



St. George's CEP Newsletter

Issue 18: Friday 24th 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]**

I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking that January seems to be such a loooooong month but as of today we have reached the half way point of this term already! We're still experiencing dark mornings, early nights, rain and high winds but that still doesn't put a dampener on us! In one of my worships this term I spoke about our focus school value of the term – kindness. I asked the children ways in which we show kindness towards one another and one of the things they said was to 'smile and encourage each other' and another 'make someone laugh'. This week there are two photos I'd love to share that capture these; one is of our parents who came to support at one of our sporting events this week and the other just captured that perfect moment in time in Oak Class.



There has also been more sporting success this week. Our school netball team winning another two games this week, 7-0 against Halsted Primary and a 5-3 win against Churchill. Great parent support at this event as well as seeing some ex-pupils popping over to say hello. I take great pride in seeing past pupils and how they are flourishing in their secondary schools! Whilst we didn't win Water Polo how proud I was watching these children experience a new sport which was really hard work – I was exhausted watching them! They played six games and comfortably won three of them and missed out on 3rd place in a close match against Amhurst Primary losing 5-3. Every child played brilliantly and a coach from Sevenoaks School spoke to them personally to comment on how well they'd played as a team and snuck in a few coaching tips for us. Thank you to our watching spectators (seen above) who continuously praised, clapped and cheered their way through the games!

In school this week we have seen some great science lessons from looking at skeletons and locating bone in our bodies, understanding structure of the Earth and movement of tectonic plates, exploring weather and using science equipment. The children have also started to develop their understanding of what aspect of science they are learning about – biologist, meteorologist, chemist, geologist....

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): 97.2%

Beech (Year 1): 97.5%

Maple (Year 2): 96.0%

Cedar (Year 3): 99.3%

Willow (Year 4): 92.7%

Hazel (Year 5): 96.2%

Sycamore (Year 6): 98.9%

**Congratulations to:
CEDAR CLASS**

You are the highest attenders this 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>

Times Tables Rockstars this week:



Maple (Year 2): Lola

Cedar (Year 3): Maggie

Willow (Year 4): Dexter

Hazel (Year 5): Kaiden

Sycamore (Year 6): Dino

Dojo Points Winning House for this week:

St. Patrick'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...

The children in Year 6 for their gymnastics development and a special mention to Tommy in Year 6 for perfecting his handstand!



School Governors

Every one of our school governors has been in school this week. This includes our two newest Governors; Mr Shahin Ghazi-Noory and Mrs Fleur Blok.

The Governors role is to ensure they challenge the work we do within school to help us aspire to be an 'outstanding' once more.

This week they have focused on Attendance, Early Years Development, SEND and Pupil Premium, as well as completing a Teaching & Learning walk across Year 1 to Year 6, talking to pupils & looking at their books.

Thank you to each of them for the valuable time, challenge and support they give us.

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

