



Newsletter – Friday 17th November 2023

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It was lovely to see so many of you at our parents' evening during the first week of this half term. This year, we have seen an increased number of parents/carers attending our various workshops and stay and play/open afternoons. It has been a fantastic show of support – thank you! Showing your children that we are working together to support them, can only have positive benefits for their long term future. I feel we have an 'open door' policy and this year, I have truly seen it in action. Should you feel that there is further room for us to improve in this area, then please let me know as I am keen to build on the success of this so that we can continue to support your children.

Class attendance updates:

Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%
YR:KB	92.19%	Y1NT	94.92%	Y3ES	93.71%	Y5HJ	94.58%
YR:TK	94.95%	Y1/2TL	95.35%	Y3/4EH	93.52%	Y5/6GC	96.13%
		Y2CS	96.25%	Y4NC	94.01%	Y6AM	93.83%
Whole school attendance: 94.6%							

**%s are up to and including Friday 10th November 2023*



Poetry Together event at Hillcrest – On Friday 3rd November, children in Y6AM took part in the Poetry Together Competition at Hillcrest Residential Care Home.

The initiative was first launched by Her Majesty The Queen in order to bring younger and older generations together to share in the joy of poetry. The children performed six poems by various authors to the elderly residents before sharing tea

and cakes. We were honoured with a special visit from the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, who shared a poem that she also learned at school. It was an enjoyable morning for everyone involved.



Catalyst Museum trip – On Thursday 9th November, children in Year 5 and Year 6 visited the Catalyst Science Museum, in Widnes. During the visit, the children had the opportunity to explore the interactive galleries and take part in two hands-on workshops based on exploring potions and making a medicine. The children saw some surprising chemical reactions and used their investigative skills to make some potions and observe how they behaved. They also had the opportunity to make and test some different medicines.

Remembrance Sunday – As always, there was an amazing turn out of children and staff at the Remembrance Sunday parade. It is important 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. As a school, we are proud to be part of this event and so thank you to everyone for your commitment.



Anti-Bullying week – Monday 13th November saw the start of Anti-Bullying Week. The week kicked off with Odd Socks Day. On this occasion, we wore odd socks to celebrate what makes us unique. This year's theme is 'Make a Noise About Bullying' where children considered what bullying means to us, how banter can turn into something more hurtful, and what we can do to stop bullying.

'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



Year 3 and Year Science Experience Day – Monday 13th November saw our Year 3 and Year 4 children take part in a fun and interactive science day linking to their topic on solids, liquids and gases. The children unleashed their inner scientist, taking part in a range of experiments, including some very colourful investigations!

1960's Workshop – Tuesday 14th November saw children in Key Stage 1 take part in a 1960's workshop to complement their learning in History. They learned about 1960's fashion and famous news events from the 1960's. They also learned about the genres of music and styles of dancing that were popular at the time and they even tried a spot of dancing for themselves. They enjoyed handling some artefacts and from what I hear, their favourite part of the day, was listening to music by The Beatles!



'England Rocks Times Tables Competition' – Earlier this week, children in Key Stage 2 engaged in a nationwide competition with thousands of other primary schools. This online times table event reinforced accuracy and recall and aimed to boost confidence in maths as children attempted to answer as many times tables questions as possible, increasing speed, gaining coins and having fun along the way!

Parent/carer workshops – It was great to see so many of you at our Year 3 and Year 4 Reading Workshop earlier this week. Next Wednesday will see Mrs Malley lead the Year 5 and Year 6 Reading Workshop. Looking further ahead, Wednesday 6th December will see our annual **meeting for** Y6 parents/carers to discuss the 2024 Y6 SATs. Mrs Malley will be sending a letter out soon for you to select which session is best for you to attend.



Autumn Term assessments – During the week commencing Monday 27th 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.

*****Don't forget that Friday 8th December will be the final day of extra-curricular clubs until January 2024*****

Reception starters 2024 – The link on the Wigan Council website for 2024 Reception places remains open: [Primary School Admissions](#). If your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020, you can now submit an application for your child to start our Reception class in September 2024. The closing date for admissions is **Monday 15th January 2024**. 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 2024, 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.



October half term saw children from our school join with children from seven other schools to attend the ATSA 'All Sports Holiday Provision'. A varied programme of sporting opportunities (Fun Golf and Foot Golf with 'Boomers and Swingers', Multi-skills/Football with Wigan Athletic, Tennis/Multi-Skills with Sphairistrike Tennis 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 February half term 2024 has been finalised and will be advertised early in the new year to children in Year 2 – Year 6.



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ATSA continued



'Active Minds' Road Safety Quiz – Wednesday 8th November saw two Year 6 children from St. George's Central make up a quiz team for the ATSA 'Active Minds' Road Safety Quiz. The children had spent the last month brushing up on their road safety knowledge and did very well against children from six other schools.

KS2 Kurling Competition – Thursday 9th November saw our KS2 Kurling team take part in a competition against six other schools. Well done to the children who represented our children at this event.



Y5/6 Basketball Competition – On Monday 13th November, our Basketball team took part in a competition against eight 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.

'Access to Success' Yoga and Dance – Thursday 16th November saw children from St. George's Central take part in the first ATSA 'Access to Success' event of the year at Rowan Tree Primary. Our children joined with children from six other schools to take part in a Yoga and Dance event.



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

****Y5/6 Table Tennis Taster Session****

****KS2 'Strictly Schools' Dance Competition****

****Y5/6 Zumba Taster Session****



Information about Christmas performances at St. George's Central



Date	Performance dates/times
Monday 11 th December	Darlington Street Nursery Christmas singing celebration: 2:00pm start Reception Christmas performance: 2:30pm start Year 1/Year 2 Christmas production: 6:00pm start
Tuesday 12 th December	Reception Christmas performance: 10:30am start Year 1/Year 2 Christmas production: 2:00pm start
Wednesday 13 th December	Darlington Street Nursery Christmas singing celebration 9:00am start Reception Christmas performance: 10:30am start Year 1/Year 2 Christmas production: 6:00pm start
Thursday 14 th December	Darlington Street Nursery Christmas singing celebration 9:00am start Lancaster Avenue Nursery Christmas singing celebration: 2:30pm start
Friday 15 th December	Lancaster Avenue Nursery Christmas singing celebration: 9:30am start

Area of School	*Ticket information*
	All tickets available from Monday 27th November 2023
Lancaster Avenue Nursery	Please see Miss Cowley to sign up to attend one of the Christmas 'Stay and Plays'.
Darlington Street Nursery	Please see Mrs Davies to sign up to attend one of the Christmas 'Stay and Plays'.
Reception	4 tickets per child/family available across all 3 performances: numbered tickets will be available from Mrs Tuffin in Rec: TK classroom from 8:40am (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 8:40am (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

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Information about Christmas performances at St. George's Central continued



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 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 'X' accounts.



*****Please note: all the Reception – Year 2 performances on Tuesday 12th 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 by Friday 24th November 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.

Other Information about Christmas at St. George's Central



Tyldesley Makers Market – During the morning of Saturday 25th November members of our Eco Council will host their second stall at the Tyldesley Makers Market. To prepare for this, we have been very fortunate over the last few weeks to have Catherine Wilkes from Natures Den Forest School, in school to work with our Eco-Council and Year 4. We hope to see you there.

Tyldesley Christmas lights – During the afternoon of Saturday 25th November, our school choir will be helping to spread the Christmas cheer at the Tyldesley Christmas Lights switch-on event, singing some popular Christmas carols and songs. If your child is involved in the school choir, please await further details from Miss Gray.



****On Friday 8th December, all children can come to school wearing a Christmas jumper/non-uniform.****



Christmas dinner – Christmas dinner will be served to all children and staff in school on **Friday 15th 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 **Monday 4th 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.

Christmas 'class based' party days



Monday 18th December: Year 5 and Year 6 party day

Tuesday 19th December: Year 3 and Year 4 party day

Wednesday 20th December: Year 1 and Year 2 party day

Thursday 21st December: Reception and Nursery party day

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



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KS2 Carol Service – On Thursday 21st 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 21 st December 2023	
Year 1 & Year 2	3:30pm – 4:30pm <i>Children to bring their disco clothes to school and remain in school at home time to get changed.</i> The disco will be £2 per child (cash brought to the school office beforehand). There will be some light refreshments included and children will not need to bring any other money on the night – just their dancing shoes!
Year 3 – Year 6	5:00pm – 6:30pm The disco will be £1 per child (cash brought to the school office beforehand). 'Tuck shop' available for children (£2 maximum will be sufficient). 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.



Pantomime in School – This Christmas we will be having a Pantomime in school for children in Nursery to Year 6. Last year, saw the return of the visit to the theatre for the children in Reception to Year 6. Due to increased costs involved, we will be taking the children to The Opera House in Manchester to see a pantomime every other year, so our next trip to the theatre will be at Christmas 2024. This year, we are looking forward to watching 'Cinderella' in our school hall, performed by 'Chaplins Pantos', which all children from Nursery to Reception will be able to enjoy.

Christmas gifts – As I have said for the past few years, 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. This time of year provides 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.

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 22nd December**. On this day, we break up for Christmas. Have a great month with your family.

Mr M Grogan – Headteacher

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