meetings in term 3 to support families with attendance below 90% (persistent absence) whilst we all strive for a whole school attendance target of 97%.

In the Spring Term we will be focusing on stamina for reading. The children love listening to and discussing a good story but this now needs to move into developing their independent reading skills – I'm sure good quality books are on that Christmas List! We will also be focusing on accelerated learning and in particular greater depth.

Teachers have once again been running clubs to support wider opportunities outside of school. With our return in the winter, dark nights and cold weather it restricts our offer compared to other parts of the school year due to needing the hall in case of wet weather. We are pleased to continue to support children who are attending big events that represent our school such as Love2Dance and Young Voices and there are a few more offers for your children to consider.

However, we continue to offer wraparound care every morning school is open through attending our Breakfast Club. We are also hoping to continue to run our After School Wraparound Care run at our pre-school. This provision is open currently on Tuesday to Thursday from 3.15 to 5pm. It has very competitive prices compared to other local provisions.

As a working parent these wraparound provisions are vital however, both currently are running at a financial loss at a cost to both the school and pre-school.

Please ensure that all outstanding balances are cleared by the end of Term to allow for such provisions to continue running. Payments are made via the online payment system. Please call Mrs A if you have any questions.

Bookings for Breakfast Club are made via Mrs A on Reception, please email her on reception@st-georges-wrotham.kent.sch.uk. After School Club can be booked via afterschool.stgeorges@outlook.com.

Respect Courage Kindness Forgiveness Hope Honesty

You can find out about what's going on at St George's in a variety of ways:

Visit the school website: www.st-georges-wrotham.kent.sch.uk/

Follow us on twitter: @StGeorgesKent and Instagram: stgeorgesceprimary_wrotham

Keep up to date with newsletters on our website and keep an eye on the class pages

Attendance is important and our aim is to achieve **above** 96%.

Whole school attendance this year so far is 95.3%

Attendance this week:

Oak (Year R): 91.2%

Beech (Year 1): 95.8%

Maple (Year 2): 96.0%

Cedar (Year 3): 99.3%

Willow (Year 4): 98.0%

Hazel (Year 5): 96.2%

Sycamore (Year 6): 98.9%

**Congratulations to:
CEDAR CLASS
You are the highest attenders
this week!**

For unexpected absence eg illness for example, please call and speak to the school office before 9.30am so absence can be recorded accurately.

If they have an appointment during the school day you MUST provide evidence of an appointment.

Any other absence must be requested using our absence request form. This can be found through this link:

Times Tables Rockstars this week:



Is a winning class...

Congratulations to **WILLOW CLASS**

Dojo Points Winning House for this week:

St. Andrew's

'Letting Your Light Shine' (Matthew 5:16)

This corner on our newsletter highlights people connected to our school who fulfill our school vision, this week that honour goes to...

Our Netball Team who played their hearts out this week and were so close to their first win of the season!



Something to celebrate!

On Thursday we celebrated a whole school 100% attendance day with extra playtime for all – well done everyone!!!

National data released shows that from the start of the academic year to 22nd November attendance rate across the country was 94.0%. In comparison our school's was 95.2% - so let's keep this going!

Our aim is to strive for our end of year whole school attendance to be 97% - look out for our Attendance Champion (Mr Jones) Attendance Newsletter coming soon!

Bringing faith and education together

“Letting our light



Bringing **faith** and **education**
together

Our week in pictures...



There are 190 days in a school year, which leaves 175 days to spend on whatever you choose.



Officers from Kent County Council's Kent PRU & Attendance Service (KPAS) work closely with families, schools, and other services to promote the regular attendance of children at school.

www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-attendance

POSITIVE ATTENDANCE FOR ALL

School Attendance: A Guide for Parents & Carers



YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

You have a legal duty to ensure your child receives a regular education at school or otherwise, which will help give them the best possible chance of success in life.

If your child is of compulsory school age and registered at a school, but absent without good reason, the school may choose to unauthorise any of those days. This could result in the council taking action against you for each child absent, including:

- A fine (known as a penalty notice)*
- Attendance Prosecution through the Magistrates Courts which could lead to a fine of up to £1,000 or a parenting order being issued.
- An Education Supervision Order (ESO) through the Family Courts.

*Your child's school may apply for the council to issue a penalty notice to you if:

- Your child goes on holiday without the headteacher's permission.
- Your child is absent without a suitable explanation, or none is provided or arrives late after the time the register closes.

*You may receive a penalty of £160 for each child's absence if paid within 28 days, and reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days. However, if a second penalty is issued in a 3 year rolling period the fine is £160 with no option to pay the reduced rate. A third penalty cannot be issued in the 3 year period and therefore you may face prosecution in the Magistrates Court which could result in a maximum fine of £1,000.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Too ill to attend school?

Children can attend school with minor ailments (toothache, headache, stomach ache, cold, sore throat).

If you are unsure how long your child should be absent with an illness speak with your child's school, GP or pharmacist for advice.

Medical Appointments

All routine appointments should be booked outside school hours. Your child's school may request sight of 'medical evidence' (e.g. copy of a prescription, medicine packaging with a label or appointment card). If you are unable to do so the school might unauthorise the absence.

Reporting Absences

It is your responsibility to notify school if your child will be absent and should do this every day until they return. If you do not respond or school has other concerns then staff may decide to visit your home in line with its safeguarding policy to check you and your child are ok.

Absence during Term Time

Your child must not be absent from school:

- For day trips / birthdays / holidays
- If weather is bad or are running late
- To care for other family members
- Due to the illness of a parent or sibling

The school will likely authorise an absence only in very exceptional circumstances, such as in the event of a family emergency.

EVERY DAY COUNTS

Persistent and Severe Absence

Any child with attendance of 90% or below (regardless of the reason for any absences) is considered to be a persistent absentee by the government. This equates to 2 days off school each month. **Do you know what your child's attendance percentage is?** Any child with attendance of 50% or below is classed as a **severe absentee**.

If your child is persistently or severely absent the school may arrange a meeting with you to find out what is causing this and what is needed make things better. This may result in the creation of a formal **attendance contract** or referrals to services such as **Early Help**.

Punctuality

Arriving late to school is unsettling for your child and can be disruptive to their teacher and other children. It is important your child arrives on time.

If your child arrives late this will be marked as so on the register. If your child arrives very late, this may be logged as unauthorised absence, even if they are in school. Be sure you know the times the school marks pupils as late.

Minutes late per day	Equals days worth of teaching lost per year
5 minutes	3.4 days
10 minutes	6.9 days
15 minutes	10.3 days
20 minutes	13.8 days

