



St. George's CEP Newsletter

Issue 17: Friday 17th 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]**

Clubs started this week, with eleven being run mostly by our teaching staff, there is a range on offer through the wet, wintery spring terms. I popped into science club this week and was impressed by the experiment they were discussing. Clubs like netball and football also help support us when attending matches and great that our football team bounced into action this week with three back-to-back matches with a win thrown in the mix! Our PE curriculum helped support those attending Year 2 Agility at Knole Academy – they didn't win the event on this occasion but Miss Dennis assured me they were definitely the loudest but still really well behaved. Our school behaviour values really shine on these occasions.

Thank you to Miss Brownfield who organised the free 'Captain Wonderweb and The Self-esteem Machine' workshop for every class! I sat in a couple of the performances and the children really enjoyed it as well as ensuring the message of looking after our mental health is as important as looking after our physical health.

We had some excellent feedback from our visit last week from our Kent School Improvement Advisor. She commented on the children's 'behaviour and attitudes during the learning walk were excellent with children highly engaged with their learning. They moved calmly and politely around the school and were very keen to talk to leaders. She also gave a special mention to Year 1 (Beech Class) where she commented 'children were carefully and independently editing their writing. Children were able to explain the use of the green pen and talked through how they were improving their work.' Let us please remember these children are aged 5 and 6 years old! Maybe it is a coincidence but this week the same class achieved 100% attendance for the whole week – evidence that attending school every day has a positive impact on achievement.

The PTA have been back in action again – please support the upcoming event – Cake Club after school in the hall on Friday 31st January, Adult Only Bingo Night (Friday 31st January – start at 730pm) and St. George's Has Talent returns! Auditions are being held in school on Tuesday 4th February. Please help your children prepare for their auditions if they would like to be considered for the performance night on Friday 28th February.



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 **95.2%**

Attendance this week:

Oak (Year R): 96.0%

Beech (Year 1): 100% 

Maple (Year 2): 96.0%

Cedar (Year 3): 93.7%

Willow (Year 4): 98.7%

Hazel (Year 5): 97.2%

Sycamore (Year 6): 97.9%

**Congratulations to:
BEECH CLASS**

You are the highest attenders this week of 2025 with 100% for the 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:

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

Times Tables Rockstars this week:



Maple (Year 2): Callen

Cedar (Year 3) Vs Willow (Year 4) Battle:

Winners: WILLOW CLASS

Hazel (Year 5) Vs Sycamore (Year 6) Battle:

Winners: SYCAMORE CLASS

Dojo Points Winning House for this week:

St. Patrick

'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 2 agility team and our Football team – both in action this week representing our school!



Wraparound After School Care

It is a real shame we have been unable to financially sustain the wraparound after school care with pre-school. Sadly, at the end of this term this is an offer that will be coming to an end.

Thank you again for the support and hard work from the pre-school team. I am working with KCC regarding a moving forward plan but this strongly relies on the survey they provided.

Can I again encourage you to complete the KCC Survey by 30th January:

<https://survey.kent.gov.uk/AfterSchoolClub>

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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

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 |

