



Newsletter – Friday 4th March 2022

Click the link to view a digital version of this newsletter: <https://youtu.be/zYiIMKzQVNM>

As I cast my mind back over the past 2 years, one of my main 'pre-pandemic' St. George's Central memories is from February 2020, when I returned from a week long residential in the Lake District with a group of Year 5 children. That trip has become almost a 'marker' in my life for what the world was like before COVID-19, as we all now know that a month later, schools closed and all residential trips were cancelled for the foreseeable future. It has therefore been great that both our Year 5 and Year 6 children have recently been able to experience these times away from home with school. Year 6 attended Brathay Hall in the Lake District for a week in January with Year 5 children making the same trip at the start of February.



This Cumbrian residential is usually a Year 5 trip at St. George's Central (as Year 6 have a summer stay-over in London). The reason for the 'double' trip this year was to allow any Year 6 children to experience this type of trip whilst they still had the chance at our school. As you can see from above the children enjoyed a variety of activities that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. Therefore, we are now 'back on track' with our residential trips as our Year 6 will visit London this June. Each February, our Year 5 children will visit Brathay Hall and I also have some ideas for how other year groups across schools can benefit from this type of experience in the future!

Class and whole school attendance updates:

Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%
YR:KB	93.21%	Y1NT	95.12%	Y3LK	94.04%	Y5HJ	91.59%
YR:TK	95.39%	Y1/2TL	95.55%	Y3/4CS	94.59%	Y5/6NC	95.83%
		Y2JY	93.79%	Y4CB	94.02%	Y6AM	94.33%
Whole school attendance: 94.31%							

*%'s are up to and including Friday 18th February 2022



Class based Worship themes – During this second half term of 2022, children have been focusing on the following:

School Value: Forgiveness

Reflective question: Should we always give people a second chance?

Happy Chinese New Year – We welcomed Chinese New Year 2022 in style, opening this cultural week with a competition to produce the most creative tiger as this year's zodiac sign is the tiger. The response was amazing. We received painted tigers, huge model tigers, Lego tigers, tiger cakes and tiger puppets. On Tuesday 2nd February, we had a whole school assembly to learn all about Chinese New Year and how people celebrate it around the world, we even all took part in some Tai Chi. We then had a fantastic celebration coupled with cultural learning in art, craft and writing from each year group. Throughout the week, the children were actively involved in traditional lantern making, sketching the incredible Great Wall, traditional Chinese brush painting, learning cultural songs and dances, re-writing the story of Nian and much more. During our Chinese New Year celebration, the children confidently modelled the attribute of cultural understanding that is key to becoming a global citizen. Click the link to see our work on Chinese New Year: https://youtu.be/9_p7L5EHEKc



'Never settle for less than your best'

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' John 8:12

'Green Room' projects – More classes have recently made use of our fantastic 'Green Room' facilities to produce YouTube clips to share their learning. Click the links below to watch some of the recent 'films' created:



Y1/2TL – Tyldesley: <https://youtu.be/wrtPI3Kxpa8>

Y5/6NC – Shakespeare: <https://youtu.be/NSO7r0IHda4>



Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 8th February saw us celebrate Safer Internet Day. Even though internet safety is taught throughout the year in school, this day always provides us with an opportunity to remind ourselves of how best to stay safe online. This year's theme was 'All fun and games?' Exploring respect and relationships online. As part of this work, our school was recently visited by 'Altru Drama' who undertook some online safety workshops for children in Key Stage 1 which focused on online gaming and how to be safe when playing games online and Key Stage 2 who took part in the assembly, 'Tangled Web', looking at various aspects of the internet.

Click the link below from our school website should you wish to find out more about E-Safety: <https://www.saintgeorgescentral.wigan.sch.uk/computinglinks.html>



Children's Mental Health Week – We celebrated Children's Mental Health Week around this year's theme 'Growing Together'. The children learned about the importance of personal growth, and how they can help others to grow around them. The whole school also took part in Toni Marie Yoga sessions centred around relaxation, mindfulness and the importance of resting the mind as well as the body. As part of this



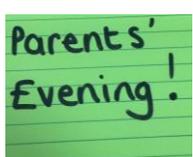
celebration, we held a 'Dress to Express' Day where children were welcomed into school wearing an outfit to express their individuality. It was wonderful to see such diversity within our school.

'Stay and Plays' – Before half term, all areas of our Early Years opened their doors to welcome parents/carers in to spend time learning alongside their children. Thank you to everyone who visited our Lancaster Avenue Nursery, our Darlington Street Nursery and our Reception classes during that week. School and our parents/carers working together, towards a shared goal, supports our children to thrive in school and has a significant impact on their learning and progress.



Musical performance – Parents/carers were recently treated to our usual half termly musical performance. As well as hearing the choir sing, it was really good to see all the children who learn instruments in school perform for everyone. The next choir and musical performance in school will be on Wednesday 30th March 2022. Look out for the letter about this from Miss Gray.

World Book Day – On World Book Day this year we celebrated the work of Manchester based poet Matt Goodfellow, who had previously, visited our school to sign copies of his book. On World Book Day, we looked at Matt's poems from his book 'Bright Bursts of Colour' and each class completed work on their poem of choice. We all dressed in bright colours to show our own 'Bright Bursts of Colour'. All children were given a book token that they were able to take away to spend on a book of their choice. Books tokens can be used at our upcoming book fair that will be in school at the end of March.



Spring Term parents' evening – Thanks to everyone who attended our Spring Term parents' evenings earlier this week. It was great to see so many of you meet with our teachers as we reach the 'half-way' stage of the school year. You may have noticed on our key dates letter how we have added a Summer Term parents' evening this year. Not only is this something new for St. George's Central, it will also be something slightly different as your children will have the opportunity to showcase their learning. Information about these evenings will be sent out to you nearer the time.

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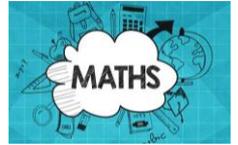
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British Science Week – Our Science leader, Mrs Malley, will be arranging a variety of Science based activities during week commencing Monday 14th March to celebrate British Science Week.



Red Nose Day – We will be supporting Red Nose Day on **Friday 18th March** through having a non-uniform day for £1 donation for all children and staff.

World Maths Day – Wednesday 23rd March will see us celebrate World Maths Day. On this day children will complete a range of special maths based activities. 'Times table fact of the week' will be launched across classes, with each area of school competing in a times table competition. The children will also have the opportunity to take their favourite maths-based photographs across school, with the winning entries being entered into a nationwide competition!



Scholastic Book Fair – On Friday 25th March, the Scholastic Book Fair will be delivered to school. From Monday 28th March, the library will be open after school for children to browse and purchase books. Please enter the library via the playground door from 3:15pm each day of that final week of term. All profits from the book fair will go towards new books for the school library and to be used in classrooms. All children will be given the opportunity to visit the book fair with their class and to get ideas for books they may wish to purchase. Please support the school as much as you can as the more books purchased means more books for children to use in school.

Easter Bingo in school – At 6pm on Tuesday 29th March there will be an Easter Bingo event taking place in school. Due to the popularity of the our most recent bingo night, we will be selling tickets for this event. Tickets will be priced at **£3 per person** and will be on sale from Mrs S Toone in school from **Monday 7th March**. Please note, you must bring your ticket with you on the night. To support this event, there will be a non-uniform day in school on **Friday 25th March**, for a donation of an Easter Egg. We hope to see you there.



Easter Worship/Service – At 9:30am on Thursday 31st March, Rector Martin and Reverend Cath will lead an Easter Worship for our school nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 children in school. The date of this has changed from what was originally planned. Due to space in school, we will be unable to accommodate any parents/carers for this. After this Easter Worship in school, Rector Martin and Reverend Cath will 'hot foot' it to St. George's Church for our Key Stage 2 Easter Service which will now take place at the slightly later time of **10:30am**. All members of the St. George's Central community are invited to this service in church. We hope to see you there.

Term time dates 2023/2024 – In addition to the term times dates for the current school year and the next school year, we have recently added the term time dates for 2023/2024. These dates were recently approved at our governing body meeting and are now on the opening page of our website. Click the link to view these dates:



<https://www.saintgeorgescentral.wigan.sch.uk/Documents/Dates/Term%20time%20dates%20202324.pdf>



'Kickstarterz' Taster Session – On Monday 31st January, seven of our children were joined by Reception children from Holy Family to take 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.

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ATSA event continued

KS1 Kurling Competition – Friday 4th February saw our KS1 Kurling team take part in a competition against four other schools. The children played really well and I am pleased to inform you that once all the scores were collated, our team was crowned **KS1 Kurling Competition winners 2022!** Well done to the children who represented our school at this event.



Year 3/4 Hockey Competition – Monday 7th February saw the Year 3/4 hockey team take part in a competition against five other schools. Well done to the children who made up the team.

Zumba Taster Session – Some Year 3 and Year 3 children took part in a Zumba Taster Session. The session was led by Anna Collins from Astley Zumba. Zumba Taster Sessions for other year groups are planned for later in the year.



All Sports Holiday Provision – February half term saw children from our school join with children from three other schools to attend the ATSA 'All Sports Holiday Provision'. A varied programme of sporting opportunities (Boxing with 'Boxing for Better', Multi-skills/Football with Wigan Athletic and Dance with Abigail Bibby) were on offer over 3 days with children being able to sign up for different days for £4 a day (with lunch included)! The programme for the Easter holiday has been finalised and will be advertised next week to children in Year 2 – Year 6.



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

- **KS2 Swimming Gala**
- **First Aid for Sport**
- **Sports Weekend meeting for parents/carers**
- **Reception Yoga Taster Session**
- **Kickstarterz Taster Session**
- **KS1 Dance Competition**

The next newsletter will be sent out on Thursday 31st March (paper copies will be available in the letter holders in the entrance area at school and at our Lancaster Avenue Nursery). This will be the last day of the Spring Term and our school site and Lancaster Avenue Nursery site will close on this day and re-open to children on Tuesday 19th April 2022. Have a great month with your family.

Mr M Grogan, Headteacher

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