



St. George's CEP Newsletter

Issue 16: Friday 10th January 2025

'Bringing faith and education together'

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

**Do not let kindness and truth leave you.
[Proverbs 3:3]**

Welcome back to school and to 2025! I shared on Class Dojo at the start of the week some of the exciting things in the pipeline so today we can enjoy them.

Sport featured highly on this week's agenda. We had our first competitive netball matches of 2025 held at Knole Academy where our amazing team secured two magnificent wins. Every girl played so well and there were amazing goals being scored. These were their first wins of the season so I am very proud of their resilience to keep training and developing their skills so they could enjoy this moment!

Mr Godoy, from St Michael's, is joining us on Tuesdays to support his school's outreach commitment. This term he is leading PE for Year 1 (Beech) and Year 5 (Hazel). When he left this week, he said he was looking forward to coming back next week, as the children took part really well and were very polite.

Today we saw the return for Forest School for Year 6 (Sycamore) and swimming at White Oak for Year 5 (Hazel). Both of these are important to developing life skills and at St George's believe they are valuable to supplement our teaching curriculum for our children. Another important life skill is riding a bike! I have enjoyed watching 16 Year 6 children this week take part in Bikeability. Their confidence riding was evident, but after three days of teaching with the experts, they've learnt how to ride safely and competently on the road. Well done to each of them!

Temperatures took a dive this week and there has been a lot of talk of snow. Whilst Wednesday evening/night brought some flurries, it wasn't enough for us to enjoy some fun in on this occasion. If there is more due later in the year and potential to affect school opening, you will be informed as early as possible, on the day, via Class Dojo and/or Teachers2Parents. The first day of a closure for snow we would encourage you to enjoy the fun of it. After this remote learning will be set via Class Dojo.

The chill in the air has prompted children to arrive in school with warm coats, hats and gloves – but it certainly didn't put off Year 2 (Maple Class) and Year 3 (Cedar Class) from being very excited about their trip to Wingham Wildlife today. Watch out next week for the children's 'WOW' moments!

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 **95.1%**

Attendance this week:

Oak (Year R): 90.4 %

Beech (Year 1): 97.5%

Maple (Year 2): 91.7%

Cedar (Year 3): 97.8%

Willow (Year 4): 95.0%

Hazel (Year 5): 95.2%

Sycamore (Year 6): **100%**

**Congratulations to:
SYCAMORE CLASS**

You are the highest attenders in the first week of 2025!

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>

Watch out for Mr Jones' Newsletter around Attendance & Well Being - coming soon!

Dojo Points Winning House for this week:

St. David's

This week our Year 6 class (Sycamore) have inspired other classes in the school to learn about British Values. They have focused on the value of **** and what this means to them. They wrote some very personal and emotional poems; some being shared in our VIP Worship (Values In Practice) today. Here is one for you to enjoy...

Tuesday 7th January 2025

Individual Liberty Poem – By Noah Warwick-Cottrell

Freedom is finding something that makes you happy and finding yourself.

Freedom is being active and enjoying yourself.

Freedom is chasing your dreams and not letting anything stop you.

Freedom is being able to travel and spend time with your family.

Freedom is choosing right or wrong.

Freedom is having the courage to stand up for yourself.

Freedom is finding the right place to relax and chill.

Freedom is having a laugh with you friends and family.

Freedom is being able to let go and walk away.

Freedom is going out to explore and be one with nature.

Freedom is to walk away and tell a teacher about a bully.

Freedom is being able to exercise and be yourself.

Freedom is gaming with your friends.

Freedom makes me happy in all I do.

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

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

Our netball team who secured TWO fantastic back to back wins this week: 11-1 and 5-0!



Bringing faith and education together "Letting our light shine" (Matthew 5:16)



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

