

St George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery



Newsletter – Friday 29th September 2023

It has been a great first month back in school. It looks like the new children in our nurseries and reception have settled into school life, with all other children quickly getting back into the swing of things! One of the extra-curricular clubs we have on offer each half term is the 'Green Room Club'. It is the children in this club who produce the digital version of the newsletter and so please click the link to view this version: <https://youtu.be/otYi4OVXHGA>

It was pleasing to see so many of you at our 'Meet the teacher' meetings during our first week in back in school and it was great to welcome our Reception parents/carers and Rector Martin into school for our 'Welcome to our school Worship' last week.



*****Please let your child's teacher know if you require a school laptop so that your child can access all our wonderful online resources for their home learning activities. We have laptops ready to re-issue so please let us know in school*****

Attendance – 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. See below for current classes and whole school attendance:



Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%
YR:KB	96.3%	Y1NT	96.4%	Y3ES	93.7%	Y5HJ	93.2%
YR:TK	97.2%	Y1/2TL	93.0%	Y3/4EH	91.5%	Y5/6GC	98.6%
		Y2CS	97.7%	Y4NC	96.5%	Y6AM	94.0%
Whole school attendance: 95.3%							

**%s are up to and including Friday 22nd September 2023*



2023/2024 School Impact Plan Summary – Each year we develop key priorities for each area of school and set about putting actions into place in order to achieve these via our annual School Impact Plan. We usually have 5 key priorities, with actions to support our improvement in these areas across school. We have a detailed plan in place, for each priority area. For your convenience we have summarised, and listed for you, 3 of the key ways that we are aiming to make positive progress towards achieving each key priority this year, click the link to view our

[2023/2024 School Impact Summary document](#)



Nursery/Reception swimming sessions – There was something new for St. George's Central a few weeks ago as some of our Nursery and Reception children enjoyed their first swimming session at The Pelican Centre. It was wonderful to see the children having fun whilst learning important skills at the same time. Over the course of the school year, all Nursery and Reception children will be



having a group of six swimming sessions. We are sure the children will enjoy their sessions and gain lots of water confidence.

'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



KS1 Curious Critters visit – On Tuesday 12th September, Curious Critters came to visit children in Key Stage 1 to help them with their learning in Science about different animal groups. The children were able to see a variety of animals and learned about the characteristics of different animal groups. Let's hope Danny from Curious Critters didn't leave any of his creatures behind when he left!

Y5/6 Poet visit – Children in Year 5/6GC and Year 6AM have been working with local poet Lou Courtney from the For Tyldesley Group. They have taken part in a series of poetry sessions looking at a whistle stop tour of language from the development of numbers, through to how letters in the English language got their shape and how rhyme was developed. The children created and performed some of their own poetry on the theme of nature.



Y5/6 Mosque visit – As part of their history topic on the Golden Age, children in Year 5 and Year 6 have recently enjoyed a visit to Zakariya Jaam'e Masjid Mosque in Bolton. Here the children were given the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Islamic culture and experience some of the practices followed by another religion. They explored the different parts of the mosque, learned about the Quran and the importance of prayer in the Islamic religion.

European Day of Languages – This year's European Day of Languages took place on Tuesday 26th September. We celebrated this by having a whole school worship introducing the ideas of European Day of Languages as well as thinking about why learning languages is so important. Our KS2 children then spent part of the day researching geographical facts about a European country, looking at artwork by a famous artist from that country and learning some basic greetings in the language of their country. We came together again in a sharing assembly at the end of the day to share all that we had learned.



Parent/carer workshops – It was great to see so many of you at our recent workshops. Thanks to Mrs Leech and Mrs O'Brien for leading our whole school 'Inclusion workshop' and thanks to Mrs O'Brien, Miss Taylor and Mrs Leech for leading the Reading and Phonics Workshop for KS1 parents/carers. Please see below for other upcoming parent/carers workshops:

Date	Event
Thursday 5 th October	Reception Reading and Phonics Workshop for Reception parents/carers: 3:30pm – 4:00pm & 6:00pm – 6:30pm.
Monday 9 th October	Maths Workshop for Year 5 and Year 6 parents/carers – 9:00am – 9:45am & 6:00pm – 6:45pm.
Tuesday 10 th October	Maths Workshop for Year 3 and Year 4 parents/carers – 9:00am – 9:45am & 6:00pm – 6:45pm.
Wednesday 11 th October	Maths Workshop for Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers – 9:00am – 9:45am & 6:00pm – 6:45pm.
Thursday 12 th October	Maths Workshop for Nursery and Reception parents/carers – 9:00am – 9:45am & 6:00pm – 6:45pm.

School photographs – Don't forget..... We will receive our first visit of the year from the school photographer on **Tuesday 3rd October**. On this day he will visit both our Darlington Street School site for the morning and our Lancaster Avenue Nursery site for the afternoon. Please note:

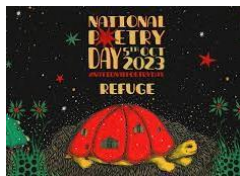


- *photographs will be taken of children either individually or with school based siblings (see next bullet point);
- *only children who attend St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery will be photographed;
- *any Darlington Street Nursery children who do not usually attend Nursery on a Tuesday morning are invited to school at 9:00am to have their photograph taken;
- *any Lancaster Avenue Nursery children who do not usually attend Nursery on a Tuesday afternoon are invited to nursery at 1:00pm to have their photograph taken.

All children have their photo taken and a 'sample' will be sent home for you to decide if you would like to complete any purchases.

'Never settle for less than your best'

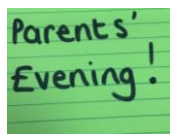
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National Poetry Day – Next Thursday is National Poetry Day: an annual mass celebration that encourages all to enjoy, discover and share poetry. This year, the theme is Refuge. To celebrate this in school we will be receiving a visit from poet Louise Fazackerley who will work with classes across school delivering some creative reading and writing workshops. The children will come together at the end of the day in a celebration assembly where they perform a variety of poems. Like last year, your children will be learning a

poem over the course of each half term so that they can perform it to others across school/in class. Each poem has been carefully selected so that it links to other topic areas that your children will be learning about and you will see in your child's year group how there is a poem in the English section. Maybe you could learn the poem together? Click the link to view our [Curriculum Overviews](#).

Puberty lessons – This half term, children in Year 5 and Year 6 will be visited by 'HH Kids' who will be delivering a specialised puberty package to support the delivery of our PSHE and Relationships and Sex Education curriculum. Lessons will explore: visible and emotional changes during puberty, personal hygiene and an outline to the stages of pregnancy. Throughout the sessions, the children will develop their understanding of ways to manage changes, stay safe and keep healthy. Click the link to see information about **all areas** that we cover as part of the [PSHE Curriculum](#).



Autumn Term parents' evening – We are looking forward to welcoming you into school for our Autumn Term parents' evenings. We will be sending home paper copies of the parents' evening letter on Monday 10th October to everyone at our Darlington Street site and our Lancaster Avenue Nursery site. See the table below, with our 'plan' for how we will manage the Autumn Term parents' evenings:

Date	Event
Monday 9 th October	Paper copies of parents' evening letters will be sent home (please check bags)
Mon 9 th – Thurs 12 th	Select an 'evening' and a 'time slot' that would be most convenient for you
Friday 13 th October	Return your child's completed form to the class teacher by today
Tuesday 17 th October	Our teachers will meet in school to arrange time slots to coordinate times for siblings
Wednesday 18 th October	Paper copies of confirmed parents' evening time slots will be sent home (please check bags)
Monday 30 th October	Lancaster Avenue Nursery Parents' Meetings throughout the week Parents' Evening in the school hall for the following classes (3:30pm – 7:00pm): Darlington Street Nursery, Reception: KB, Reception: TK, Y1NT, Y1/2TL, Y2CS
Tuesday 31 st October	Parents' Evening in the school hall for the following classes (3:30pm – 7:00pm): Y3ES, Y3/4EH, Y4NC, Y5HJ, Y5/6GC, Y6AM
Wednesday 1 st November	Parents' Evening in the school hall for the following classes (3:30pm – 7:00pm): Darlington Street Nursery, Reception: KB, Reception: TK, Y1NT, Y1/2TL, Y2CS
Thursday 2 nd November	Parents' Evening in the school hall for the following classes (3:30pm – 7:00pm): Y3ES, Y3/4EH, Y4NC, Y5HJ, Y5/6GC, Y6AM

For all appointments, please ensure that you arrive 5 minutes before your allocated time. In order to ensure we are able to accommodate all families, there will be a time limit of 10 minutes. I will be available in the school hall on all school based evenings should you need to speak to me – no appointment will be necessary for this. I look forward to seeing you then.

Reception starters 2024 – The link on the Wigan Council website for 2023 Reception places opened today: [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.



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Class Worship and Musical Performances in school – We have planned for the children to share their learning with you from each class, via our 'usual' Class Worship approach. Before the next newsletter, **Y6AM Class Worship** will have taken place on **Friday 13th October**, 9:05am start in the school hall. There will also be regular musical performances by our musicians and our school choir throughout the year. The first one of these this year is on **Wednesday 18th October**, 9:05am start in the school hall. You are all very welcome to attend these events in school. Please note: no letters will be issued for any of our Class Worships or Musical Performances and there is no need for you to provide us with prior notice of your attendance. Simply turn up on the day and enjoy!

Stay and plays and open afternoons – Parents/carers of children in our Nurseries and Reception will be welcomed into school during week commencing Monday 16th October for the first of our 'Stay and Play' sessions. Please see either Miss Cowley, Mrs Davies, Miss Beswick or Miss Killian to sign up to one of the sessions, which will take place on various days and times during that week. During that same week, parent/carers of children in Year 1 – Year 6 will have an opportunity to spend some time in school as part of our open afternoons:



Date	Event
Monday 16 th October	Open afternoon for Y5HJ, Y5/6GC and Y6AM (2:00pm – 3:00pm)
Tuesday 17 th October	Open afternoon for Y3ES, Y3/4EH and Y4NC (2:00pm – 3:00pm)
Wednesday 18 th October	Open afternoon for Y1NT, Y1/2TL and Y2CS (2:00pm – 3:00pm)

There is no need to sign up for any of the open afternoons, simply wait at the school office for the 2:00pm start.



Bikeability sessions – Towards the end of this half term, some Year 6 children will be taking part in 'Bikeability' sessions. The children will be learning how to cycle safely on the road including signalling, positioning and how to complete safety checks on their bikes. ***A reminder for all that when bikes and scooters are brought onto our school site they are pushed and not ridden so as to reduce the risk of accidents.***

Year 1 'sleepover' meetings – At 6pm on **Tuesday 17th October**, a meeting will take place for parents/carers of Year 1 children regarding the Year 1 sleepover in school. This meeting is for **all Year 1 parents/carers** as we would like you all to hear the information about the sleepover before fully committing to your child attending. The meeting is for adults only and so there will be a crèche available for children. The 'official' letters regarding the sleepover will be sent home the day after the meeting. Last year was the first time a Year 1 sleepover took place at St. George's Central with almost all the children attending, all having a great time.



Secondary School applications – For the parents/carers of children in Year 6, do not forget to complete your child's application for Secondary School by the closing date of **Tuesday 31st October 2023**. The main information page and admissions booklet can be accessed by clicking on the following link: [Secondary School Admissions](#). You will be notified in March 2024 of the name of the Secondary School that your child will be going to.

ATSA Sports Council – Some members of the ATSA Sports Council came together at St. George's Central on Monday 18th September. Each school within ATSA selects two Sports Council members every year and so this was an ideal opportunity for the children to come together for the first time this year. The children listened to some information about ATSA before they worked with Mr Cooke to develop and discuss ideas to improve ATSA.



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

Boxing Taster Session *Poetry Performance* *Kickstarterz Taster Session* *Yoga Taster Session* *Cross Country Competition*

As well as being on the school website, there are paper copies of this newsletter available in the letter holders in the entrance area in school and at our Lancaster Avenue Nursery. The next newsletter will be sent out on Friday 20th October. Have a great month.

Mr M Grogan, Headteacher

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