



Working together for the achievement of all.

Dear Parents and Carers

What a fantastic week two we have had here at St. George's. It has been very busy, but has also been extremely productive.

A big thank you to all the parents who attended the Curriculum Meetings this week. The teachers have worked very hard in order to share all the wonderful plans for the next half term and your collaboration in supporting learning is invaluable and always appreciated.

On Monday we organised for the NSPCC to come and lead our assembly and also lead two workshops in Year 5 and Year 6 on Speaking out and Staying Safe. The children responded really well to their input and were reflective, thoughtful and mature in accessing the content that was shared. We hope that through the input of the NSPCC sessions, your children feel even more confident about how to stay safe.

Tuesday and Wednesday were very busy days indeed. Mary Thorne, our LDBS advisor, came into to school to do some work with our English lead, Miss Carmichael and our Maths lead, Mr Long. She was impressed with their knowledge and the impact of what they have been doing. She also worked with us to look at our Vision and Values which was fantastic. It is a very exciting time for our school as we move forwards into the next decade! Shelley Duffy, our advisor from the LA, also came into school to look at writing across all the year groups. All our teachers spoke eloquently and confidently about their children and progress has clearly been made since the beginning of the academic year. It was really pleasing to see how much has been achieved in such a small space of time and the positive impact it is having on the learning of the children and our school community.

Chapel Service this week took place at school. This is due to the fact that Grosvenor Chapel is currently undergoing some renovation works. Fr Roddy came and led the service and the children thoroughly enjoyed seeing him in school. We have postponed star of the week until Chapel starts again (hopefully in 3 weeks) so that you can celebrate the children's success with us. When Chapel resumes, we shall have an epic Star of the Week celebration where all the children over the weeks that we have missed shall be awarded their star.

As always, we thank you for all your commitment to our school too. We are a wonderful community and we are all working together for the achievement of all.

We wish you a very happy weekend and look forward to our continued collaboration.

Attendance	
Reception	94.1%
Year 1	97.8%
Year 2	98.5%
Year 3	97.6%
Year 4	98.6%
Year 5	97.2%
Year 6	99.1%
Total	97.7%

We are pleased to say that our attendance is back on track!
 Year 6! Well done on your second week running as attendance champions. As Mr Long commented – you are the winners of 2020. I wonder if you can keep it up or if any class can beat your 99.1% this week?
 Now we need to work on our lates – 36 is simply unacceptable and is disruptive to not only your child's learning but also that of the rest of their class.

Lates	
Reception	1
Year 1	1
Year 2	9
Year 3	9
Year 4	3
Year 5	8
Year 6	5
Total	36

Regular attendance at school promotes pupils' well-being, maximises progress in learning and helps pupils reach their potential. The attendance pattern for all children is monitored weekly with St George's seeking to work actively with parents to ensure a regular pattern is maintained. One of our basic principles is to celebrate success. Good attendance is fundamental to a successful and fulfilling school experience. It is our duty to promote 100% attendance for all children. For our children to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered it is vital that our pupils are at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.

Danceathon

As you know, the NSPCC visited our school on Monday and delivered their Speak out. Stay safe. assembly to share information with your child about how they can keep themselves safe from harm and get help if they have any worries. It was a very worthwhile and empowering session for both pupils and teachers. They spoke to the children and staff about the valuable work they do across the country, and talked about how important it is for everyone in our school community to join them in their 'fight for every childhood'.

As a charity, they can only provide these vital resources thanks to the financial support and generosity of their supporters. I am delighted to say that our school has chosen to support the valuable work of the NSPCC this term by taking part in a fundraising event, and I would really value your support and encouragement. Children will be doing Danceathon – which will not only be exciting for our pupils but will also mean they're raising money for the NSPCC's vital work and helping keep even more children safe. This will take place on Friday 24th January. Participation is purely voluntary and if you would like to support the NSPCC's work, it would be fantastic if you could make a donation on the day. Every penny raised will make a significant difference for children. By supporting the NSPCC we can work together to end child abuse.

Talking PANTS with your children

The NSPCC's work in schools will help encourage conversations about staying safe – and they have a number of child-friendly materials to help you carry on the conversation afterwards. That includes 'Talk PANTS', a simple way for parents to help keep children safe from sexual abuse – without using scary words or even mentioning sex. The guide uses the rules of PANTS to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone. You can find out more and download the free resources at nspcc.org.uk/pants. If you'd like to know more about the NSPCC's work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website nspcc.org.uk/parents

You and Me

We are writing to inform you that we are organising a fundraising challenge in our school and would love your and your child's help in the coming 2 weeks.

How does it work?

- Each child has received 5 books in a zip bag today.
- You have 2 weeks/3 weekends to sell the 5 books.
- Please return money raised and unsold books if any in the zip bag on Monday 3rd February.
- The class with the most books sold wins the Fundraising cup in Chapel on Friday 7th February.

Please see the packs that have been sent home today for further information.

Whatsapp

It's come to our attention that there have been some parental concerns raised on the YR WhatsApp group. To resolve any concerns you may have, please come and speak to us in person. Face to face discussions are always the best way to resolve any concerns you have about the well-being of your child.

Academic Review Day

Thank you to everyone for your positive response to our Academic Review Day. It is important to note that this is one of the 5 INSET days that are held annually. These 5 INSET days can be taken at any point over the academic year. We have decided to use two of the days this year to enhance home school collaboration in support of your child/ren's learning. You will now have 15 minutes to discuss your child's bi-annual report, highlighting strengths and areas for development.

Please contact the school office to book your time slot.

Reports

Costumes

We still haven't had any parents come forward or share their ideas regarding the idea of creating a central costume store at St. George's. Please come and speak with Ms Slater if this is something that you would like to get involved with.

Uniform

Well done to Reception for winning our Uniform Cup this week. The whole school is looking much smarter so thank you for your continued effort. It is always pride raising when the children are commended on looking great when we go on school trips.

Prayer of the Week

May we try our hardest and strive for achievement in our work and in our school community...and seek God's will in all things...and behave with gentleness and humility.

LORD – IN YOUR MERCY...HEAR OUR PRAYER

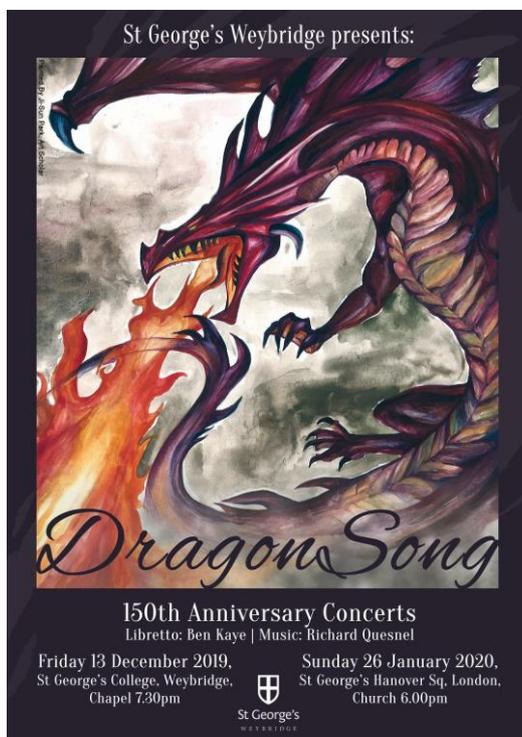
Dragon Song

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!



Attendance and Requests for leave of absence

When does my child need to be in school?

The school day starts at 9.00am. School finishes at 3.30pm.

We expect pupils to arrive by 9.00am at the latest and to be collected punctually at 3.30pm.

What happens if my child is late?

Registration finishes at 9.00am in the morning.

If your child arrives between 9.00am and 9.25am he/she will be marked late.

If your child arrives after 9.25am he/she will be marked absent.

Pupils who arrive after registration should report to the school office, and parents must sign the Late Book. If a pupil is late on more than 3 occasions in a half term a meeting may be arranged with the Ms Slater to discuss reasons/difficulties for lateness.

Will a phone call explaining my child's absence suffice?

We would expect a parent to telephone the school on the first day of absence. If you do not phone us, we will phone you. We expect a phone call on each morning of the absence unless we have been informed of a medical issue that meant the child could not return to school within 3 days.

If we do not receive an explanation, or if the explanation is unsatisfactory, we will not authorise the absence, and this will be shown on your child's end of year report.

What reasons will the school accept for absences?

Illness

- Emergency dental/medical appointment (please make routine appointments after school or during the holidays)
- Day of religious observance
- Direct Family bereavement

Except in the case of illness, you should ask for permission for your child to miss school well in advance, giving full details. In cases of recurring absences through illness you may be asked to produce a medical certificate. Any medical appointments must be verified with evidence such as an appointment card or prescription. Where medical appointments are made at the beginning of school, please ask for an appointment card to bring into school when your child returns –doctors receptionists will very quickly get used to this request as all authorities' Education Welfare Officers are giving schools the same advice regarding appointments.

What is unacceptable?

The school will not authorise absence for day trips, visiting relatives, shopping, birthdays, looking after brothers or sisters, holidays in school term time etc.

Will the school contact me if my child is absent?

The school operates a first day response to absences: we will phone you if we have not heard from you. This is because we believe it is our responsibility to ensure your child's safety as well as their regular school attendance.

If we are concerned about aspects of your child's attendance or punctuality we will contact you to discuss the best way forward.

I am thinking about sending my child on an extended absence for an overseas trip to visit relatives. What should I do?

Unless a parent is a member of their country's Armed Forces, the school will not authorise this absence, and even then each case will be taken on its' own merit. Even though we recognise that the expense is likely to be much higher, we ask that these trips be taken in conjunction with the school's official holiday periods. Please note that even for Armed Services absence, the school will not authorise absences that will take place during your child's SATs month. Holiday requests will only be considered with exceptional circumstances. Through section 444A and 444B of the Education Act 1996, it has become possible that applicable cases of unauthorised absence can be dealt with by way of a penalty notice (PN). Authorised Officers have the discretion to issue a penalty notice without warning where the parent/carer has chosen to take the child on leave without authorisation or evidence is subsequently found to suggest a child was away from school with the knowledge of the parent.

What can I do to encourage my child to attend school?

Make sure your child gets enough sleep and gets up in plenty of time each morning. Ensure that he/she leaves home in the correct clothes and properly equipped. Show your child, by your interest, that you value his/her education. Your child should bring his/her home-school book and reading book home each evening. Please ensure you look at them with your child and sign it ready for the next day.

My child is trying to avoid coming to school. What should I do?

Contact your child's class teacher immediately and openly discuss your worries. Your child could be avoiding school for a number of reasons – difficulties with school work, friendship problems, family difficulties. It is important that we identify the reason for your child's reluctance to attend school and work together to tackle the problem.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 23rd January	Year 3 on trip to Museum of London
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

