



Newsletter – Friday 22nd October 2021

We have arrived at the end of a very busy first half term at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery. Thank you for your continued support during this time. Please find attached to the 'newsletter email' the Autumn Term (2nd half) dates letter. You will have already received a list of the 'key dates' for the school year. Our aim is to provide you with as much notice as possible with these main events that will take place across school and so that is the reason we email these dates to you in July.

However, over the course of the school year, other opportunities for your children arise and so there are additional events added. We therefore provide you with a half-termly updated list of events. Paper copies of the Autumn Term (2nd half) dates letter will be in the entrance area at school and there will always be a link on the opening page of the school website.

Staffing updates



Congratulations to **Miss Cowley** who was recently appointed to the Nursery Manager position at our Lancaster Avenue Nursery. Miss Cowley has worked within the early years department at our school since 2014. Miss Cowley will start her role as the nursery manager and will be permanently based at Lancaster Avenue from Monday 1st November 2021. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Miss Cowley on her new role and wish her all the best as we look to further strengthen the links between our Lancaster Avenue Nursery and our school. An advertisement has recently appeared online as we look to find a suitable Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) to replace Miss Cowley, working within our early years department in school.

Congratulations also to **Mrs Helme** who was recently appointed to the Deputy Manager position at our Lancaster Avenue Nursery. Mrs Helme joined our nursery from another local school in September and has made a great start to life at Lancaster Avenue. Earlier this week, an advertisement appeared online for a Level 2 Early Years Assistant to work at our Lancaster Avenue Nursery to fill the vacancy we now have with Mrs Helme becoming Deputy Manager.



As we take more steps towards 'normality', the NHS are working hard to 'catch up' with their ever increasing operation 'waiting lists'. This has meant that **Mrs K Toone** has been absent from school for the past few weeks due to having the long awaited operation on her foot. We now have **Miss Fisher** in Year 4CB to cover for this absence, which will continue after the half term break.

During this last week, **Mrs Kearns** received her 'operation' letter which means that from Tuesday 2nd November, she will be absent from school until January 2022. I am sure we will soon see Mrs Kearns up and about after her knee operation. **Mrs S Toone** has already been working alongside Mrs Kearns this year and so we have increased the amount of time that she dedicates to this work each week.

Today is the last day at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery for our caretaker, Mr Ingram. Like many schools, we liaise with an external company, called ISS, when appointing our caretaking and cleaning staff. Mr Ingram has been based at our school since the summer of 2019 and has recently accepted a similar position at a site nearer to his home. ISS will be providing our school with caretaker 'cover' until they have recruited someone to work at our school in a permanent role. Today, Miss Nelson is also leaving our school. Miss Nelson has worked at our school since 2014. An advertisement recently appeared online for a Level 2 Teaching Assistant to fill this vacancy. **Mrs Horrobin** will be in Year 3LK until we appoint someone permanently.

I will keep you informed of our progress with any of our appointments via our newsletters over the coming months.

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Class attendance updates:

Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%
YR:KB	92.52%	Y1NT	94.70%	Y3LK	95.48%	Y5HJ	93.46%
YR:TK	95.58%	Y1/2TL	96.20%	Y3/4CS	95.01%	Y5/6NC	96.80%
		Y2JY	92.54%	Y4CB	95.71%	Y6AM	94.33%
Whole school attendance: 94.75%							

**%'s are up to and including Friday 15th October*



National Poetry Day – On Thursday 7th October we celebrated National Poetry Day which was based on the theme of Choice. The day started off with a virtual visit from Liverpool based poet John Hughes, who talked to us about the joys of writing poems and stories and how we can use words to entertain people. Throughout the day each class looked at a variety of poems on the theme of choice and even had a go at writing some of their own. Some classes have chosen to perform some of their compositions so keep an eye out for these on our Twitter pages. The poetry ‘theme’ continues as poet, Matt Goodfellow, will be visiting school after half term, to spend a day working with children across school.

Tolerance and Diversity – Children in both KS1 and KS2 recently took part in Tolerance and Diversity Workshops where they learned about challenges faced by disabled people, and other minority groups, across society. It was great to see the children gain an understanding that anyone can bring value to society and can achieve success. We are really pleased with how well the children engaged with the workshops and the level of compassion they demonstrated throughout the sessions. Thanks to Alex and everyone at ‘Happy Smiles Training’.



Nursery ‘Stay and Plays’ – It has been great to welcome parents/carers into our Darlington Street Nursery this week to spend some time learning alongside their children. Thank you to everyone who visited nursery this week. Upon our return to school it will be the turn of Reception parents/carers to spend some time in school. Please see Miss Beswick and Miss Killian to ‘sign up’ to attend one of the sessions. I look forward to seeing you in school.

Black History Month – Throughout October, we have been celebrating the incredible influences that black and people from other cultures have had on our global society. We have remembered the struggles that they have encountered such as; slavery, segregation and apartheid. Within each class, we have had discussions, debates and produced work to celebrate their lives. Our children have carried on this research at home and we have been inundated with fantastic pieces about a variety of inspirational black people. It has been a fantastic month of celebrating global diversity.



Class Worship and Musical Performances in school

It was great to welcome many of you into school for Y6AM Class Worship last Friday and our Musical Performance which took place on Wednesday earlier this week. It is good that we are able to provide these opportunities once again as I do think that children need a regular audience as they recite/perform their learning (in any area). For me, this helps them to develop their confidence, which will support them across all areas of their life in the future. Class Worship will take place, at 9:05am for the following classes before the next newsletter is emailed to you:

Friday 5th November: **Y5/6NC** Class Worship

Friday 19th November: **Y5HJ** Class Worship

The next musical performance in school will be:

Wednesday 15th December (9:15am start)

The approach we will using with this, until further notice, will be:

- we will send a letter out to the parents/carers of the children involved in the Class Worship/music performance one week prior.**
- only two people per child will be able to attend the event in school and this needs to be indicated on the reply slip.**
- the completed reply slip returned to school by the given date so we can organise chairs/other classes in the hall etc.**

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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 **Sunday 31st October 2021**. The main information page and admissions booklet can be accessed by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Education/Schools/School-Admissions/Secondary-schools.aspx>

You will be notified in March 2022 of the name of the Secondary School that your child will be going to.

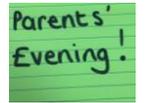


Class based Worship themes – During the second half term, children will be focusing on the following:

School Value: Compassion

Reflective question: What does a compassionate school look and sound like?

Autumn Term parents’ evening – Earlier this week, you should have received a paper copy of your confirmed parents’ evening time slot as we look forward to welcoming you into school for ‘face to face’ meetings after the half term. Please see the table below with our ‘updated plan’ for the Autumn Term parents’ evening:



Date	Event
Wednesday 20 th October	Paper copies of confirmed parents’ evening time slots were sent home
Monday 1 st November	Lancaster Avenue Nursery Parents’ Afternoon in nursery (1:30pm – 4:00pm)
	Parents’ Evening in the school hall for the following classes (3:30pm – 7:00pm): Darlington Street Nursery, Reception: KB, Reception: TK, Y1NT, Y1/2TL, Y2JY
Tuesday 2 nd November	Parents’ Evening in the school hall for the following classes (3:30pm – 7:00pm): Y3LK, Y3/4CS, Y4CB, Y5HJ, Y5/6NC, Y6AM
Wednesday 3 rd November	Lancaster Avenue Nursery Parents’ Afternoon in nursery (1:30pm – 4:00pm)
	Parents’ Evening in the school hall for the following classes (3:30pm – 7:00pm): Darlington Street Nursery, Reception: KB, Reception: TK, Y1NT, Y1/2TL, Y2JY
Thursday 4 th November	Parents’ Evening in the school hall for the following classes (3:30pm – 7:00pm): Y3LK, Y3/4CS, Y4CB, Y5HJ, Y5/6NC, Y6AM

For all appointments, please ensure that you arrive 5 minutes before your allocated time. In order to ensure we are able to accommodate all families, there will be with a time limit of 10 minutes. I will be available in the school hall on all school based evenings should you need to speak to me – no appointment will be necessary for this. I look forward to seeing you then.



Lake District Residential – This year we are looking to take our Year 5 and Year 6 children to Brathay Hall in the Lake District for our annual residential. This ‘type’ of residential is usually aimed at our Year 5 children, however, we were keen to book the trip in for Year 6 as they missed out last year. We have never visited Brathay Hall for a residential before and so I recently spent half a day there with Mr Cooke ensuring that the site would meet the needs of our children. Information meetings in school for parents/carers have been arranged for a 6pm start on the following dates:

Tuesday 9th November: Meeting for **Y6 parents/carers**

Tuesday 16th November: Meeting for **Y5 parents/carers**

Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 14th November will see the return of the Remembrance Sunday parade in Tyldesley. When we return to school after half term, a letter will be sent out inviting children to join us as we walk with the community from the market square to the Cenotaph. The service is always well attended by the community and by children from St. George’s Central. Look out for the letter during the first week back in school inviting your children to take part.



Meetings for Y2 parents/carers to discuss the Y2 Phonics Screening Check will be taking place on Thursday 18th November at 3:30pm – 4:00pm & 6:00pm – 6:30pm. Mr Young will be sending a letter out soon for you to select which session for you to attend

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Children in Need – This year for Children in Need the theme is **'Together We Can'**. Children will spend time on Friday 19th November taking part in fun and feel-good activities learning about positive wellbeing and strategies to support everyday challenges. In order to raise money on that day, children can come dressed to school in non-uniform for a £1 donation. Click the link to see more about the fundraising event and a variety of mindfulness activities: <https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/schools/primary-school/mindfulness-hub/>



Reception starters 2022 – The link on the Wigan Council website for 2022 Reception places opened recently. If your child was born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018, you can now submit an application for your child to start our Reception class in September 2022. The closing date for admissions is **Saturday 15th January 2022**. Should your child attend either of our nurseries and you have any questions or if you require any support with completing the form, then please do not hesitate to contact us in school. Should you know anyone with children starting school in September 2022, please let them know that, like every year, I am continuing to show people around school safely on an **individual basis**. Please ask people to ring or email and we will make an appointment to meet with me and have a look round our school.



Year 5/6 Hockey Competition – Monday 4th October saw the Year 5/6 hockey team take part in a competition against four other schools. Well done to Mr Simmons and his team: F Boateng Carneiro, P Boateng Carneiro, J Duffy, I Grimes Brown, R Hawkins, H Kernighan, L Thorpe and S Torr.

Boxing Taster Session – On Wednesday 6th October, 8 children from Year 5/6 took part in a Boxing Taster Session at our school and was led by 'Become a Champion' boxing coach, Sean. The children experienced a variety of fitness activities linked to boxing alongside children from another local school.



'Kickstarterz' Taster Session – On Monday 11th October, twelve Reception children took part in a fun, fitness 'Kickstarterz' Taster Session. This was a great opportunity for some of our children to take part in their first ever 'after school' ATSA event. Our children are very lucky as we also have 'Kickstarterz' sessions in school on a regular basis.

Yoga Taster Session – An injury to Yoga teacher, Toni, meant that the recent Year 5/6 Yoga Taster Session was amended to become more of a 'well-being' session. Children from our school were joined by children from three other local schools to take part in a variety of well-bring activities. Hopefully, Toni will have recovered from her injury in time for next ATSA Yoga Taster Session, which will be at St. George's Central on Tuesday 23rd November and will be for children in Year 3 and Year 4.



Year 3/4 Futsal Competition – Thursday 14th October saw the Y3/4 Futsal team take part in a Futsal Competition against five other schools. Our teams played really well. Well done to C Beca, K Burton, H Gwyther, J Monaghan, L Patras, J Swindells and M Taylor who represented our school at this event.

KS2 Cross Country – Yesterday afternoon, some children from St. George's Central took part in Cross Country races, against children from eight other schools, at Atherton High School. The children had been training hard at dinnertimes and so it was great to see all their hard work pay off as the children finished **2nd overall!** Well done to all members of the team who contributed to this.



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ATSA All Sports Holiday Provision – Don't forget that next week, sporting activities have been organised for children in **Y2 – Y6** for **£4 a day (with lunch included)**. I hope to see some of our children taking part in these sessions during the October half term:

Days	Provision	Venue	Time
Monday 25 th October 2021	Boxing Fun and Fitness	St. George's Central	9:00am – 3:00pm
Tuesday 26 th October 2021	Wigan Athletic FC Community Trust	Hindsford	9:00am – 3:00pm
Wednesday 27 th October 2021	Abigail Bibby School of Dancing	Parklee	9:00am – 3:30pm

Before the next newsletter, children from St. George's Central will be taking part in the following ATSA events:

****KS2 Kurling Competition** **Y5/6 VX Competition** **Y5/6 Basketball Competition** **Smite! Taster Session****

Our school will close today at 3:15pm and our Lancaster Avenue Nursery will close today at 3:00pm. Both sites will re – open for children on **Monday 1st November**. Don't forget that it is parents' evening the first week back when we return to school. Have a great half term with your family.



Mr M Grogan – Headteacher

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