



Let your light shine in the world as Jesus did, with compassion, thankfulness and hope.

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our weekly Newsletter.

This week, we have been incredibly busy with many exciting events and I look forward to sharing some important updates with you too.

Have you seen our wonderful new website yet? It is at the same web address as before, but has been updated with new information and should be much easier to navigate. Please do have a look at it this weekend if you have not yet done so and let us know what you think next week!

This Tuesday we hosted a Governors Visit Day. The day included a tour around Reception and KS1 and watching our wonderful Read Write Inc. programme which is a systematic and progressive phonics programme running across all the classes. Governors also had the opportunity to watch an interactive and enthralling Destination Reader lesson taught in Year 6. They were very impressed by what they saw and were even more impressed with how swiftly St. George's has taken on these new reading programmes and could see the impact that they are having on attainment and achievement in reading across the school.

We would also like to say a very big thank you to the parents who attended our Academic Review Day last week. It was a very productive day where longer meetings with teachers meant that you now have an ever clearer understanding of your child, their learning and next steps. Parents were very positive and the teachers and children will reap rewards as we progress into the second part of the academic year.

Let's also not forget World Book Day – however, there will be a special section on that later on in the Newsletter.

Stars of the Week ☺

Each week, teachers choose one child in their class who has demonstrated exceptional learning or our Christian Values of need to update these Friendship, Kindness, Respect, Creativity, Forgiveness and Honesty. A big well done to the following children.

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Our wonderful Stars of the Week</h3> </div>						
Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
James	Lily	Genesis	John	Xanthe	Reem	Ben
Nathan	Faris	Lev	Lolwa	Ariana	Jonathan	Mohammed
Azzedine	Aya	Len	Malak	Ashley	Emad	Keira
Abel	Malik	Lorenc	Sophie	Nathan	Michael H	Sebastian
Anwar	Emma	Wells	Yasmin	Telmo	Matthew	Sara

Attendance	
Reception	92.6%
Year 1	96.2%
Year 2	97.6%
Year 3	94.1%
Year 4	97.8%
Year 5	98.6%
Year 6	96%
Total	96.4%

Well done Year 5 for winning our attendance cup this week!



Lates	
Reception	2
Year 1	4
Year 2	5
Year 3	5
Year 4	8
Year 5	3
Year 6	3
Total	30

Department for Education Coronavirus helpline

On Monday, the DfE launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Please note that no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless directed to do so by Public Health England.

Coronavirus Update

As you will be aware from letters and text messages that we have sent out over the past few weeks, St. George's is following the advice given by Public Health England. The safety and wellbeing of the children and families at our school is of great importance to us and we would like to assure you that we are doing everything that we can in order to minimise any risks to our community.

In order to help with this we have put the following in place:

- Children follow a rigorous and monitored handwashing routine
- Doors, light switches, toilets are cleaned daily by professional cleaners
- Children are reminded of the importance of hygiene on a daily basis
- We have minimised hand to hand contact and share this with the children daily
- We keep up to date with information released by Public Health England and inform parents and carers of any changes

If you believe that you may have the symptoms, please contact NHS 111 immediately.

Parent Survey

Thank you for taking the time to fill out our parent survey during Academic Review Day last Friday. Your thoughts are very important to us and will help to make our lovely little school even better. Next week we will write to you with the headlines.

Uniform

Well done to Year 4 for winning the uniform cup this week. They looked super smart with their ties done up, shirts tucked in and PE t-shirts with red trim. Well done Year 4.

Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you for the continued hard work at attendance. If your child is absent due to illness, please bring in a medical note from your GP and hand it to the office.

We need to keep an eye on punctuality for drop off and pick up please. You will be required to sign our late book if your child is later than 9.00am and if they are picked up after 3.45pm. Please make sure that you do come in with your child to sign the book.

Class Assemblies

Thursday 12th March will be the first Class Assembly for Spring 2. Year 4 are already rehearsing and getting ready for their show and we very much look forward to inviting parents and carers along at 3.00pm.

Have you got a Whirlpool, Hotpoint or Indesit washing machine?

These companies have asked us to let you know that **there is an electrical fault with some of their machines that causes them to catch on fire.**

Call freephone 0800 316 1442 for further information. If you have a dangerous machine they said they will replace it free of charge.

World Book Day

The children of St George's celebrated World Book Day in spectacular fashion this year. All of the children (and teachers!) looked wonderful in their costumes, and our school was host to many characters from well-loved stories – from a Gruffalo in Reception to Eragon the Dragon in Year 6.

Our celebrations began with a special assembly where the children had a chance to show off their outfits and to learn about the theme of this year's World Book Day, 'Share a Million Stories'. We are proud to be taking part in the nationwide campaign to help change children's lives, by making story-sharing a habit of a lifetime and creating readers for life. Our mission for 2020 is to spread a love of books and reading for pleasure, both in school and at home. You can help at home by sharing stories together throughout the month of March. Sharing a story is being read to or reading with an adult, sibling, friend – or pet – for a minimum of 10 minutes. Ideally, this takes place at any time throughout the day, from breakfast till bedtime – at the breakfast table, on the bus, in the bath, or in bed. Children will record their weekly total of shared stories on a special reading record at school, and these will be added to the live Share-O-Meter on the

World Book Day website. We even have the chance to win £1,000 of books for our school; so please do get involved and make 2020 the year of sharing stories!

The day continued with lots of activities designed to encourage our children to enjoy reading and sharing stories. All classes took part in a free book browsing session where (much to their excitement!) the children were invited to choose and take home to keep as many books as they liked! Many fantastic titles were chosen, and I hope the children will enjoy sharing these with you at home. Remember, if you have any books that you no longer need you can add them to our community book swap shelf in the playground for other children to enjoy. Additionally, all of the children were introduced to Oxford Reading Buddy, our new online home-reading programme which you can read more about in the next section of this newsletter. Finally, the teachers put on a very special story-time event, where each class was read a story by a different teacher in the school. Mr Roney dazzled Reception Class with a selection of Oliver Jeffers stories, while Mrs Saddington captivated Year 6 with a short story from the 'Unmentionable' collection by Paul Jennings. Thank you to everyone in our school community for making this World Book Day such a success!



Oxford Reading Buddy

Alongside World Book Day we have launched a new interactive reading resource for your child to use at home. We are delighted to tell you that our school is now using *Oxford Reading Buddy* as part of our whole school focus on improving reading at St George's Hanover Square. This is a digital reading service to support children's reading development at home as well as at school.

Oxford Reading Buddy contains hundreds of digital books and book-quizzes all matched to each child's reading ability. Children can earn badges for good reading behaviours, be coached in their understanding by their personal 'Reading Buddy', take quizzes and record all the reading they do. Everything is captured so that your child's teacher can see how they're getting on.

Please log in to *Oxford Reading Buddy* when your child brings home their sign-in card and have a look around. Do encourage your child to use it regularly and discuss what they are reading with them. You might be interested in watching them reading one or two of the Coaching eBooks because Reading Buddy is a good model of how to support and encourage children's comprehension skills as they read.

When your child is taking a quiz, please try to provide a quiet workspace for them, but resist the temptation to help them because their answers will help your child's teacher understand their needs.

If you don't have a tablet or PC at home, the service works on smartphone as well.

For more detailed information, go to this address and choose Parent Support: <https://support.oxfordreadingbuddy.com/> or look at the introductory video at <https://www.oxfordreadingbuddy.com/uk> .

Happy reading everybody!

Dates for your diary

Thursday 12th March	Year 4 Class Assembly 3.00pm
Thursday 19th March	Year 5 Class Assembly 3.00pm
Friday 20th March	Mothering Sunday Service
Thursday 26th March	Year 6 Class Assembly 3.00pm
Friday 3rd April	Easter Service
Friday 3rd April	Easter Bonnet Parade
Friday 3rd April	End of term 2.00pm

Thank you for all your support, it is much appreciated.

Best wishes

Ms Petra Slater, Head of School and Mrs Rebecca Harris, Executive Headteacher