

St George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery



Newsletter – Thursday 31st March 2022

Click the link to view a digital version of this newsletter: <https://youtu.be/S3duMdUgADQ>

Since the last newsletter there has been lots going on in school. For World Book Day, we took a slightly different approach, taking inspiration from our visiting poet, Matt Goodfellow and his new book, 'Bright Bursts of Colour'. As you can see from the pictures below, your children looked fantastic (hopefully at no extra cost to you!). We will have to think 'creatively' again next year with our approach to World Book Day.



The world remains a 'challenging place' and we are seeing conflicts in Eastern Europe which are affecting many families and communities. Thank you for your support with the appeal to support the Ukrainian people. Many thanks to Mrs Kowalczyk (Hanna's mum in Reception TK) for being pro-active with this, arranging for all your kind donations to be sent to where they are needed. We now have a 'permanent link' in place with this as, we discovered that the clothing items donated were not necessarily needed by the people of Ukraine. However, Mrs Kowalczyk informed us that these items can still be used (for other countries) and that school will receive money based on the weight of the clothing donated! We have used the money we have received so far to purchase specific items that the people of Ukraine do need at this time! So please keep donating ALL items to school!

Class and whole school attendance updates:

Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%
YR:KB	93.70%	Y1NT	95.21%	Y3LK	93.90%	Y5HJ	91.92%
YR:TK	94.97%	Y1/2TL	95.73%	Y3/4CS	93.93%	Y5/6NC	96.05%
		Y2JY	94.25%	Y4CB	94.50%	Y6AM	94.16%
Whole school attendance: 94.39%							

*%'s are up to and including Friday 25th March 2022

'Green Room' project – Year 3LK have recently made use of our fantastic 'Green Room' facilities to produce a YouTube clips to share their learning. Click the links below to watch the recent 'film' created by Year 3LK:



The North West: <https://youtu.be/y0MfXaP-Uo>



Author visit – On Friday 4th March, the children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 had a visit from local author, Jennifer Doyle. Jennifer read her book 'Billy the Blackbird' and spoke to the children about her journey to becoming an author. She spoke about the characters in her book and how the children can encourage birds to visit their local area using plants and bird seed. She left some instructions on how to create a bird feeder so the children can build one for themselves at home.

Poet visit – Monday 7th March saw 'The Poet from the Peaks', Andy Tooze, visit our school. He came for the day and performed some of his poems in a special assembly. He then spent time in each class working with the children and helping them to each create a class poem. He told the children about the ways in which he creates poems and writing about the issues that are important to him. Andy left a copy of his latest book 'Green Shoots Rising' for children to enjoy in our school library.



'Never settle for less than your best'

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Parent/carer survey results – Many thanks to everyone who completed our recent online parent/carer survey. As we move forwards as a school, with your support, we will be looking at how we can improve our school so that in the future we have more responses in the ‘Strongly Agree’ or ‘Agree’ category. Should you wish to discuss the results of this survey, or provide any further comments, please do not hesitate to contact me in school. Please click the link to

view the full results: <https://www.saintgeorgescentral.wigan.sch.uk/Documents/Questionnaire/Parent%20View%20March%202022%20results.pdf>



Astley and Tyldesley Womblers – Earlier this term, our Eco Council were approached to invite children to a fantastic community project taking place on Sunday 13th March. Miss Killian and several children from our school went to Astley Street Park to support Tyldesley and Astley Womblers with their tree planting project. It was an early start and in the end, 350 saplings donated by The Woodland Trust, were planted in total. It was great to see Reverend Cath helping on the day. The aim of the project was to plant trees in memory of loved ones who are no longer with us and also to replace trees that have been removed or damaged in the recent storms. During the next 30 years our local community will be able to watch a lovely woodland area flourish and come to life.



British Science Week – Our children took part in lots of activities as part of National Science Week. The theme for 2022 was ‘Growth’. Throughout the week commencing Monday 14th March, children across school took part in a number of activities including: exploring the outdoor environment, planting seeds and bulbs, looking at life-cycles of plants and animals, researching adaptation of animals and taking part in online sessions with STEM ambassadors.



Kenyon Hall Farm Trip – Reception children recently enjoyed a trip to Kenyon Hall Farm. They had a fantastic time exploring the farm, discovering where our food comes from and the steps it takes to successfully grow these foods from ‘farm to fork’. They were inspired by a hands on experience of learning how to grow their own vegetables and participated in discussions around food and farming. They ended the day with a treat on a tractor tour of the farm.



Thanks to your support we managed to raise £219 on Red Nose Day. Thanks again for your support!



World Maths Day – In a celebration of mathematics, World Maths Day saw our children complete a range of special maths-based activities. ‘Times table fact of the week’ was launched across classes, with some areas of school competing in a times table competition. The children also had the opportunity to take their favourite maths-based photographs across school, with the winning entries being entered into a nationwide competition.



Wider Opportunity Music – Parents/carers of children in Year 4 were recently treated to a Samba performance from the children in Year 4CS and Year 4CB. Our school ‘buys in’ to the Wigan Music Service ‘Wider Opportunity Music’ scheme which means that each week a specialist music teacher (Mrs Lord) comes into our school to teach the children to play musical instruments. Our children learn to play a different percussion instrument each term. It was a great performance from the children. After Easter, the children will be learning to play a different percussion instrument and there will be another whole school performance just before the end of the school year.

Old Trafford trip – Children in Year 3 and Year 4 recently experienced a wonderful day at the ‘Theatre of Dreams’, Old Trafford. The day began with a tour around the stadium where the children experienced amazing views of the pitch, visited the changing rooms (even getting to sit in Ronaldo’s seat), and they learned how football is broadcasted on our televisions. The children then visited the Manchester United museum and learned about the extensive history of the club. In the afternoon, time was spent with Old Trafford’s excellent education team and the children took part in two workshops, learning about the importance of diversity and equality within football and the wider world and then about leadership skills and what makes an effective leader. A great day was had by all.



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Mothing Sunday – Thank you to all who came along to the Mothing Sunday Service at St. George's Church – it was lovely to see so many members of our school community in church to celebrate this special day. The children of St George's Central sang the song, 'Our God is a Great Big God' and some children read out prayers too. The service was enjoyed by all. Thank you to the staff members who supported this event.



Smithills Farm Trip – On Monday of this week, the pre-school children from both our nurseries had a trip to Smithills Open Farm. This was the culmination of their spring learning about new life, growth and farm animals. The children had an informative, hands-on, fun-filled day which included: feeding lambs and kids, handling chicks and baby rabbits, a donkey ride, a tractor ride and of course meeting a large array of farm animals. A huge thank you to the family helpers who supported the trip, a fantastic day was had by all.

Easter Bingo – Many thanks to everyone who supported our Easter Bingo night earlier this week either through providing Easter Eggs to school or through actually attending on the night! We raised **£427.87**. It was great to see everyone coming together as a school community to raise funds to support events in school. Thanks to our school staff and parents/carers who organised and supported this event. The money that has been raised from this event will be put towards resources to support children with their learning in school. We will aim to have another Bingo night towards the end of the Summer Term.



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 25th May 2022. Look out for the letter about this from Miss Gray.



Easter Worship/Service – Thursday 31st March was a busy morning for Rector Martin and Reverend Cath who firstly came into school to lead an Easter Service for our Early Years and Key Stage 1 children. Children were told the Easter story and talked about the messages they can reflect on. Nursery and Reception children sang some songs they had



learned about Easter and children in Year 1 and Year 2 shared some prayers and poems on the theme of new life. Rector Martin and Reverend Cath then quickly left school to ensure they arrived at church for the 10:30am start of the Key Stage 2 Easter Service. This year, to reflect our school collection for Ukrainian refugees, for the KS2 services, all KS2 classes presented a traditional Easter Basket filled with decorated eggs and paska bread. Classes told the familiar story with a little help from the Easter Bunny.



Scholastic Book Fair – Many thanks to everyone who came in to support our recent Book Fair by purchasing books. For every book sold the school receives money to spend on books to be used in school. Thanks to all your support, we managed to raise over **£150** so far. We will now be using this to purchase books for children to use in classrooms. We will have the Book Fair in school again in December so please keep an eye out for this closer to the time.

Reception starters 2022 – If you have applied for a Reception place for 2022, you will receive an email from Wigan Council informing you of your school on 16th April. Please ensure that you read and follow the information within the email which will guide you on what to do following confirmation of your school place offer.



Class based Worship themes – During the first half term of the Summer Term, children will be focusing on the following:
School Value: Compassion

Reflective question: Can we show compassion towards everyone?



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St. George's Day celebrations – To celebrate St. George's Day this year children in Key Stage 1 and 2 will be attending a special service at St. George's Church at 1:30pm on Friday 22nd April. Parents/carers are invited to attend this. Each year group will then present some work they have done on the story of St. George and how it links to our school motto of 'Never settle for less than your best'. The children in both nurseries and Reception will take part in a special worship that day with Reverend Cath and will share some songs and work they have been doing. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accommodate parents/carers for the school/nursery based services. All children can come to school/nursery dressed in red and white on this day.

Staying open! – Although school will still be used as a Polling Station on **Thursday 5th May 2022** for the elections, our school will **REMAIN OPEN** on this day. Like recent years, the Music Room in our new extension will be used for this.



KS2 Swimming Gala – Eight children from St. George's Central School recently took part in a swimming gala against children from seven other primary schools. The four boys and four girls took part in both individual and team races at the Pelican Centre. Well done to the children who made up our team.

First Aid for Sport – Four of our children recently joined with children from two other schools for a 'First Aid for Sport' session. The children learned how to support conscious & unconscious casualties, how to treat a severe bleed and carry out lifesaving CPR. The children also used their mobile phones whilst enacting scenarios, using location-tracking and First Aid Apps to support them in emergency situations.



Yoga Taster Session – Some of our Reception children recently took part in a Yoga Taster Session. The session was led by Toni Aspinall from Toni Marie Yoga.

'Kickstarterz' Taster Session – On Monday 28th March, seven of our children were joined by Reception children from St. Philip's 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.



KS1 Dance Competition – Wednesday 30th March saw our KS1 Dance team take part in a competition against four other schools. The children danced really well to 'Just Sing' from Trolls the World Tour. Well done to the children who represented our school at this event.

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 Easter holiday:

Days	Provision	Venue	Time
Monday 4 th April 2022	Boxing Fun and Fitness	Parklee Community School	9:00am – 3:00pm
Tuesday 5 th April 2022	Wigan Athletic FC Community Trust	Hindsford CE Primary School	9:00am – 3:00pm
Wednesday 6 th April 2022	Rookie Lifeguard and Fun Swim	The Pelican Centre	9:00am – 3:30pm

The next newsletter will be sent out on Friday 29th April (paper copies will be available in the letter holders in the entrance area in school and at our Lancaster Avenue Nursery). Our school site and Lancaster Avenue Nursery site will close today and re-open to children on Tuesday 19th April 2022. Please find attached to the newsletter email the Summer Term (1st half) dates letter. Have a great Easter with your family.

Mr M Grogan, Headteacher

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