



Newsletter – Monday 17th December 2018

Our first term has come to an end. School will close for children on Friday at **3:15pm** and re – open for children on **Tuesday 8th January 2019 (first bell at 8:45am)**. Please see below for some amendments for when we return to school in the new year:

School snack

For children in Y1 – Y6, you will be able to pay for snack for the full half term ahead from the day we send out the letter up to and including the first day back in school. This will usually give you around 3 – 4 weeks to pay. On the first day back in school after each half term, there will be **FREE snack for all children**. Our aim is to have final snack lists in place for our second day in school so payment will only start from then. You can pay online, or in cash with your child via the classroom.

Extra-curricular clubs

From January 2019, there will be no extra-curricular clubs the first back after **EVERY** school holiday so that you are given that first week to register your child for a club (see the clubs letter recently sent out about how to register for one of our clubs). We will also be returning to our previous approach where **ALL** clubs provided by school staff will be **FREE** for children. The only clubs you will be charged for are ones where an external provider is used. Many of our clubs are put in place in order to prepare children for public performances: a choir performance or an ATSA sporting event etc. Therefore, please remember that in order for your child to 'qualify' to represent the school at these events, they are required to attend the clubs we put in place.

PE timetable: Tuesday 8th January 2019 – Friday 19th July 2019

Please see below for the amended PE timetable that will be in place when we return to school. At the start of this school year, we did anticipate having two 'PE plans' in place, with the second 'plan' starting after February half term when children in Year 3 and Year 4 start to go swimming. However, because of recent staffing changes, we have had to change PE days more than we originally anticipated. There will be always be change when working in a school and it is how we adapt to change and ensure everyone is aware in good time that is the key to any smooth transition. With this in mind, our new PE plan below, should now remain in place until the end of this school year. Children in Year 3 and Year 4 will come to school in their outdoor PE kit and have an outdoor lesson until February half term. When they start swimming, they will continue to come to school in their outdoor kits (which should help with getting changed). See **highlighted sections** for changes from our most recent plan that may affect your children:

Outdoor lessons: Kits needed to be worn for school on these days			Indoor lessons: Indoor PE kit needs to be in school		
Day	Class	Time	Day	Class	Time
Monday	Y1/2OB	Afternoon	Monday	Y5JY	1:15pm – 2:00pm
	Y2JW	Afternoon		Y5/6NC	2:00pm – 2:45pm
	*Y4HJ	Afternoon			
Tuesday		Afternoon	Tuesday	Y4HJ	1:15pm – 2:00pm
		Afternoon		Y3/4CS	2:00pm – 2:45pm
Wednesday	*Y3/4CS	Afternoon	Wednesday	Reception	Morning
	Y5JY	Afternoon		Y1TL	1:00pm – 1:45pm
	Y6AJM	Afternoon		Y2JW	2:00pm – 2:45pm
Thursday	*Y3EG	Afternoon	Thursday	Y1/2OB	2:15pm – 3:00pm
	Y5/6NC	Afternoon			
Friday	Y1TL	Afternoon	Friday	Y6AJM	1:15pm – 2pm
				Y3EG	2pm – 2:45pm

*A separate letter will be sent out in the new year about the arrangements for swimming

'Never settle for less than your best'



Parent/carer questionnaire results – Below are the results from the recent parent/carer questionnaire. Many thanks to everyone who returned a completed questionnaire to us in school. Remember, should you wish to ‘formally’ register your responses, then please click onto the Parent View link on our website and submit the questionnaire for our school.

93 questionnaires returned/completed

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	No response given
1. My child is happy at this school	68.8%	30.1%	1.1%			
2. My child feels safe at this school	75.3%	22.6%	1.1%		1.1%	
3. My child makes good progress at this school	65.6%	32.3%	2.2%			
4. My child is well looked after at this school	72.0%	26.9%			1.1%	
5. My child is taught well at this school	69.9%	29.0%	1.1%			
6. My child receives appropriate homework for their age	60.2%	34.4%	4.3%	1.1%		
7. This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	54.8%	38.7%	4.3%		1.1%	1.1%
8. This school deals effectively with bullying	37.6%	35.5%	3.2%	1.1%	22.6%	
9. This school is well led and managed	63.4%	33.3%	1.1%		2.2%	
10. The school responds well to concerns I have raised	53.7%	32.3%	4.3%	1.1%	6.5%	2.2%
11. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	55.9%	40.9%	3.2%			
12. I would recommend this school to another parent	YES 97.8%	NO 2.2%				

****Should you wish to discuss the results of this questionnaire, or provide any further comments, please do not hesitate to contact me in school****

Parents/carers workshops – Many thanks to everyone who attended our recent Reception Phonics workshop with Miss Booth. Our next workshop will be an E-Safety workshop aimed at all parents/carers, led by Mr Simmons. This will be in the new year. Mr Simmons will send out letters nearer the time.



School choir events – Our school choir has been involved in a few events over the last few weeks. First, they sang at the turning on of the Christmas lights in Tyldesley and then there was the annual Rotary Club Community Carol Service at St. George's Church. This year our children sang: 'On a Starry Night' and 'Calypso Carol' (including solos from Eva Molyneux, Poppy Ottiwell and Caden Womersley). Thank you to all the families who attended and supported these events and to Miss Gray who brought the children together.

Year 4 Wider Opportunity Music – Parents/carers and other visitors were recently treated to a drumming performance from the children in Year 4. Our school 'buys in' to the Wigan Music Service 'Wider Opportunity Music' scheme which means that each week a specialist music teacher comes into our school to teach the children to play musical instruments. Our children learn to play a different percussion instrument each term with Mrs Lord, the music specialist who comes into our school. It was a great performance from our children. After Christmas, the children will be learning to either Xylophones or African drums there will be a whole school performance just before Easter.



'Never settle for less than your best'

School productions – Congratulations and well done to all the children who took part in the most recent school performances. I know how, in these situations, it is a real team effort in school and at home, to ensure that ‘everything is alright on the night’ and so thank you for all your help and support with providing costumes and helping the children to learn lines. A big thank you should also go to all the adults involved with the shows. You can see from some of the comments from our visitors’ book below how much people enjoyed all the opportunities to see their children perform:



“Brilliant performance from everyone, captured Christmas beautifully”

“A fab performance by everyone – lovely singing”

“Fantastic – what Christmas is all about!”



Thank you to everyone who attended the performances and purchased raffle tickets – your contribution helped to raise **£486** which was then used to fund class Christmas parties. The money raised from the ‘Cauliflower’ Christmas cards, **£213**, also helped contribute towards Christmas events for your children – thank you for your continued support.



Theatre trip – Last week, children from Reception to Year 6 travelled to the Opera House in Manchester to watch Cinderella. The show was a great success and enjoyed by all. Thanks to Mrs Morris for organising this annual event and thanks also to the PTFA who ‘part funded’ the trip.

Nursery treat – Children in nursery will receive their annual visit from Kevin the Clown later this week as part of their party day. Like last year, nursery children from Lancaster Avenue will be coming to our school to spend part of their day seeing our special visitor. Thanks again to the PTFA who also ‘part funded’ this for our nursery children.



KS2 Carol Service – On Thursday morning, all KS2 children will be walking to St. George’s Church to take part in our very own carol service. This will start at 10am and will involve the children telling the story of the first Christmas through a mix of narration and songs. All members of the St. George’s Central community are invited to this. We hope to see you there.

Christmas disco

This will take place on **Thursday 20th December** at the following times for each year group:

3:30pm – 4:30pm for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Children to bring their disco clothes to school and remain in school at home time to get changed.

5:00pm – 6:30pm: for children in Year 3 – Year 6

The disco will be **£2 per child** (*CASH brought to the school office)

There will be some light refreshments included for the price: children will not need to bring any other money on the night.

***Please confirm your child’s place by bringing money into school before the disco so that we can collate accurate lists of children attending.**

Service in school – Friday 11th January will see Rector Martin lead a service in school for all our children and families within the St. George’s Central community. Our ‘Eucharist for Epiphany Service’ will take place in our school hall, starting at 2:30pm. You are all very welcome to attend this. I hope to see you there.



Reception starters 2019 – Applications have almost closed for parents/carers to submit an application for their child to start our Reception class in September 2019. Applications need to be submitted by **15th January 2019**.



Open afternoon with Headteacher forum – The third open afternoon with headteacher forum of the school year will be on **Wednesday 23rd January, between 1:30pm – 3:00pm for Nursery, Reception and KS1 parents/carers only.** The original plan was for this to be at 5pm – 7pm as a ‘drop in’ session to meet with me, however, this proved unpopular last year as people fed back to me that they preferred the chance to work alongside their children in class during the school day before joining me in the school hall or library to enjoy some refreshments and to ask me questions about school life. It’s quite an informal afternoon and provides you with the opportunity to gain an insight into life at our school.

‘Never settle for less than your best’



Table Tennis taster session – Children from St. George’s Central were recently joined by children from four other schools to take part in a table tennis taster session at Fred Longworth High School. Thanks to Mr Gregory from Fred Longworth High School for leading this session.

KS2 Dance festival – A team of children from St. George’s Central School took part in a Dance Festival at 180 Dance club, with children from six other primary schools. Well done to Millie Briggs, Tegan Davies, Amirah Edwards, Poppy Hampson, Heather Highlands, Eva Molyneux, Noah Molyneux, Stefanie Parkinson and Mia Riches who made up the St. George’s Central team.



Climbing Wall taster session – Children from St. George’s Central were recently joined by children from four other schools to take part in a climbing wall taster session at Howe Bridge Sports Centre. Thanks to the Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles Team and staff from Howe Bridge who lead the two sessions our children attended.

Y5/6 Dodgeball festival – Monday 3rd December June saw the Y3/4 dodgeball team take part in a festival against other thirteen other schools. The team successfully managed to qualify, from their group, for the final where they met Hindsford. In a great final I am pleased to inform you that the team successfully **won to become the 2018/19 Y5/6 dodgeball champions!** Well done to: Mia Atkinson, Bradley Graham, Ben Green, Tommy Hampson, Alec Highlands, Finley Horsefield, Ike Iwelu and Madison Medley who made up the winning team.



Shakerley Mosaic installed – Tuesday 4th December saw the mosaic that our children had been involved with designing and making, installed at the entrance of Shakerley Community Centre. Funds secured by ATSA earlier in the year meant that in October, the children were able to join with children from other schools alongside artist, Stephen Charnock, to piece together the designs. The designs the children were working with had been submitted as part of the Shakerley Easter Fun Day. It was great to see the children who have been involved at each stage return to see their final piece of art work in place.

Before the next newsletter, children from St. George’s Central will be taking part in/going to watch:

Graham Jackett Cross Country Challenge **KS1 Sportshall Athletics** **LIVE British Cycling Championships in Manchester**

Class attendance update:

Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%
YR:EB	92.18%	Y1TL	96.61%	Y3EG	96.48%	Y5JY	96.53%
YR:NL	97.06%	Y1/2OB	97.29%	Y3/4CS	93.27%	Y5/6NC	95.85%
		Y2JW	95.18%	Y4HJ	96.26%	Y6AJM	96.94%
Whole school attendance: 95.79%							

*%’s are up to and including Friday 7th December

This is the final school newsletter of 2018, I hope that this has been a great year for you. For me, the last few months in school have shown me how much we all share that love and care for our children. It is clear we have a committed group of people all wanting the very best for every child in our school. I would of course, like to thank you as parents/carers for all your support over the past 12 months. It is my role to ensure that we all follow the mantra of ‘Never settle for less than your best’ and we could not do that with the children without your help – it is very much a team effort. I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you all in 2019.

Mr M Grogan - Headteacher

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