

St George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery



Newsletter – Thursday 2nd April 2026

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

A busy half term has included: Reception: CR enjoying the CHIME Music project, Forest School Sessions for Year 1 children, a poet visit for World Book Day, International Women's Day celebrations, Sign Language Week and Neurodiversity Celebration Week, work undertaken for British Science Week and International Maths Day.



Class attendance updates:

Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%
YR:CR	94.3%	Y1KB	95.4%	Y3GC	95.0%	Y5BH	93.9%
YR:NT	95.3%	Y1/2PD	96.7%	Y3/4LB	96.9%	Y5/6RO	96.4%
		Y2TL	96.9%	Y4CB	94.7%	Y6AM	95.7%
Whole school attendance: 95.6%							

*%s are up to and including Friday 27th March 2026

If ever you are unsure about sending your child into school please click: [Is my child too ill for school?](#)

Click the link to view our [Graduated approach to attendance](#)

Nursery places for September 2026

It is never too early to have your child's name down on our nursery lists for either our Lancaster Avenue Nursery or our Darlington Street (school-based) Nursery. If you have a 2 or 3 year old child who will be needing a nursery place at either of our nurseries for September 2026 then please contact Mrs Smith at our school site (01942 883773) who will add you to our lists so that you will then receive letters in April/May inviting you to our 'Welcome Sessions'.



Reception starters 2026 – If you have applied for a September 2026

Reception place for your child, you will receive an email from Wigan Council informing you of your school place on Thursday 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.



Careers Week – Through March, our children enjoyed visits from a

nurse, a cake baker, a media manager, a dog walker and a support worker, who all shared their experiences and answered lots of questions. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged as they learned about the different skills, training and passions needed for



each role. These visits have inspired many of our children to start thinking about their own hopes and ambitions for the future.

'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 4 trip to Old Trafford – Last week, our Year 3 and Year 4 children enjoyed an exciting trip to the home of Manchester United, Old Trafford. The children had the opportunity to explore the famous stadium on a guided tour, learning about its history and seeing areas usually only used by players and staff. They also took part in a short training session, where everyone had lots of fun practising their football skills. It was a fantastic experience that everyone enjoyed and will remember for a long time.



Year 5 and Year 6 World War 2 Workshops



On Wednesday 4th March, children in Year 5 and Year 6 had a visit from Mr Nutall, who came to school and shared his experiences with us from when he was a child during World War 2. He brought in lots of different artefacts to look through and then allowed children to ask questions about his experience. The following week, children took part in a World War 2



workshop, where they explored air raids, air raid precautions, safety equipment, evacuation and rationing, and air raid precaution first aid. The children also got to handle and discover different WW2 replica artefacts and try on different uniforms.



Year 5 Brathay Hall assembly – On Thursday 12th March, the children from Year 5, who went to Brathay Hall in February, led a short assembly to feedback on their experience of their week in the Lake District. It was good to see so many of you there to listen to the children as they shared stories about the residential. Congratulations to **Louie** who was announced as the winner of the '*Alan Murgatroyd Award for Outdoor Education*' for their efforts during the week in the Lakes. Click the link to view the [2026 Y5 Brathay Hall film](#).

Mothering Sunday – St. George's Church warmly welcomed children and families from our school to celebrate Mothering Sunday. Reverend Eileen led the Service with lots of involvement from the children including sharing prayers of thanks for mother figures in our lives and singing and performing actions to songs. Daffodils were also given out by the children to mother figures in the congregation. It was a beautiful service and refreshments afterwards in 'cafe church' were enjoyed by everyone.



World Down Syndrome Day – On Thursday 19th March, our school celebrated World Down Syndrome Day with a range of meaningful and joyful activities. Children wore brightly coloured odd socks to celebrate difference, took part in discussions about what makes each of us unique, and learned more about Down Syndrome and the importance of



inclusion and kindness. We also planted sunflowers as a symbol of growth and individuality, creating a lasting reminder that everyone in our community is valued and belongs.



Thanks to your support, we managed to raise £173 on Red Nose Day. Thanks again for your support!



Year 3 Low Bank Ground trip – 28 Year 3 children recently spent a weekend at Low Bank Ground in the Lake District. The children spent time exploring the countryside, ghyll scrambling and canoeing as well as many other outdoor and adventurous activities. I am sure the children had a great time away from home, experiencing all these different activities. Family members of the children who attended are invited to a short 'Low Bank Ground assembly' at **9:05am on Thursday 30th April** where the children will share their experiences with you.

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Smithills Farm Trip – Children from our Darlington Street Nursery had a fabulous day at Smithills Open Farm on Monday 23rd March. They had a fun tractor and donkey ride. They enjoyed a hands-on experience with chicks, rabbits and guinea pigs and fed a large array of other animals and the trip enhanced the learning in school about new life and growth in the Spring. Thank you to all the family helpers who supported the trip, it was a brilliant day.



KS1 visits to Tyldesley Mining Museum – On Tuesday 24th March and Thursday 26th March, children in Key Stage 1 enjoyed an exciting visit to Astley Mining Museum. Each day included: a train ride, a visit to a mining family cottage, an exploration of the Lamp Room, an underground experience, a guided talk in the Engine House and a fossil and story-of-coal session. The children also watched a blacksmith demonstration, toured the museum site and explored the exhibits in the visitor centre.



Wider Opportunities Music – Parents/carers of children in Year 4 were recently treated to a drumming performance by children in Year 4. Each week a specialist music teacher (Mrs Lord) comes into our school to teach the children to play a different percussion instrument each term. It was a great performance by 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.



Visit from Jo Platt – Last Friday, MP for Atherton and Leigh, Jo Platt visited our school. After having a tour of our school, Jo then listened to children talk about elements of our school. This included, Year 1 children sharing their experiences in Forest School, Year 2 children talking about visits to Hillcrest, Year 4 children explaining the 'SGC Life Skills', Year 5 discussing the residential opportunities and Year 6 speaking about ATSA. It was lovely to hear the children talk about the uniqueness of our school with a Member of Parliament.

Easter Bingo – Many thanks to everyone who supported our Easter Bingo night earlier this week either through providing Easter Eggs to school or through attending on the night! It was great to see everyone coming together as a school community to raise funds to support events in school. Thanks to Mr Mortimer, Dexter's dad in Reception who donated some additional prizes (2 x VIP tickets for Bounce World!) Thanks to our school staff 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.



Musical performance – Parents/carers were recently treated to our usual half termly musical performance. As well as hearing the choir sing, it was 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 20th May 2026.

Easter Worship/Service – Thank you to Reverend Cath who came into school to lead an Easter Service for our Early Years and Key Stage 1 children. Reverend Cath talked to the children about Easter and she also brought along 'Rainbow Egg' as a special guest! Children from all classes also contributed to short presentations about symbols associated with Easter including eggs, baby animals and representations of the cross. It was a very thought provoking and reflective worship. Our Key Stage 2 Easter Service in St George's Church took place earlier today. Each class told the story of Holy Week with readings, songs and Makaton. The children were brilliant as always and we would like to thank all the parents and carers who attended.



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

School Value: *Justice*

Reflective question: *Does justice matter?*

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KS2 Swimming Gala – Eight children from St. George's Central School recently took part in a swimming gala against children from sixteen 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.

'Access to Success' Football – Thursday 5th March saw our children join with children from six other schools to take part in the ATSA 'Access to Success' Football Taster Session.



Cross Country – Children from St. George's Central recently gave up their Saturday morning to support our school in the ninth 'Graham Jackett Cross Country' event. The children competed against children from twelve other schools. Well done to our **Y3/4 girls team who finished 3rd in their category**. Thanks to all our children who took part in this event and the staff that attended too.



Mindfulness and Movement Taster Session – Some of our Year 1 and Year 2 children recently took part in a Mindfulness and Movement Taster Session. The session was led by Toni Aspinall from Toni Marie Yoga.

Residential Sports Weekend – A meeting took place for parents/carers of our four Year 6 children who will be taking part in the ATSA residential Sports Weekend at Low Bank Ground, in the Lake District, at the end of June. The children will be competing against children from four other schools in archery, kayaking, orienteering and running. As the current ATSA Sport Weekend Champions, we are hoping for a good performance from our children so that we retain the title, in what will be one of their final ATSA events representing St. George's Central.



KS1 Poetry Performance – On Thursday 19th March, the ATSA KS1 'Poetry Performance' evening took place at The Snug in Atherton. The event was introduced by poet Dommy B, who told us a bit about his work and performed some of his poems. Children from seven local schools came together to perform some poems they had been learning in school, on stage to an audience.

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Padel Taster Session – Tuesday 24th March saw 8 of our Year 6 children take part in a new ATSA event for 2025-2026. The children visited LR Padel Club to take part in a Padel Taster Session. The children (and staff) enjoyed taking part in this increasingly popular sport with children from seven other schools. Thanks to Dave from LR Padel Club for leading the session. Plans for an ATSA Padel Competition could be in the pipeline.

KS1 Dance Competition – Wednesday 25th March saw our KS1 Dance team take part in a competition against five other schools. The children danced well to 'Can't stop the feeling'. Well done to the children who took part in this event.



JuniorRox – Some Year 6 children were recently provided with the opportunity to take part in a **NEW** ATSA event...ATSA JuniorRox. This involved the children taking part, in pairs, in a series of individual events...without stopping or even pausing for breath! See below:

Event	Details	Distance/number of reps	Split
Run	Children are to run together – keep with your partner	5 laps: 250m in total	Run together
SkiErg	Pull on the SkiErg until the full distance is reached	400m in total	200m each child
Sled Push	Push the 45kg sled across the marked distance	2 lengths: 16m in total	1 length each child
Sled Pull	Step back with the 40kg sled until it crosses the finish line completely	2 lengths: 16m in total	1 length each child
Burpee Broad Jumps	Chest-to-floor burpee, then a long jump, landing with feet together	2 lengths: 20m in total	1 length each child
Rowing	Complete the distance on the rowing machine,	300m in total	150m each child
Farmer's Carry	Carry 6kg weight on each hand and walk distance	1 lap: 50m in total	½ lap each child
Lunges	Step forward into a deep lunge. Both legs must alternate.	2 lengths: 20m in total	1 length each child
Run	Children are to run together – keep with your partner.	5 laps: 250m in total	Run together
Wall Balls Squats	Hold a 2kg Wall Ball and squat hips below the knee.	50 reps in total	Children to decide

As this event was a new experience for everyone, 4 Year 6 children attended the JuniorRox Taster Session at Try Fitness Gym in Leigh. After experiencing the events as part of the taster session, two children were selected to return a week later for the JuniorRox Competition. Well done to our children who took part in both events.



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

- **'Access to Success' Multi-Skills** **Y5 Art Exhibition Sessions** **Y6 Spelling Competition**
- **KS2 Mini Water Polo Competition** **Golf Taster Session**



A 'new' staff member will be part of our school team when we return after Easter. On Friday 10th April 2026, Miss Davies from Year 3GC, is getting married and so will return to school as Mrs Sherwood. We wish Miss Davies and her partner, Ben, all the very best of luck and we look forward to 'welcoming' Mrs Sherwood to our school when we return to school.

The next newsletter will be sent out on Friday 1st May (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 21st April 2026**. Please find attached to the newsletter email the Summer Term (1st half) dates letter.

Have a great Easter everyone.

Mr M Grogan,
Headteacher

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