



St. George's CEP Newsletter

Issue 19: Friday 31st 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]**

This week we have been sharing great teaching and learning across the school through learning walks. It is always good practice for teachers to see one another teach as in a one form entry school it is easy to just think about one year group. For us it is important that everyone is aware of the whole learning journey we offer at St George's from those springboard opportunities for active learning in Early Years up through Year 1 all the way to Year 6. We watched a variety of lessons from phonics, reading, English writing, maths, science, geography and the children were keen to tell the teachers about what they were learning and show us their books! They also asked if they could do learning walks too so is something we will look to do in the future!



While we've been busy in school there have also been wonderful outreach opportunities. Our School Council met with a representative from Demelza to present them with just over £500 of fundraising they have raised – he was so impressed with our efforts! Children in Year 4 and 5 (including members of our Young Voices Choir who next week are off to perform at The O2 Arena!) went to St George's Church community coffee morning to sing some of the songs that will be showcased into the packed O2. The Year 5's had an out of this world moment this week with a visit from the Astrodome as part of their Earth and Space Science Unit.

Some of our younger pupils, this time from Beech Class, travelled to Knole Academy to take part in a Year 1 Agility Competition! Beech Class have certainly been busy as they also went on a Geography visit to Rochester to explore geographical features. This included a visit to Rochester Cathedral where they were looking at more features and explored stained glass windows through stories.

With two weeks of term to go I am excited to see what else we can all achieve together!

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): 90.8%


Beech (Year 1): 95.0%

Maple (Year 2): 97.7%

Cedar (Year 3): 96.3%

Willow (Year 4): 97.3%

Hazel (Year 5): 97.2%

Sycamore (Year 6): 97.9% 

**Congratulations to:
SYCAMORE 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:

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

Times Tables Rockstars this week:



Maple (Year 2): Lola

Cedar (Year 3): Harri

Willow (Year 4): Dexter

Hazel (Year 5): Samantha

Sycamore (Year 6): Sienna

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 2 for fantastic writing!
Mr Jones and I were really pleased with the
description and feelings put into their diary writing.
Some children even wrote under a pseudonym!**



St George's Has Talent Auditions – Tuesday 4th February!!!

There is excitement brewing in the air as auditions for St George's Has Talent are being rehearsed around the school - you see dancing, hear singing & the sound of instruments being played!

But what other hidden talents do the children have? Playing the piano, juggling, magic, joke telling, impressions....?!?! Miss Gower and myself are excited to judge the audition stage on Tuesday!

On Monday we will be collecting the names & acts who want to tread the boards in the first round!

Make the most of the last weekend of rehearsing - good luck everyone!

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

