

St George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery



Newsletter – Friday 18th November 2022

Click the link to view a digital version of this newsletter: <https://youtu.be/a9kV4DG6-u0>

Time was taken over the October half term to upgrade various outdoor areas both at school and at our Lancaster Avenue Nursery site. With the funding secured for this work, it was pleasing that we were able to action the feedback provided from our various staff, children and parent/carer surveys to inform our decision making with regards to this new equipment.



Congratulations to our staff:



As many of you will know, over half term, our Admin Officer (formerly Miss Birchall) got married in Mexico. COVID meant that this was re-arranged from last year and so finally family and friends were able to come together to celebrate (the wedding and some family birthdays as well!). We wish Mr and Mrs Renton and their family all the best for their future happiness together.

A new addition to the Skinner family arrived at 11:40am on Thursday 3rd November as Theo Jack David Skinner was born. Mrs Skinner recently started her maternity leave from her role at our Lancaster Avenue Nursery and so did not have to wait long for Theo who weighed 8lb 5oz to arrive. I am sure you will join me in sending Mrs Skinner and all her family all the best wishes at this time.



As you know, Miss Beswick recently started her maternity leave. As I type this part of the newsletter we have not yet received any news from Miss Beswick. I will update you as soon as we hear from her.

Last month, we started to provide you with some background information about our school governors within our newsletter. See the second one of these below from our **Vice Chair of Governors, Mr Paul Costello:**



I am Vice Chair of governors at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery and a Local Authority appointed governor. I have been a governor since 2018 and became a governor at the school because of the inclusiveness of the school and how every pupil is given the opportunity to develop to their full potential. I am married with two grown up daughters: one teaches Maths in Dubai and the other is an Executive producer at Film 4 in London. I attended Leigh St Mary's RC High School and worked for 30 years for various Law Enforcement Agencies in the United Kingdom. I have an Honours degree in Mathematics and a PGCE in Numeracy and on retirement began lecturing Mathematics at Wigan and Leigh College and for the HM Prison Service. I am an Executive Trustee of Leigh Building Preservation Trust. I am Chair of the charity Leigh Film Society and Wigan & Leigh Short Film Festival. I am Honorary Member of Tyldesley Swimming & Water Polo Club, where I still remain as Team Manager for the Tyldesley Ladies Water Polo Team. I am also Co-founder and Chair of The Pelican Centre, Tyldesley. I am Director of Tyldesley Heritage Action Zone C.I.C and Chair of Leigh Spinners Mill CBS Limited.

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Class attendance updates:

Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%
YR:EH	88.87%	Y1NT	96.40%	Y3LK	94.59%	Y5HJ	92.42%
YR:TK	94.06%	Y1/2TL	94.81%	Y3/4CS	93.80%	Y5/6NC	90.73%
		Y2BR	94.61%	Y4CB	92.08%	Y6AM	91.16%
Whole school attendance: 93.21%							

*%s are up to and including Friday 11th November 2022



Fire of London Workshop – Children in Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed a fantastic 'Great Fire of London' experience day. They were welcomed into 'Pudding Lane' by a plague doctor who told them how the Great Fire of London may have helped to end the Great Plague. Throughout the afternoon, they completed some wonderful artwork inspired by the Great Fire, walked down 'Pudding Lane', designed a new city and learned all about plague doctors. Thank you to Mr Kenny for a memorable experience.

'Shine a Light' Festival – Throughout the Autumn half term, Year 3 and 4 worked alongside Vicky Tyrrell from the Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) project to create their own fantastic lanterns. This linked into Year 3 and 4 work in their Design and Technology topic and was in preparation for the 'Shine a Light' Festival that took place on Tyldesley Square on Saturday 29th October. We were delighted to see so many of our children join us for this event. We walked from school to the square parading our lanterns. When we arrived at Tyldesley Square, some of children talked about their lanterns on Radio M29. We then enjoyed a pumpkin parade, a dance routine and our school choir provided their own performance. We would like to say a big thank you to Vicky and the 'For Tyldesley' group for including us in this community project.



The Great Big Pumpkin Challenge – Eco-Council members saved 30 unsold pumpkins from Kenyon Hall Farm from being wasted. They challenged each class to create something Eco-friendly in just one week with the winning class being rewarded with an introductory visit to the Forest School later in the year. Mrs Culshaw set high expectations with a pumpkin 'Electric car' carving on wheels and she made pumpkin muffins too. The winning class will be announced soon.



Remembrance Events – Thursday 10th November was a special day for school as we received our traditional visit from members of the British Legion. We would like to thank the members of the Tyldesley British Legion for, yet again, providing an informative talk to the children, helping to ensure that future generations continue to remember the bravery that members of the armed forces demonstrated in the past and continue to show today. Our week of Remembrance events was rounded off with a fantastic turn out of children and staff at the Remembrance Sunday parade. Again, thank you all for your support with all our Remembrance events.



Anti-Bullying week – Thank you for helping us to celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way with Odd Socks Day. This years theme for Anti Bullying Week was 'Reach Out'. We wanted to spread a positive message that it is always possible to reach out and ask for help if you are worried about bullying. Children explored why it is important that we are all unique. It was fantastic to see the whole school celebrating their individuality!



Year 3 residential trip – A meeting has recently taken place with parents/carers of children in Year 3 regarding our NEW weekend residential trip to Low Bank Ground. Historically, children in Year 5 and Year 6 have attended this type of trip and so in order to prepare children for these experiences (and for later life in general) we have introduced 'experiences', some away from home, for children in Year 1 to Year 6. I am sure some of the children (as well as some parents/carers) may have some short term 'nervousness' about these experiences but I believe that the long term benefits for your children being away from home, with their friends in a different environment will be huge!

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Eco-Assembly – On Thursday 17th November our newly appointed Eco Council members of 2022 led our whole school assembly with the help of Ellen Hardaker from Wigan Council. They introduced the topics from our current action plan:

1. Biodiversity
2. School grounds
3. Waste (reduce, reuse and recycle)

Ellen then proceeded to help Eco Council to launch their latest 'waste campaign' focusing on reducing, reusing and recycling. We are keen to focus on the topic of waste, particularly what can be recycled in the blue bin and brown bin. Eco Council shared several very full blue bin-recycling sacks. The children wish to reduce how much is printed onto paper and how much is wasted and aim to reuse rather than simply recycle waste paper as much as possible. Next month we will share our results of monitoring the situation. We thank you for your ongoing support with all our Eco campaigns and projects this coming year.



Show your support for England Days – This month will see the return of our 'Show your support for England Days' as the 2022 FIFA World Cup takes place. We will go with the same approach as previous tournaments where on the days that the England team play, instead of wearing their school uniform, children can come to school



wearing either red, white and blue clothing or England football items. In return, we ask that you bring in a food item that we will pass on to the Atherton and Leigh Foodbank. Therefore, the 'Show your support for England Days' we have planned will be on:



Monday 21st November: England v Iran
Friday 25th November: England v USA
Tuesday 29th November: England v Wales
Good luck to the England team!



****Mr Kenny has arranged for a World Cup 2022 Celebration Week to take place in school starting Monday 21st November – look out for the message on Seesaw about this.****

Forest School – Although it has not yet been formally opened, this half term Reception children will start to access sessions within our Forest School. Within these sessions they will learn how to whittle sticks using a potato peeler tool and there may even be an opportunity for them to enjoy toasted marshmallows on a real fire! Over the last few months, our Forest School leader, Miss Killian, has been developing our curriculum plans and risk assessments for the Forest School and so we are currently taking this 'trial' approach with classes so that we can see what works for when we formally open and use this area as part of our curriculum offer.



Autumn Term assessments – During the week commencing Monday 28th November, children in Year 1 – Year 6 will be undertaking end of term assessments in Maths, Reading and SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar). Should you have any questions about these assessments, then please see your child's teacher.

****A meeting for Y6 parents/carers to discuss the 2023 Y6 SATs will be taking place on Thursday 8th December at 3:30pm – 4:00pm & 6:00pm – 6:30pm. Mrs Malley will be sending a letter out soon for you to select which session is best for you to attend.****

Reception starters 2023 – The link on the Wigan Council website for 2023 Reception places recently opened:

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

child was born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019, you can now submit an application for your child to start in our Reception class in September 2023. The closing date for admissions is **Sunday 15th January 2023**. 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 2023, please let them know that, like every year, I will show people around school on an **individual basis**. Please ask people to ring or email (using the details in the footer of this newsletter) and we will make an appointment to meet with me and have a look round our school.



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October half term saw children from our school join with children from 4 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, Dance with Abigail Bibby and First Aid and Fun Swim at The Pelican Centre) 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 February half term 2023 has been finalised and will be advertised early in the new year to children in Year 2 – Year 6.



KS2 Curling Competition – Friday 4th November saw our KS2 Curling team take part in a competition against seven other schools. Well done to the children who represented our children at this event.

VX Competition – Some children from Y5 and Y6 recently took part in a competition in a sport called VX. The game involves children scooping up soft tennis balls with a lacrosse style stick and throwing the balls at their opponents. The main methods of scoring points are for hitting your opponent with a ball or catching a ball that was thrown at you. Well done to the children who represented our children at this event.



Y3/4 Futsal Competition – Friday 11th November saw our Y3/4 Futsal teams take part in a competition against seven other schools. Well done to the children who represented our children at this event.



Y5/6 Basketball Competition – On Monday 14th November our Basketball team took part in a competition against six other schools. The children played really well and almost qualified for the final. Well done to the children who represented our school at this event.

Smite! Taster Session – Children from St. George's Central recently took part in a taster session of the inclusive sport, Smite! This is a game similar to ten pin bowling as the aim is to knock down 10 different numbered pins and get to a score of fifty. A big thank you to Ian Crosby from 'AllinclusiveSports' for leading this session.



2022 Believe Sports Awards – The evening of Saturday 12th November saw our school celebrate success at the annual 'Believe Wigan Sports Awards'. Our school **won** the 'The Martin Lynn School Commitment to PE and Sport' category. Thanks must go to the hard work of Mr Cooke as our PE leader and all our fantastic staff and school governors who give up their time to ensure that the children at our school not only have opportunities within their PE lessons and beyond the school day, but also ensure they support our children through helping them take part in the wide variety of events that are on offer within our community. Of course, this could not be done without the support of all our families and our children and so thank you for supporting us by sending your children in the correct PE kit, returning letters on time and generally ensuring that they are prepared to take part in their lessons and competitions. Hard work certainly pays off!

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Information about Christmas performances at St. George's Central



Date	Performance dates/times
Monday 5 th December	Darlington Street Nursery Christmas performance: 1:30pm start Reception Christmas performance: 2:30pm start Year 1/Year 2 Christmas performance: 6pm start
Tuesday 6 th December	Darlington Street Nursery Christmas performance: 9:30am start Reception Christmas performance: 10:30am start Year 1/Year 2 Christmas performance: 2pm start
Wednesday 7 th December	Darlington Street Nursery Christmas performance: 9:30am start Reception Christmas performance: 10:30am start Year 1/Year 2 Christmas performance: 6pm start
Thursday 8 th December	Lancaster Avenue Nursery (pre-school children) Christmas performance in the nursery: 2:30pm start
Friday 9 th December	Lancaster Avenue Nursery (pre-school children) Christmas performance in the nursery: 9:30am start

Area of School	*Ticket information: all tickets available from Monday 28th November
Lancaster Avenue Nursery	Please see Miss Cowley to sign up to attend either performance: in the nursery office from 9:00am
Darlington Street Nursery	4 tickets per child/family available across all 3 performances: numbered tickets will be available from Mrs Davies in nursery from 8:50am
Reception	4 tickets per child/family available across all 3 performances: numbered tickets will be available from Mrs Tuffin in Rec: TK classroom from 8:45am (please head to the external Rec:TK classroom door on playground at the rear of school to see Mrs Tuffin)
Key Stage 1	2 tickets per child/family available across all 3 performances: numbered tickets will be available from Mrs Woodward in the library from 8:45am (please head to the external library door on playground at the rear of school to see Mrs Woodward)

There will be no charge again this year for any tickets

Please keep the tickets you receive and bring them with you, as the number on them is your seat number for the performance



Babies and other children – Please note that tickets for the **school-based** performances are for older siblings and adults **ONLY**. For those who need to bring children, babies or toddlers, a crèche will be provided. This also includes all children from St. George's Central who will have seen all dress rehearsals.

Photographs and digital recording – Under no circumstances are you to use your phone/camera in school or take any photographs during any of the performances, including at the end. We will have already have taken individual/group photographs of the children in their costumes which we will upload to Seesaw (please see your child's teacher should you require your login details). From Seesaw, you can save and print images yourself, in your preferred style at your leisure. Only a selection of images will be uploaded to our School Facebook page and staff Twitter accounts.



*****Please note: all the school-based performances on Tuesday 6th December will be filmed by school with final versions being uploaded to our school YouTube page before we break for Christmas. Final links will then be emailed to you and sent via Seesaw. Please let us know if you would prefer your child not to be filmed*****

Costumes – We are hoping to provide costumes within school. If any additional support with costumes is required, individual class teachers will let you know.

There will be a raffle at each school-based performance with tickets on sale for £1 a strip.

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Other Information about Christmas at St. George's Central



Christmas dinner and Christmas jumpers – Christmas dinner will be served to all children and staff in school on **Friday 9th December**. Should your child be on packed lunches and you would like them to have a Christmas dinner then please let the school office know by **Friday 2nd December**. There is **no need for you to send any Christmas crackers into school** for Christmas dinner this year. School will provide everything for your child on the day. **On the same day**, all children can come to school wearing a Christmas jumper/non-uniform.

FREE Pantomime trip – The afternoon of Tuesday 13th December will see the return of the **FREE** Pantomime for children from Reception to Year 6 at The Opera House in Manchester. This trip has taken place for the children of St. George's Central every year since 2012. Unfortunately, the pandemic meant that the 2019 trip was the last time it took place. This year, our children will be watching Peter Pan, starring Jason Manford. You will soon receive a letter from Mrs Malley, giving further details about this trip.



Christmas 'class based' party days

Monday 12th December: Year 5 and Year 6 party day

Tuesday 13th December: Darlington Street and Lancaster Avenue Nursery party day

Wednesday 14th December: Year 1 and Year 2 party day

Thursday 15th December: Reception and Year 3 and Year 4 party day

It is non-uniform for children when it is their party day



KS2 Carol Service – On Thursday 15th December, all KS2 children will be walking to St. George's Church to take part in our very own carol service. This will start at **10:00am** and will involve the children re-telling the story of the first Christmas through a mix of narration and songs. All members of the St. George's Central community are invited to this. We hope to see you there.

Christmas disco details: Thursday 15th December 2022

Year 1 & Year 2	<p>3:30pm – 4:30pm <i>Children to bring their disco clothes to school and remain in school at home time to get changed.</i></p> <p>The disco will be £2 per child (cash brought to the school office beforehand).</p> <p>There will be some light refreshments included and children will not need to bring any other money on the night – just their dancing shoes!</p>
Year 3 – Year 6	<p>5:00pm – 6:30pm</p> <p>The disco will be £1 per child (cash brought to the school office beforehand).</p> <p>'Tuck shop' available for children (£2 maximum will be sufficient).</p> <p>All children are to be collected by an adult at 6:30pm and so there is no need for children to bring a mobile phone with them to the school disco.</p>

Christmas gifts – Like last year, we are also saying that there is **no real need for you to provide any gifts for our staff** as many of you do at Christmas time. I know that staff do truly appreciate any items that are sent into school, but things have changed in the world, and I feel that this is an ideal opportunity for us to look at how we show our thanks to people in school without a financial implication. I do know that our staff appreciate the amount of support you provide for your child at home with their learning and development. So, for me, you are 'showing your thanks' to us by:



-listening to your child read each night (their reading book or through accessing Reading Plus);

-undertaking any other home learning activities (spellings, maths or any other work set);

-ensuring that your children show respect and behave appropriately within the Tyldesley community and through

-promoting the use of manners with your child.



Your continued support with the above is the greatest gift for us all in school, at all times of the year.

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Christmas cards – This year we are asking that **no Christmas cards are sent into school**. Over the last few years, very few cards have been sent into school and so we are aiming to reduce the environmental impact and think it is appropriate that we start to make the change this year. You are of course free to make your own arrangements in terms of Christmas cards outside of school.

As well as being on the school website, there are paper copies of all newsletters available in the letter holders in the entrance area in school and at our Lancaster Avenue Nursery. The next newsletter and Spring Term (1st half) dates letter will be emailed out on **Friday 16th December**. On this day, we break up for Christmas. Have a great month with your family.

Mr M Grogan – Headteacher

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