



Newsletter – Friday 28th September 2018



As most communication from school is now done via email/text messaging, please ensure that you keep us updated with any changes in your details.



Playground gates – Many thanks to everyone who has their children in school for the first bell at 8:45am. It really is great to see the children making a good start to their work in the morning. Plus, I imagine, it helps you as you can now make your way to work/home slightly earlier. In order to further continue the success with this, I have asked Mr Chadwick to use the second bell (8:55am) as a sign to start to lock the playground gates. No children who are on the playground at this time will be sent back round to the office and no parents/carers will be locked in! However, it will help us ensure that children are in school and accounted for ready for a prompt start to the day.

Nursery and Reception – It is great to see and hear about how our Nursery and Reception children have settled into life at our school. The children have been interacting well with each other, making new friends, learning the new routines and enjoying a variety of learning experiences. We would also like to thank all parents/carers for your support with our home visits and by filling in the ages and stages questionnaire.



TARGET

Target booklets – If your child is in Y1 –Y6 then you will have received your copy of their Autumn Term target booklet last Friday. Nursery and Reception children will be bringing theirs home today. End of year targets have been set for your child in different subjects/areas. Teachers have then selected key objectives for the term that will support your child to achieve these targets. It is really important that you work with your child to support them so that they achieve or exceed their end of year targets. **Reading at home with your child (as least 3 times a week) and ensuring they complete and return any other home learning activities that are set will support your child to meet these targets.**

Residential trips – We recently held a meeting for the parents/carers of children in Y6 as, we will again be taking our oldest children to spend some time in London next June. The trip will be a great experience for these children as they near the end of their time at our school. Letters will also be sent out soon to our Y5 children informing them of the planned outdoor and adventurous residential trip to Hinning House in the Lake District next February. There will be a meeting for you about this trip once we have confirmed which children will be attending.



Opening of school library – This morning, poet Levi Tafari, joined us in school to officially open our re-modelled school library. Lots of work has been completed by many different people over summer to ensure that the necessary improvements were made to our library. As well as all the books we have, part of the library has been used to display pictures and artefacts from our school over the years (from both St. George's and Tyldesley Central). Our library is now open each lunchtime for children (and staff) to spend time in reading. There will be some pictures from today on our school Facebook page and my Twitter account, however, you are welcome to come into school to have a look at the library – some of you may spot yourself on some of the pictures.



'Never settle for less than your best'



Times Tables Rock Stars – Our school has recently subscribed to ‘Times Tables Rock Stars’. We hope that by using Times Tables Rock Stars we can support your children as they practise learning their times tables in a fun and interactive way online. Your child has been given a log-in and password for this new resource which they can use to access it online at home as well as in school. We hope that with daily practise of facts your child will boost their times tables recall speed. (I have been told it’s quite competitive and so we may have a few school competitions with this!).

Harvest Festival – Last Sunday, our Ethos Council started our Harvest celebrations by taking part in the 10:30am church service at St. George’s Church. Thank you to everyone who came along to support this – it was a great see so many of you! This afternoon, Rector Martin and Mrs Jeffries led our service in school. Again, it was great to see so many of you in school supporting our events. Many thanks to everyone who donated gifts as part of our Harvest celebrations. Next week we will start to combine gifts into Harvest hampers and distribute them to the nominated people within the local community.



Stay and Play sessions – So that you have a chance to speak to our Nursery and Reception staff and play alongside your child, we will be having a series of ‘Stay and Play’ sessions which will take place over the course of the year. Our first sessions are on:

Monday 1st October, 1:30pm-3pm for Reception parents/carers;

Monday 15th October, 9:00am – 10:30am for Nursery parents/carers and

Wednesday 17th October, 1:30pm – 3:00pm for Nursery parents/carers.

We very much hope you will be able to come to one of these sessions. Please come to the main school entrance on the days/times.



School photographer – We will receive our first visit of the year from the school photographer on **Monday 8th October**. Children with pre-school brothers and sisters (including nursery Monday afternoon children and children who do not usually attend on a Monday) can come into school from 8:30am to have their photographs taken. All other photographs will be taken during the school day. Photographs can be taken with siblings in family groups and also individually. A letter will be sent home next week so that you can indicate your preferred choice of photos.

Open afternoon – This year’s first open afternoon with headteacher forum will be on **Tuesday 9th October** (1:30pm start) and will be for **Nursery, Reception and KS1 parents/carers only**. If your child is in these classes then you are invited into school to spend the first part of the afternoon in your child’s class. For the second part of the afternoon you are welcomed into the school hall to enjoy some refreshments and there is the opportunity to ask me questions about school life. It’s quite an informal afternoon and provides you with the opportunity to gain an insight into life at our school.



Our first Class Worship of the year will be led by Y6AJM at 9:05am on Friday 12th October – I hope to see you there.



Parents’ evening – You are invited to come into school to discuss your child/ren’s start to the school year with their class teacher on **Monday 15th October 3:30pm – 6:30pm OR Tuesday 16th October 3:30pm – 6:30pm**. In order that we can accommodate everyone, you will be asked to select a time slot most convenient to yourselves. We will then collate the requests taking care to ensure that those with more than one child have appointments that don’t clash. Your confirmed times will then be sent out to you. Please ensure that you arrive at the school’s main entrance 5 minutes before your allocated time and take a seat in the area provided. The meeting with your child’s teacher will take place in the school hall with a strict time limit of 10 minutes. I will be available in the school hall on both days should you need to speak to me – no appointment will be necessary for this. Appointment letters are being sent out on Monday and are due to be returned to your child’s teacher by Friday 5th October, with confirmed times being sent home before half term, on Wednesday 10th October.

Secondary School applications – For the parents/carers of children in Year 6, do not forget to complete your child’s application for Secondary School by the closing date of **Wednesday 31st October**. The children have recently visited our local high school for a taster session and there have been lots of open evenings for you to attend. You will be notified in March next year of the name of the Secondary School that your child will be going to.



‘Never settle for less than your best’

Monthly attendance update – Each week we have a class attendance award. However, as our newsletter is produced monthly we thought that a monthly award could be a positive way of informing you of the progress we are making with regards to whole school and class attendance. This year we are aiming for every children and every class to be **above 98.0%**. As suggested as part of the ‘3 stars and a wish’ responses, we will be looking to reward children for their attendance, at the end of the school year. As you can see below, some classes have made a good start to the year, whereas there is work to be done with others:

Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%
YR:EB	97.92%	Y1TL	98.45%	Y3EG	95.09%	Y5JY	95.24%
YR:NL	100%	Y1/2OB	99.17%	Y3/4CS	96.47%	Y5/6NC	96.70%
		Y2JW	95.60%	Y4HJ	95.69%	Y6AJM	95.43%
Whole school attendance: 96.89%							

*%’s are up to and including Friday 21st September.

ATSA Events



Adult football match – Friday 14th September saw a team of staff from the ATSA schools (Atherton and Tyldesley) take on a team of teachers from Leigh, Lowton and Golborne in a football match at Atherton Collieries. Staff from St. George’s Central were joined by staff from Atherton Community School, Atherton St. George’s, Garrett Hall, Sacred Heart, St. John’s, St. Michael’s and St. Philip’s.

The final score was 5-0 to the ATSA team.

Sports Council – Earlier this week, our ATSA Sports Council representatives were on hand to present Chris Jeffs from Brathay Trust with a cheque for £506 to support the ‘Buy-a-Bike’ appeal for Hinning House in the Lake District. Our children attend Hinning House each year, with our Y5 children going there in February 2019. The centre needs 24 new bikes and the donation will ensure that two more bikes are purchased for all schools to use.



Inline Roller Hockey taster session – Year 6 children from St. George’s Central have recently joined by children from other schools to take part in an ‘Inline Roller Hockey’ taster session at North West Roller Sports in Atherton. There are further sessions planned for Y3/4 children and Y1/2 children. Many thanks to Inline Roller Hockey coaches, Gary and Jeff, who led the session on behalf of ATSA.

Before the next newsletter, children from St. George’s Central will be taking part in:

- **Boxing taster session** **VX taster session and festival** **KS2 Swimming gala**
 Y5/6 Hockey festival **KS2 Cross Country**

See more about all these ATSA stories, on the ATSA Facebook page.



Parent/carer questionnaires – Many thanks for all the questionnaires that were returned to me in school before the summer break. I have now had the chance to read through all of them and your child will come home tonight with a copy of the responses received and the school’s response to your comments. Should you wish to discuss any of these issues further then please do not hesitate to contact me in school.

The next newsletter will be sent out on Friday 19th October. Paper copies of the newsletter will be made available in the letter holders in the school entrance area for you to pick up should you wish. Have a great month.

Mr M Grogan - Headteacher

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