



## Newsletter – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

Click the link to view a [digital version of this newsletter](#)

Today is the final school day of 2023. As I look back upon this year, it would be remiss of me to not mention the successful Ofsted inspection that took place in June 2023. Things move quickly and much has happened in the six months since the inspectors visited our school. We have continued to adapt to changing circumstances, both in school and the community, as our quest to continually improve and provide the best for your children is always at the forefront of our minds. I thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you in 2024 where we will continue to offer excellent facilities and high quality experiences to support positive relationships and provide the best education for your children.

**Staffing updates** – Today is the final day at St. George's Central for both Miss Killian and Mr Simmons as they both embark on new challenges in 2024. We are sad to see them both leave and thank them for their hard work during their time at our school. As parents/carers of children in Miss Killian's class already know, from January 2024, Reception: TK will become **Reception: OB** as our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs O'Brien, becomes a Reception teacher. Again, as parents/carers of children in Mr Simmons' class know, Year 2CS will become **Year 2VG**, as Miss Gray becomes the class teacher in this class. Both Mrs O'Brien and Miss Gray will remain in these roles until the end of the school year, with **Mrs Duncan** joining our school in January to cover classes across school and teach in Year 2VG each Friday. Also in January, **Mrs Skinner**, from our Lancaster Avenue Nursery, will come to work at our Darlington Street Nursery providing cover in our Reception classes, as Miss Davies prepares to start her maternity leave in February 2024.

### Class attendance updates:

Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%
YR:KB	93.3%	Y1NT	94.8%	Y3ES	93.5%	Y5HJ	93.8%
YR:TK	94.9%	Y1/2TL	96.3%	Y3/4EH	94.2%	Y5/6GC	95.9%
		Y2CS	95.7%	Y4NC	93.7%	Y6AM	94.0%
Whole school attendance: 94.7%							

\*%s are up to and including Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

As I stated at the start of the school year: *'Good attendance at school is not just valuable, it is essential. Going to school is directly linked to improved performance in school which should in turn lead to further learning opportunities and better job prospects for your children. As well as this, good attendance helps your children to develop positive relationships with others and a sense of responsibility. Therefore please ensure your child is in school, on time, every day to benefit from all that St. George's Central has to offer.'*



**2024 will see St. George's Central continue to offer your children a rich and varied range of opportunities: please ensure they are in school on time every day, so they do not miss out!**

*Please ensure you ring school at the start of each day that your child is absent so we can account for all our children.*

***'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

**\*\*Thanks to your donations, we raised £298 for Children in Need and £458 for the Poppy Appeal\*\***



**Year 1 'sleepover'** – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November saw some of our Year 1 children return to school for a fun-filled sleepover in our school hall. The children had a great time dancing to their favourite songs and playing party games before settling down for supper and a movie. The following morning, the children enjoyed breakfast in the hall before going home for a much needed rest. A fantastic time was had by all.

**Road Safety Week** – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November saw the start of Road Safety Week with the theme 'Let's talk about speed'. The children have learned important road safety messages, including why safe speeds are so vital for safe and healthy journeys. The Mental Health Ambassadors have designed and displayed posters to share this knowledge with our school community.



**Visit to St. George's Church** – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November saw our Reception classes enjoy a visit to St. George's Church for the morning. During the visit they performed songs from their Christmas nativity and heard the Christmas story. The children listened as Rector Martin, our Reception governor, shared information about the important work he undertakes in church and the community.

**Library visits** – Over the last few weeks, different classes across school have visited Tyldesley Library. They have enjoyed looking around the library, learned about how to lend books and have taken part in colouring competitions and craft activities. All classes enjoyed listening to Joanne and Zoe from the library reading different books.



### **Christmas at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery**



Click the links below to view our Christmas performances.

Year group	Performance details
Reception (both classes)	Children performed <a href="#">'The Bossy King'</a>
Year 1 and Year 2 (all children)	Children performed <a href="#">'Hay Presto'</a>

Congratulations and well done to all the children who took part in the performances this year. Thank you for all your help and support with providing costumes and helping the children to learn lines. A big thank you should also go to all the school staff involved with the shows who not only prepared the children for performances, but also ensured that all photographs were uploaded to Seesaw and that a final recording of the performance was ready to be shared for you to enjoy. You can see from some of the comments from our school visitors' book below how much people enjoyed all the opportunities to see their children perform:



*"What an amazing show! You were all fantastic. Well done x"*  
*"Splendid performance!! They sang and acted magnificently."*  
*"Amazing show, proud of all the children. Merry Christmas."*



Thank you to everyone who attended all the performances. Through purchasing raffle tickets at school based performances, you helped to raise **£436**, which was then used to fund Christmas parties and events in school. Thank you for your continued support.



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### Musical performances and school choir events



Parents/carers of children in Year 4 were recently treated to a tuned percussion performance from the children in Y4EH and Y4NC. 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 – this term, the children have been learning to play plastic percussion instruments, such as the bamboo tamboo and the cups. It was a great performance from the children. After Christmas, the children will be learning to play a different percussion instrument and there will be another whole school performance just before Easter.

Our school choir has been involved in a few events over the last few weeks. Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November saw our children taking to the stage in Tyldesley Market Square to mark the switching on of the Christmas lights. The children performed brilliantly, singing a variety of traditional and more popular Christmas songs in front of an extremely large audience. Last week, the children sang at the Rotary Club Community Carol Service at St. George's Church. It was great to see our children sing: 'When Christmas Comes to Town' and 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree'. It is pleasing to see how our school continues to take a central role in all community-based events.



Additionally, this week, our half-termly musical performance took place with our choir being joined by our musicians from across school so that they could perform to the many visitors who came along. As well as hearing the choir sing, it was great to see some of the children who learn instruments in school perform for everyone. The next musical performance in school will be on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024**.

**Thanks to all the families who attended and supported these musical events and to Miss Gray who brought the children together.**



**Table Tennis Taster Session** – On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November, children from St. George's Central joined with children from seven other schools to take part in a Table Tennis Taster Session at Fred Longworth High School. Thanks to coach, Mr Gregory, from Fred Longworth High School for leading this session.

**KS2 'Strictly Schools' Dance Competition** – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November saw some KS2 dancers take part in the first ever 'Strictly Schools' Dance Competition against six other schools. The children have worked incredibly hard, learning different styles of dance and difficult routines to songs such as 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams and 'No Excuses' by Meghan Trainor. Well done to the children who finished as **runners up** in this event.



**Zumba Taster Session** – Some Year 5 and Year 6 children took part in a Zumba Taster Session. The session was led by Anna Collins from Astley Zumba. Zumba Taster Sessions for Year 3/4 and Year 1/2 children will take place in the new year.

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

**\*\*'Access to Success' Boccia Competition\*\*    \*\*KS1 Sportshall Athletics\*\*    \*\*Mixed and Girls' Football\*\***  
**\*\*KS2 Dodgeball Competition\*\*    \*\*Y3/4 Yoga Taster Session\*\*    \*\*'Active Minds' Team Building' Competition\*\***

***'Never settle for less than your best'***

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## January/February 2024

Attached to the newsletter email today is our **Spring Term 2024 (1<sup>st</sup> half) dates letter**. Click [here](#) to view this letter. Paper copies of this are available in our entrance area. It will be a busy start to the year and so please make sure you continually refer to this letter so that you know when things are happening. Earlier this week, our **Spring Term (1<sup>st</sup> half) extra-curricular clubs letter** was emailed to you. Click [here](#) to view this letter.



**Class based Worship themes** – During the first half term of 2024, children will be focusing on the following:

**School Value:** Trust

**Reflective question:** How do we know we trust someone?

### Forest School sessions



This year has seen the introduction of Forest School sessions as part of our curriculum offer. Our approach with this has been that each year group has spent part of Friday within the Forest School with Miss Killian leading the activities. So far, children in Year 5 and Year 4 have experienced these sessions. When we return to school in January, for the first half term, it will be the turn of children in Year 3



(parents/carers of these children should have recently received a letter about this). The first Forest School session for Year 3 children will be on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January. As Miss Killian is leaving our school today, staff from Wigan Council 'Be Well' team will be leading these sessions with our children. These staff members have recently been in school to meet with Miss Killian and the children and so we are very much looking forward to these sessions continuing successfully, as they did during the Autumn Term.

**Reception starters 2024** – Applications need to be submitted by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2024** for your child to start in our Reception class in September 2024. Please ensure that if you have a church card to support your Reception application you hand this in at the school office by **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024**.



Yesterday, our KS2 Carol Service took place in church. This is always one of the last events of the year and, for me, it very much signifies the start of Christmas. This is the final newsletter of 2023. School doors will re-open for children on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024** at both our Darlington Street school site and our Lancaster Avenue Nursery site. Thanks again for all your support over the past 12 months. It is very much a team effort to ensure that we all follow the mantra of 'Never settle for less than your best'. I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

Mr M Grogan – Headteacher



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