



St. George's CEP Newsletter

Issue 9: Friday 8th November 2024

'Bringing faith and education together'

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



Our value this term is **COURAGE**

Be strong, be courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

[Joshua 1:9]

Welcome back to term 2! There's definitely a feel of a change in season with leaves now falling, a chill in the air and the night's drawing in. We've enjoyed a few days of autumnal sun but it's good to see the children in their winter coats, prepared for all weather. I would like to thank the PTA for the way they are always looking out for ways to support the children. The winter coat initiative was fantastic and the children look very cosy wrapped up in them!

We have enjoyed welcoming Mr Jones back to school and he's liked being back in class teaching and getting to know our children in Oak Class.

This week the children have focused on our school value of courage in their classes and in worships. This has also been linked to work on Remembrance as we approach 11th November. Children have asked me this week why we haven't been selling poppies this year. Sadly, this is due to a member of our local community, Lynn Price, passing away. Lynn is a well-known name in Wrotham and has had strong connections to St George's Church. She has been the lady who has volunteered for the British Legion and each year bought us the poppies to sell. Unfortunately, there has been no one to step into the role. On Monday children from Year 3 to Year 6 will be going to the war Memorial at St George's Church for our school's memorial service. Please feel free to join us at 10.30am. As Lynn has been a great supporter of the school, we would welcome the children wearing a poppy or a tasteful red accessory such as a ribbon, hair band or if your child is a member of the Scout or Guide movement then then can wear their club uniform instead of their school uniform.



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): 91.2%

Beech (Year 1): 99.1%

Maple (Year 2): 98.0%

Cedar (Year 3): 95.6%

Willow (Year 4): 93.1%

Hazel (Year 5): 96.7%

Sycamore (Year 6): 97.1%

**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:



Returning next week...

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 Netball Team for playing so well in their first match of the season!



School Starter in September 2025?

Do you have a child born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 who will **start school in September 2025**? You can apply online through the Kent County Council website or by post. Applications will open on **Tuesday 5th November 2024** and close **Wednesday 15th January 2025**. Exact dates and full details of how to apply will be available on the Kent County Council website when applications open.

[CLICK HERE FOR LINK](#) To APPLY

Our open mornings are Tuesday 22 October, Thursday 7th November, Thursday 28th November and Tuesday 10th December.

Please call the school office on 01732 882401 or email reception@st-georges-wrotham.kent.sch.uk to book a place!

Bringing faith and education together

“Letting our light



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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

