



# St. George's CEP Newsletter

Issue 24: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025

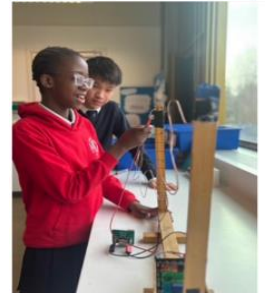
*'Bringing faith and education together'*

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

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

It has been a great Science Week in school – kicking off with author and biologist, Hannah Smith, coming into school and talking the children about blood and their bodies! There was also the opportunity to have a live space session with Tim Peake, talking about diet in space! Both great modern science role models! Over the remainder of the week, there's been lots of other exciting lessons happening. Our Year 6 took a trip out to Sevenoaks School, for a great science day, watching a Liquid Nitrogen Show and taking part in experiments on Electromagnetism! A BIG thank you to our science lead in school, Mrs Allcorn, for coordinating this great week!

There have been other visits out with Mrs Foreman, taking the children to visit the Gurdwara, supporting their RE learning on Sikhi. And our football team took off to Knole academy for their last three league games of the season – finishing with 2 great wins and some cracking goals, along with some sensational saves from our goalkeeper Archie!!



## **Another Request To Park Respectfully and Legally**

As I returned with Year 5 from their swimming lesson it was sad to see that there were still parents from our school parked on zig-zag lines and on bends once again. It sadly came as no surprise that I have received another letter of complaint from local residents, sadly this time written as a group from along Old London Road. The main area of concern is cars parking across properties causing obstructions to residents' driveways and residential homes. It is reported that parking is also on grass verges and even reported that cars have been seen turning on the grass by the children's play area.

Poor parking near schools has significant consequences for safety, community relations, and the smooth running of daily operations. Dangerous parking, such as stopping on zig-zag lines, pedestrian crossings, or near school entrances, reduces visibility for both drivers and pedestrians, creating hazardous conditions. For children, who may not yet have a full awareness of traffic risks, this increases the likelihood of accidents. Emergency vehicles may also face blocked access, delaying critical responses during emergencies.

Parking issues can also affect the school's relationship with its local community. Residents dealing with blocked driveways, excessive congestion, or inconsiderate parking may escalate complaints to local councils or seek further action. These disputes can result in additional stress for the school, where we'd prefer to be focusing on supporting your children's learning.

**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/](http://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): 96.0%

Beech (Year 1): 98.3%



Maple (Year 2): 95.3%

Cedar (Year 3): 91.5%

Willow (Year 4): 91.7%

Hazel (Year 5): 92.4%

Sycamore (Year 6): 97.9%

**Congratulations to:  
BEECH 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): Jamie

Cedar (Year 3): Ebba

Willow (Year 4): Finley

Hazel (Year 5): Jacob

Sycamore (Year 6): Brandon

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...

#### **Our Eco-Monitors!**



**These fantastic children have been working hard this week to help clear our KS1 Forest School ready for their buddies to try out soon!**

### **What's Coming Up Next Week?**

**Parent Consultations from 3.30pm in the school hall – please enter and leave via the children's entrance**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March: Oak (Yr R) Class and Year 1 to Year 6 consultations\*

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March: Year 1 to Year 6 consultations\*

\*Reminder that Cedar Class (Year 3) consultations have been postponed until Miss Huggett's return



# 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](http://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

