



# St. George's CEP Newsletter

Issue 14: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 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]**

This week on the gate has been hilarious! I've really enjoyed listening to the children's excitement building about Christmas and some brilliantly inventive, and often very naughty, elves in your homes!

In classes there's still been a lot of great learning. Mrs Demirelli and I did a Maths Learning Walk this week. We saw great teaching of our Maths Mastery curriculum and were so impressed by the mathematical vocabulary the children were using in their responses, a variety of ways they recorded and showed how they solved mathematical problems. Recall of times tables was evident in all lessons being taught so we strongly encourage you to support your child in engaging regularly with TT Rockstars – it would be great to see some new names on the TT Rockstar section of the newsletter!

The PTA performed a takeover with Elfridges – what a wonderful way to support children buying a special gift for someone at home. They have worked really hard in putting on events for the children to enjoy as well as raising funds for the school. If you are making any new year resolutions, please consider offering your support at events they run – I know they'd love some new faces!

<https://www.facebook.com/share/xjFLuq78MVCdLJb2/?mibextid=LQQJ4d> or @stgeorges\_pta

But I can honestly say that for me Christmas begins when I see a St George's Nativity! I have also been very privileged to have seen the final cut for the Oak Class Nativity Film – it is brilliant! This is definitely one that every Oak Class parent will want. And as for our Key Stage 1 children – WOW! They performed their dress rehearsal to the school on Monday and through the week just got better and better! The narration, acting and singing were brilliant! As I said to the audiences, organizing and getting nearly 60 children involved in one performance is tricky but this seemed seamless – I was so impressed and not ashamed to say I was joining in at the back with the singing and actions whilst getting that warm, fuzzy feeling that Christmas is just around the corner!

Next Wednesday the Key Stage 2 children will be performing the Christingle Service in St George's Church at 4pm. It is a wonderful venue and another tradition that the children make so special! We really hope you can come along and watch – everyone is welcome! We will be walking the children down to the church after school and they can be collected from there once the service has finished. They will definitely all have a busy day as it is also Christmas Jumper AND Christmas Dinner Day!

We end the term with the PTA Santa run! What a fun last day of term! This event will be finished from about 1.45pm and children can be collected from their classrooms early to go home to start your own family festivities!

**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/](http://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): 91.6%

Beech (Year 1): 96.7%

Maple (Year 2): 94.7%

Cedar (Year 3): 96.7%

Willow (Year 4): 96.7%

Hazel (Year 5): 97.2%

Sycamore (Year 6): 92.5%

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

**But which class will win this termly attendance reward?**

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:

<https://forms.gle/3dVUrxXZt9v5REKR9>

**Times Tables Rockstars** this week:



Maple (Year 2): Elliot B

Cedar (Year 3): Ebba

Willow (Year 4): Roxana

Hazel (Year 5): Samantha

Sycamore (Year 6): George

Dojo Points Winning House for this week:

**St. David'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 Year 6 children (Sycamore Class) who have been brilliant ambassadors for the school in showing new potential families around school and sharing all the love about St George's. The visiting parents all commented on how polite, enthusiastic and articulate they were – and I definitely agree!**

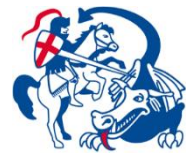


**Thank you Teachers!**

A personal thank you to all the teachers who have run clubs this term. Since September we have put on thirteen different clubs for the children to join across all ages in school – this is in addition to our Breakfast Club and the Wrap Around After School Care run at pre-school. On top of that we have taken part in a vast number of educational visits from local walks around the village of Wrotham to a three night PGL visit. Then there have been sports opportunities too! I think they are looking forward to some time to recharge their batteries ready for 2025!

Next term, notoriously wet, cold and even snowy we are offering eleven enrichment clubs as well as Breakfast Club and Wrap Around After School Care. I want to thank Katharine and the team at pre-school in supporting the wraparound provision offer. As a working parent I am very aware of how important these offers are to support our working families so we will be looking to continuously review this as we move

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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](http://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

