



St. George's CEP Newsletter

Issue 20: Friday 7th February 2025

'Bringing faith and education together'

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

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

It has been quite a week in school and one where I can only praise the hard work of our teachers here at St George's as they give so much, in addition to the day-to-day quality first teaching they do! On Monday Year 5 led a family service, quite a polished performance finishing with a great song. Today we celebrated Bob Marley's 80th birthday with a mini singalong in the school of a mash up of some of his hits – singing has become quite a thing in school!

Food is another key area and it didn't go unnoticed that Mr Jones joined the Year 6 class on their visit to Pizza Express this week. As part of their Design & Technology curriculum they had a make food and pizza was the choice – the fact they each came back with their own pizzas to munch on couldn't have been the reason, I'm sure?!

Miss Gower and I had a great afternoon watching auditions for St George's has Talent – see later in the newsletter for more detail! And I am looking forward to hearing all about our Year 4's visit to the London Aquarium who went out today.



The big excitement this week though was our Young Voices Choir's day at the O2 London Arena. Since September this special group of children have been rehearsing a wide range of songs, with actions too, in build up to a wonderful opportunity of joining many other schools to take over the O2 Arena and perform together to a packed stadium of family and friends watching on. It is a spectacular evening and one the children will remember forever. Thank you to Miss Brownfield for ensuring this opportunity is given to our children.

It is the last week of term next week – a great opportunity to finish different units of work and reflect on how far the children have come with their learning as we reach the half way point of the year!

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): 94.0%

Beech (Year 1): 96.7%

Maple (Year 2): 87.0%

Cedar (Year 3): 96.3%

Willow (Year 4): 96.7%

Hazel (Year 5): 97.2%

Sycamore (Year 6): 95.0%

**Congratulations to:
HAZEL 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): Lola

Cedar (Year 3): Hudson

Willow (Year 4): Radley

Hazel (Year 5): Samantha

Sycamore (Year 6): Dino

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...

Mrs Foreman, Mr Jones, Mrs Blok, Mrs Stafford for their support with our Young Voices Choir at the O2 London Arena – but an extra special thank you to Miss Brownfield for leading the buildup in YV Club as well as organising all of the behind the scenes work to create a very special memory for those children.

St George's Has Talent Auditions!!!

What an afternoon Mis Gower and I had watching nearly **40** auditions across our whole school from Oak Class (the youngest still 4 years old) to Sycamore Class (the eldest class in school!)

We saw a wide range of auditions and it was clear that the children have done a lot of rehearsing as the standard was really good! We now have the very tricky job of getting this down to a much smaller pool of children to perform on the evening of **Friday 28 February**.

Those lucky enough to get through will receive a letter to tell them what is happening next – please check book bags! But we were so proud of the courage from ALL of the children showed in auditioning

– well done everyone! 😊

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Bringing **faith** and **education**
together

Our week in pictures...





Choir of
2025

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

