



# St. George's CEP Newsletter

Issue 6: Friday 11th October 2024

*'Bringing faith and education together'*

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

**Our value this term is RESPECT  
Treat others as you want to be treated.**

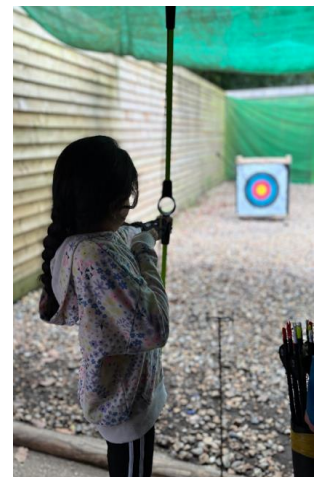
**[Luke 6:31]**

Last Friday 35 children and 4 adults left school and headed to Surry for a PGL weekend at Marchants Hill. A great weekend where the children took part in a range of activities to test their courage, skill and resilience. This was the first time many stayed away from home too – we are so proud of each of them! Thank you to Mr Stafford who supported us by coming along too!

There's been a village walk this week. Year 1 ventured out to work on directions and map reading as well as a school uniform takeover with yellow as we celebrated Mental Health Day yesterday. This was a perfect day for a special visitor to pop in too – see later in the newsletter for details...

Other than that, there's been a flurry of excitement as Year 2 to 6 took part in lantern making workshops led by the SameSky Team. These are going to be ready to collect from school from 5.30pm ready for a wonderful Festival of Light evening – a FREE community event that we've supported as a school for many years now! Don't miss out on the street performers, PTA hot refreshments, drummers all in the Church Square from 5.30pm. We then lead into a procession of lanterns lighting our way as we walk to the beat of drums to the cricket pavilion where we finish with a firework display.

Other classes have made lanterns too so don't forget to bring them along and come and join in the fun!



**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 96%.

Whole school attendance this week is **93.3%**

Attendance this week:

Oak (Year R): 94.4%

Beech (Year 1): 93.0%

Maple (Year 2): 96.7%

Cedar (Year 3): 84.4%

Willow (Year 4): 96.2%

Hazel (Year 5): 91.0%

Sycamore (Year 6): 97.1%

Whole school: 93.3%

**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): Amelia

Cedar (Year 3): Maggie

Willow (Year 4): Finley

Hazel (Year 5): Charlie

Sycamore (Year 6): Dino

Dojo Points Winning House for this week:

**St. David**

### **'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 Year 3 and 4 PGL Children**

Well done to this AMAZING group of young children who spent three nights away tackling climbing walls, abseiling, giant swing, obstacles courses – you showed determination, courage and had lots of fun!



### **A Special Visitor!**

**There was a lot of smiling faces in school as we welcomed Mr Jones back into school for a walk around today! He's looking very well and cannot wait until he gets back into school. We are planning some drop in days towards the end of term and a welcome return following our half term break!**

# 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

