



St. George's CEP Newsletter

Issue 22: Friday 28th 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]**

Even though this school week has only been four days of term 4, it has started with a bang! Lots of new areas of focus being started with new texts in their English learning journeys – ask the children what book they are using for their English lessons and what they are working towards achieving in their writing at the end of the unit. There has been some good maths teaching across the school and I've seen manipulatives being used to support calculations from partitioning using part-part-whole model to value counters in supporting multiplication and decimals. This term there is a focus across the school in History this term – find out what era your child is learning about!

Mr Godoy is back this term – lucky for us this time for 2 mornings as he's really enjoyed his time teaching PE with Year 1 (Beech) and Year 5 (Hazel) which means Year 3 (Cedar) and Year 4 (Willow) will also have him too! Adrian Crust, from Chance To Shine, will be back later in the term to do some cricket coaching with some of our younger classes.

We also had a Maths specialist and some students from Sevenoaks school delivering the first of their Magical Maths sessions with some children in Year 6.

I'm very proud that people that come to our school want to keep coming back – absolute testament to the children as their enthusiasm, resilience and behaviour!

On a sadder note, many of you will have seen Miss Huggett (Year 3 teacher) sporting a very bad knee injury. She hoped it would get better in time but sadly has been told that it is a serious condition and needs to have it operated on. Following this she also needs to recuperate so we all wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her back in school before the end of term.

What's Coming Up Next Week?

Next Monday it is Year 4 (Willow Class) leading our Family Service in Church at 10am – feel free to come along! There are pancake races across the school on Tuesday to find our 2025 Pancake Winner – remind on dojo of what the children need if they want to take part in the race. Thursday sees the return of one of the most popular days of the school calendar – World Book Day! Nothing our children (and teachers!) like more than dressing up!

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): 93.5%

Beech (Year 1): 97.9%

Maple (Year 2): 98.3%



Cedar (Year 3): 91.7%

Willow (Year 4): 95%

Hazel (Year 5): 97.8%

Sycamore (Year 6): 97.3%

**Congratulations to:
MAPLE CLASS**

**You are the highest attenders
of Term 4 so far!**

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:



Returning next week...

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...

Lola!

Lola has been raising money selling her own bracelets to help raise money to donate to Demelza - she has raised nearly £80 for this charity. Well done Lola - what an inspiration!

St George's Has Talent!

The big day has arrived and our Talent How finalists perform for their families tonight!

Thank you to all of the children for their hard work and time they have put into rehearsal. This really paid off this week when the acts performed in front of the school on Wednesday for their dress rehearsal and kept the school thoroughly entertained for the afternoon!

Thank you to Miss Gower and our PTA for co-ordinating this event and helping raise funds towards the school!

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

