



Working together for the achievement of all.

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to a new term and 2020! We hope that you had a very relaxing and rejuvenating break and are all ready for the joys that the new year holds in store.

Before we share the exciting times ahead, we must give a fond farewell and thank you to all the wonderful things that 2019 brought us. Thank you everyone for your support and partnership last year. Thank you for all the cards and gifts given to the staff at St. George's—this was very kind of you. We also need to celebrate the fact that the Christmas Fair raised over £2000 for the school. Thank you again to everyone who contributed in whatever way they could to make our community so special and united in raising funds to support the learning of the children at St. George's.

We are all very much looking forward to the forthcoming term and are delighted by how marvellously it has started. The children have all come back extremely keen to learn and develop themselves and the staff at St. George's are raring to go!

This week has seen Year 5 go on the first trip of the term, the children learning about Epiphany during Collective Worship, an introduction to our new Christian Value for the term which is honesty and all teaching and learning focused around a well balanced and rich curriculum. The atmosphere is one of curiosity and investigation and we are excited by what the term ahead will hold.

This term will also see a few changes, which will be outlined within this newsletter. These changes are there to support everyone to improve teaching and learning outcomes at St. George's. There is a focus on greater collaboration between parents and school and also the wellbeing of all.

We hope that you are as thrilled to be back as we are and look forward to continuing to work together for the achievement of all.

Stars of the Week ☺

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

		Our wonderful Stars of the Week				
Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Yam	Rocco	Henry	Htoo Myat	Sofia	Henry	Sara

Attendance	
Reception	80.4%
Year 1	87%
Year 2	91%
Year 3	90.2%
Year 4	92.3%
Year 5	95.2%
Year 6	98.5%
Total	90.9%

A big well done to Year 6 and all the children and families who were back with us for the beginning of the Spring term!

Not a very good start to the beginning of Spring Term it has to be said. **Please do not take holidays during school term time** and be reminded that when your children are not at school they are missing valuable learning time which has long lasting negative effects for them. Let's make sure that this improves next week.

Lates	
Reception	0
Year 1	4
Year 2	2
Year 3	2
Year 4	0
Year 5	3
Year 6	1
Total	12

The curriculum and school routines

At the start of the Autumn term, teachers meet parents to introduce themselves. They also take this opportunity to talk to them about school routines and policies e.g. the importance of good attendance, uniform and fun things like being able to wear your own clothes on your birthday. The teachers also discuss the curriculum content which will be taught over the next few weeks. This meeting happens at the start of each term.

At the start of each half term, teachers send home curriculum newsletters. These outline the curriculum content which will be taught over the next half term.

Academic Review Day

Parents' meetings will be take a slightly different format from this term onwards. Rather than being spread over two evenings after school, we are going to be holding these on our termly Academic Review days. This term it is scheduled for Friday 28th February. The format of these will be a longer 15 minute meeting with your child's class teacher. These will fall between 8.00am and 5.00pm. Please contact the office to book a time slot.

During these meetings, the teacher will share with you how your child is getting on and whether or not they are on track to achieve year group expectations. They will also be sharing ways that you can support your child at home.

These days are taking place as part of our INSET days. Therefore, children will not be in school on these days.

We hope that this new format will mean that there are positive outcomes and a much closer collaboration between parents and teachers in supporting your child on their learning journey.

Reports

In the past, these have been sent to parents and carers at the end of the school year. We think this is too late because it doesn't give parents and carers time to help their child with any next steps identified in the assessments carried out by teachers every January.

From now onwards, we will be reporting the outcomes of the January assessments in a new report format. This will be shared with your during the new **First Academic Review Day**. This report will be a **Part 1 mid-year report**.

Towards the end of the Summer term, there will be a **Second Academic Review Day**. At this meeting, teachers will share with parents and carers the outcomes of the end of year assessments, also giving children things to work on during the Summer, helping them to get ready for the next year ahead. This report will be a **Part 2 end of year report**.

We have refined the report formats so that they do not duplicate information already given on the curriculum newsletters outlined above. They will be easier to interpret, focusing on attainment, effort and wellbeing.

Reception

Reception Class September 2020 The deadline for applications for our next Reception Class is January 15th 2020. If you know friends or family that want to apply for places, please remind them of the deadline so they don't miss out!

NSPCC

This coming week the NSPCC will be coming in and running assemblies for KS1 and KS2 about staying safe. Year 5 and Year 6 will also have a workshop around the subjects outlined in the assemblies.



Costumes

One of our wonderful parents has come forward and suggested a fantastic idea of having a central storage of children's costumes/outfits at school. If you have any unwanted or outgrown costumes that are in good condition, would you be happy to donate it to the school? The idea is that we would then collect them, itemise them and then be in a position to rent them out to parents as and when they need them. If you need any further information please come and speak with Ms Slater.

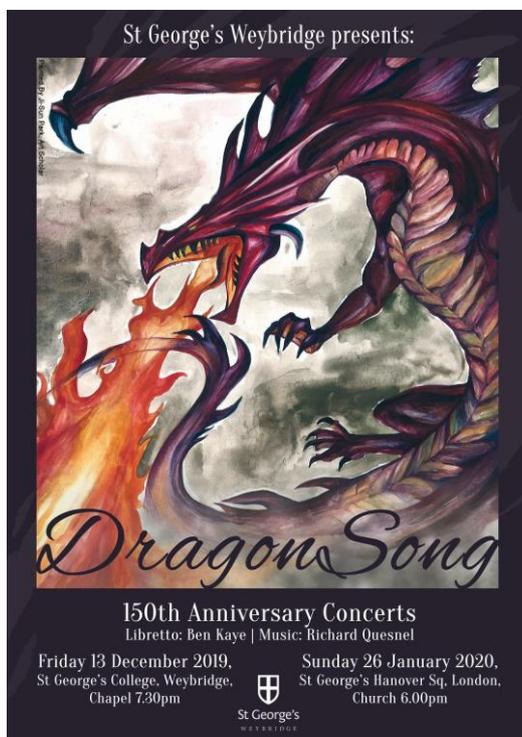
Dragon Song

We have been preparing an exciting musical collaboration with St George's College, Weybridge for an event that will take place in our very own St George's Church, Hanover Square on Sunday 26th January 2020.

Richard Quesnel, Director of Music at St George's College, has composed "DragonSong", a new musical work retelling the story of St George and the Dragon and he came to our school on Wednesday 20th November to work with the Year 5 and Year 6 children.

They learned four new songs and hymns that will be performed during the "DragonSong" concert and I am delighted that our pupils have been invited to take part in this wonderful celebration.

The concert will feature primary and secondary school children both singing and playing instruments, an adult choir, two professional singers and a professional orchestra! This promises to be an amazing event and you are most welcome to attend – the concert begins at 6pm on Sunday 26th January. It would be wonderful to see as many of you there as possible!



Safeguarding

It has been brought to our attention this week that a few parents have been trying to get to classrooms to drop off bags/lunch for their children. May we take this opportunity to remind you that parents are not permitted to walk around the school without being accompanied by a member of staff. If you need to drop anything off for your child, please leave it at the Reception front desk and we will ensure that it gets delivered. Your understanding in this is greatly appreciated.

Uniform

Well done to Year 4 for winning our Uniform Cup this week. They looked wonderful in their uniform and are a credit to the school.

Please can we ensure that the children are all coming in wearing our school uniform. This includes the school uniform black shoes and not boots. We also would like the children to tie their hair back. Again, your support in this is as always, greatly appreciated.

Birthdays and birthday invitations

As a school we have decided that we are not going to be handing out birthday invitations in class. The reason for this is that, as we entirely understand, it is not always possible to invite all children to parties. This in turn, however, can leave some children feeling left out and excluded.

We suggest that if you are wishing to invite children to birthday parties you do this in the playground or by contacting parents directly. Previously, class representatives have gathered contact details of all parents in the class in order to facilitate this.

Class Representatives

We are aware that currently we do not have specific parents allocated to the roles of Class Representatives. As Class Representative, you would be responsible for coordinating events such as cake sales, helping with our Christmas and Summer Fairs and liaising with parents. If you would be interested in taking on this role, please come and speak with Mrs Baukovic or Ms Slater.

Food and Drink

Break time snacks

All children in Reception and KS1 are eligible for a portion of government funded fruit per day. Please see below for examples of snacks children can bring for their break time.

Our healthy snacks **must not contain nuts**.

Things you can eat for your break-time snack	Things you cannot eat for your break-time snack
Fruit 	Fruit winders 
A plain biscuit 	Biscuits with jam, chocolate or any other extras 
A plain cereal bar	A cereal bar with chocolate on it
Vegetables e.g. carrot sticks 	Crisps 

Packed Lunch

All lunches could include:

- At least one portion of fruit and or vegetable (this could include dried fruit)
- Meat, fish or other source of non-dairy protein (e.g. lentils, chick peas, hummus)
- A sandwich that includes a savoury filling (e.g. egg, tuna, cheese, cooked meat)
- A starchy food such as bread, pasta, rice, noodles
- Dairy food such as cheese, yogurt, fromage frais
- A biscuit not coated in chocolate
- Crisps (baked or other low fat options if possible) or other such snack such as savoury crackers, breadsticks etc
- A bottle of water

Packed lunches should avoid:

- Confectionery such as chocolate bars, chocolate coated biscuits and sweets
- Sausage rolls and pies should only be included occasionally
- Fizzy drinks

Packed lunch boxes

Please ensure that your child brings a packed lunch box which is clearly labelled with their name (and not a plastic bag).

Snack boxes

Please ensure your child's snack is brought in in a clearly labelled container which will be stored in the classroom.

Medicines and Allergies

Our SENCO Miss Sara Keeny has been contacting parents during the past week and has now updated all the medical records and boxes in school. Please don't hesitate to make contact with her should your child's medical needs have changed.

Prayer of the Week

Lord, we pray for our school and the exciting work and learning we have ahead of us. Give us new thirst for learning and motivate us to discover and, like the wise men, always wonder at how amazing life is and God's gift to us is. Help us to be grateful for the gifts we have received.

Lord, hear us.

Attendance

Life only provides one chance to gain a childhood education. The process raises achievement and enhances success in later years. Failure to attend school results in missed opportunities disrupts a child's education and impacts on his/her attainment and life-chances.

As a result of this St George's Hanover Square CE Primary School is very proactive in ensuring good attendance. We work closely with parents on matters relating to attendance. Persistent and unexplained absences are followed up by the schools attendance officer. Good attendance is encouraged through a comprehensive and effective reward system.

Authorised Absences

These are absences where there are genuine reasons for a child being off school. In most cases this is for an illness which would mean attending school would make that illness worse or could be passed onto other children.

Unauthorised Absences

These are absences where there is no justifiable reason as to why a child is absent. This also includes children who are regularly absent even if a call is made to the office giving a reason.

Holiday Requests

We aim to minimise the amount of lost term time holidays taken in order to maximise the educational potential of every child. This can be achieved with the support of parents/carers by ensuring holidays in term time are not taken in school time unless there are exceptional circumstances. There are 175 days each year when your child is not in school when holidays should be taken. Absence for any reason during term time interrupts a child's education and disrupts educational progress. If your child is absent in the week prior or post the Christmas break, we will be asking for medical notes to support authorised absences. Learning takes place until the end of term, so please make sure that your attendance remains fantastic until the last day at 2pm.

- Pupils who take 10 days leave during term time can achieve only a maximum attendance of 94.7%, even if there are no other absences through the year.
- Research suggests that children who are taken out of school during term time may never catch up on work missed.
- Taking a child out of school in term time may give them the unspoken message that it is acceptable to be absent from school during term time.

Dates for your diary

Monday 13th January	Read Write Ink Workshop for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Parents 2.30pm – 3.00pm
Monday 13th January	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Parent Curriculum Meeting 3.00pm – 3.25pm
Tuesday 14th January	Year 3 and Year 4 Parent Curriculum Meeting 3.00pm – 3.25pm
Thursday 16th January	Year 5 and Year 6 Parent Curriculum Meeting 3.00pm – 3.25pm
Thursday 23rd January	Reception Class Assembly 3.00pm
Thursday 30th January	Year 1 Class Assembly 3.00pm
Thursday 6th February	Year 2 Class Assembly 3.00 pm
Thursday 13th February	Year 3 Class Assembly 3.00pm
Friday 14th February	Break up for half-term
Monday 24th February	Back to school
Friday 28th February	Academic Review Day
Thursday 12th March	Year 4 Class Assembly 3.00pm
Thursday 19th March	Year 5 Class Assembly 3.00pm
Thursday 26th March	Year 6 Class Assembly 3.00pm
Friday 3rd April	End of term 2.00.pm

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

Best wishes

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