

JANUARY 2023

NEWSLETTER

Tel: 01562 824206

Email office@stgprimary.org

Website: www.stgprimary.org

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a busy start to the Spring term however the children have settled well into their routines. As a school we have been revisiting our 'Show Me Five' throughout the school day and this has resulted in clear, consistent expectations for all our children. Please ask your child about 'Show Me Five' and how we use them for our behaviour and our learning.

Recently, we had a review to assess our 'Reading Offer' at St George's. Many strengths were identified including the positive impact on our systematic, synthetic phonic programme taught daily in Early Years and Key Stage 1. Furthermore, it was recognised that now we have purchased the Accelerated Reader Programme for Key Stage 2, children across the school are able to choose books that are matched to their reading ability. Books across the school have been coded and children, after an assessment, are able to select a book that is appropriate for them. We have enhanced our reading offer by purchasing a selection of books written by a variety of authors to reflect diversity.

A point for reference is for school to work with parents/carers to encourage reading at home. Mr Harris, our Reading Leader is launching a whole school reward system to encourage all our pupils to read at least three times a week. Each class has a reading challenge and love to move across the challenge board to achieve success. Please support us with reading at home.

Our Educational Mental Health Practitioner, Lorena, continues to support children across the school. She has been delivering a range of workshops to promote positive mental health and wellbeing. Lorena has introduced 'Rainbow Breathing' which is used daily to encourage children to relax and use their breathing to regulate their emotions. It would be lovely to encourage your child to teach you this technique. We are looking forward to Lorena sharing some new breathing and relaxation techniques in the future.

The staff are in the process of arranging some after school activities for the children. There will be details to follow when the staff have finalised the activities.

The Year one children are looking forward to taking part in swimming activities after half term. The letter with all the detail will be sent out from Mr. Carrette this week. The other Year groups have enjoyed gaining confidence in the water and it would be really beneficial if you continue to visit the swimming bathes on a regular basis to encourage water safety.

There is a Year one Parent/Carer phonic workshop being planned for the morning of 13th February. The workshop will begin at approximately 9.00am when you have dropped your child off at school. Please sign in via the main school office. The workshop has been organised to inform you about the Year one phonic screening which will be taking place during the summer term. Any parent of a child who did not pass the phonic assessment last year or did not take the screening assessment will be invited too. Please try and attend this important workshop as it is very important. We are always keen to support parents with knowledge and resources, so if you have any further ideas regarding future workshops, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.



Mrs Clare Snape
Headteacher

Attendance

JANUARY 2023

The target this year is to ensure all children have at least 96.2% attendance.

Attendance for the month of January was 91.62%.

Thank you to all Parents and Carers for ensuring that their child/ren attend school and are punctual for the start of the school day. Good attendance has a positive impact on your child's well-being and educational outcomes.

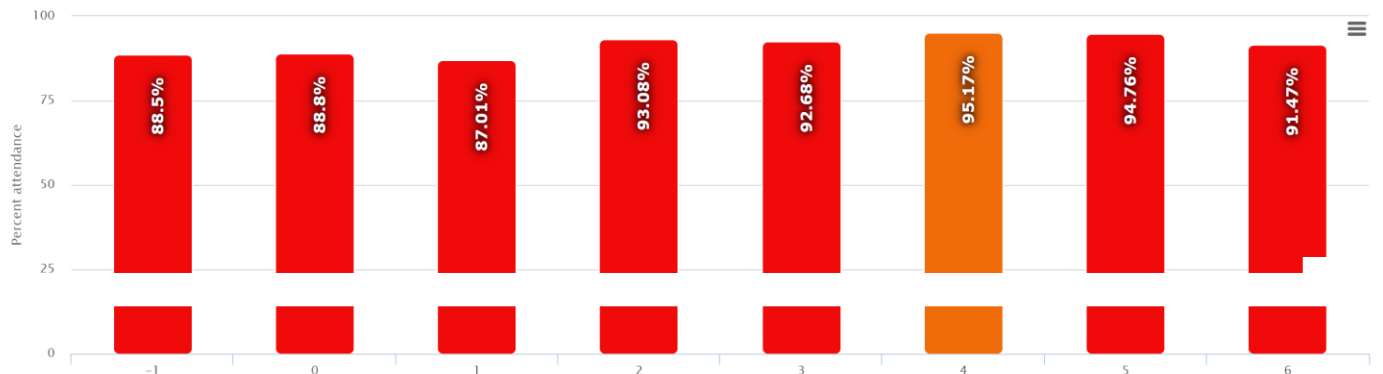
We do know that from time-to-time children are really too poorly to come to school. If this is the case, please ring the school office by 9.00am on 01562 824206. Phones are manned from 8.00am but an answerphone service is available before this time. It is important that you inform school if your child is unwell.

We have an exciting lucky dip starting that will take place every Friday for 2 children who have 100% attendance for that week at school. Let's aim for 100% attendance!



We will be sending out an attendance newsletter outlining everything you need to know about attendance at St George's- keep a look out!

January's Attendance



Please see below a table of attendance for each class.

	Last Week	This Term	This Year
Rec (-1)	88.13%	88.8%	91.22%
1	84.72%	87.01%	86.96%
2	92.67%	93.08%	94.08%
3	94.29%	92.68%	94.22%
4	94.48%	95.17%	95.36%
5	94.96%	94.76%	92.23%
6	86.9%	91.47%	91.19%

Values



"I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Nursery and Tots

Welcome to all of our new starters in tots, we are really proud of how they are starting to settle independently. We have been learning how to become more independent by trying our best to hang up coats, put water bottles on the tray and even to try and put coats on by ourselves. If you can practise any independent self-help skills at home, we would be very grateful. In Nursery we have started to learn about tracing early marks carefully and some of us are starting to learn how to write the letters in our names.



We have been learning about the weather and have enjoyed painting different types of weather and explaining what clothes we have to wear when it snows or rains. We have had the most amazing time learning about colour mixing and painting the biggest rainbow ever!



share too.

In Nursery we have been learning familiar stories and trying to retell them using toys or in a story map, the children have been amazing at this. We have all enjoyed learning about 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and even found a bear in the forest during Forest School.

Please remember to look through the Nursery and Tots learning journeys, which are available at the beginning and the end of each day. Feel free to add comments and bring in photos which we can

RECEPTION

Reception have had a really good start to the new year and have continued to settle in well after the Christmas break. The children have been very busy in their learning! Here are just some of the things we have been up to...

In Talk4Writing, we have explored the key texts of 'Rosie's walk' and 'Mr Gumpy's Outing'. The children become really familiar with our key texts and we use lots of story retelling and hands-on activities, like role play and puppets to facilitate this.



In Topic, we have learnt all about our locality and the community surrounding St. George's. We started by discussing the different features in our



school and created large-scale maps and constructions from this, before we then went on to explore the different buildings and places surrounding our school, like St. George's church, St. George's Park and shops etc. The children really enjoyed creating maps of their locality.



The children are continuing to work really hard in their Phonics sessions and we are super proud of the progress they have made with learning their Set 1 sounds and their abilities to segment and blend sounds in simple words to read! Thank you to all of you at home, who are continuing to read with and support your child with Phonics at home. Please could I remind you that your child's Home-School Link Book should be sent into school with your child, **every day**.

Over the next few weeks, we are having a big push on recognising the first six 'Special Friends' in Read Write Inc. These sounds are digraphs (where two letters, make one sound); ng, th, sh, qu, ch and nk. These sounds will be sent home, so you and your child can practise recognising these at home too! If you have any questions or would like any further support, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Reception Team.

Thank you for all of your continued support and cooperation. 😊

The Reception Team

Miss Austin and Mrs Smith

YEAR 1

Year one have had a great start to the new year! We have been writing our own versions of the story 'Lost and Found' by one of our key authors Oliver Jeffers. This has led us onto our topic work all about Antarctica! Ask us why a polar bear can't eat a penguin!

In maths we have been learning all about addition and subtraction!



We also loved making our Christingles!



Please remember that reading is really important! The school expectation is that you read with your child at least three times a week and this is recorded in your child's home-school link book. Every week your child does this, they move up the reading challenge and after a few weeks will get a prize! This really does help your child progress academically and we appreciate your support with. Thank you.

Miss Mills and the Year 1 team 😊

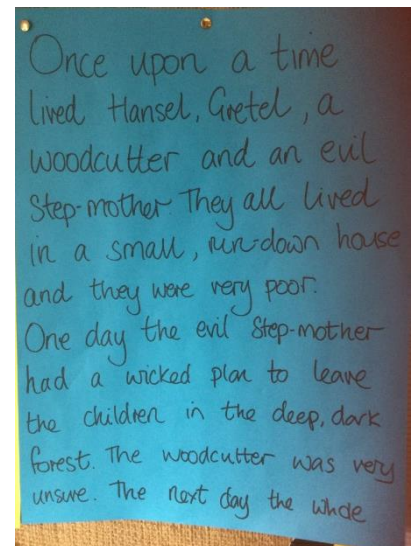
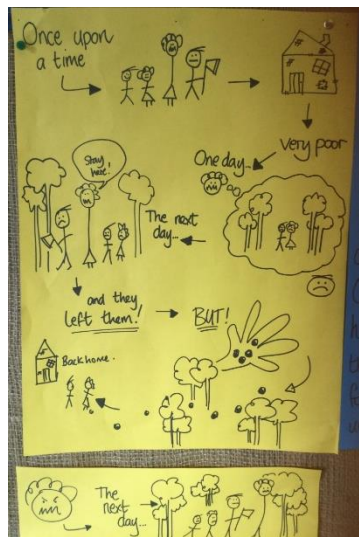
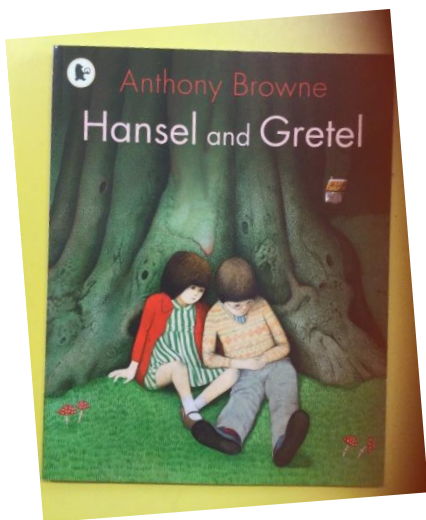
YEAR 2

Year 2 have been using a version of the traditional tale Hansel and Gretel, written by our focus author Anthony Browne. We have been using the key principles of Talk for Writing to enhance and improve our story telling skills. By orally rehearsing sentences and creating story maps to help tell the story before we begin writing, we have improved communication skills alongside our writing. We have focused on story structure, character development and using adjectives to create detail.

Our Maths curriculum has so far covered multiplication and recognising and using money and we will be further consolidating our knowledge and application of Addition and Subtraction.

Year 2 have also explored and investigated Aboriginal Art, looking at cave paintings and symbols to tell stories and convey messages, we have begun to use colour and pattern to create our Aboriginal designs.

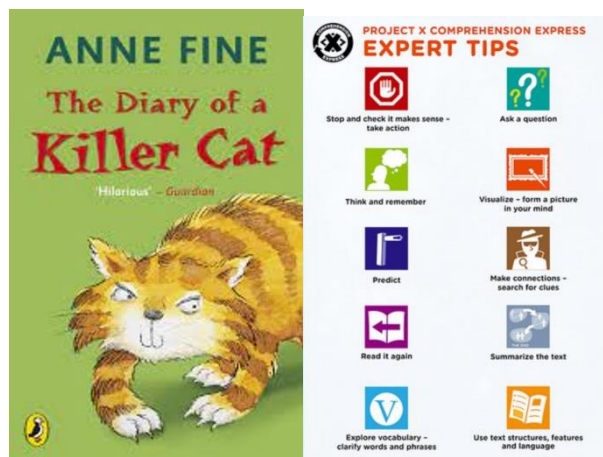
This term we began swimming on Tuesday afternoons, an important life skill and fantastic experience for our young learners. We are making great progress; conquering our fear of the water, developing our swimming techniques, and learning to float and dive under water. In addition to this, we are learning gymnastics.



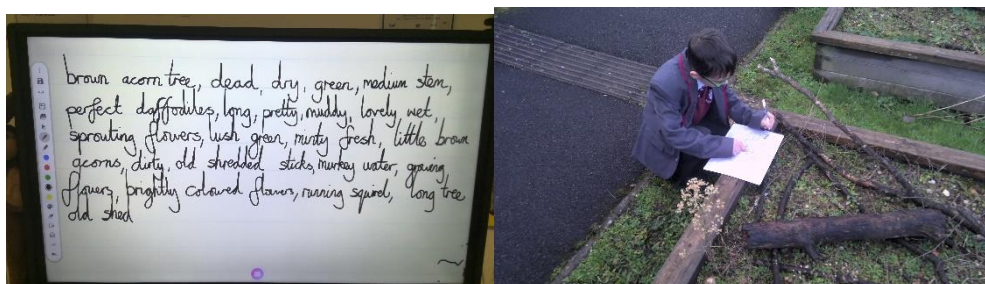
YEAR 3

In Year 3 we have had an excellent start to the year, embracing the new visible consistencies which have been deployed throughout the school and I am proud at how quickly the Year 3 pupils have adapted to the change of routines.

In our Reading lessons, we have left behind the comprehension booklets from RWInc and began to investigate and analyse the novel 'The Diary of a Killer Cat' by Anne Fine (who is one of our class authors). The children have been enthusiastic to use their expert tips to find clues in texts, search for definitions in dictionaries and predict what Tuffy the cat will get up to.



In Writing, we have used the narrative driver, 'The Promise' by Nicola Davies, to provide us with some very descriptive adjectives from which we were able to build a detailed picture. We discussed how a promise can help to persuade and began to investigate the best ways to persuade someone to do/think as we wished. We took inspiration from the book and ventured into the sensory garden where we felt it needed to be improved. Thus, we started drafting persuasive letters for what needed to be done to turn the "shrivelled dead leaves" into a paradise of "leafy visions".



In Maths, we have just completed our second unit of work on Multiplication and Division where we looked at dividing numbers that left a remainder!

In Science we are researching the different properties of rocks and drawing connections between this and our work on rivers in Geography. We have begun to look at how some rocks can be eroded faster than others.

In Geography, we have begun to research the river Nile and its path through Africa, consolidating our knowledge of rivers and reflecting on the impacts that they have, on both human and physical geographical features.



We have been very lucky this year to have the opportunity to start to learn the basics of playing the violin. This has been something that we have all loved!

In PE this term, we have been embracing our creative sides and constructing our own games, slowly incorporating more equipment into them to make the games more advanced and enjoyable. We particularly enjoyed joining up with other groups to teach them how to play our games.

Please note that reading books are changed every Monday and it is the expectation that pupils read at home at least 3 times weekly and that this is recorded in the home /school link book. Spellings are also added to this book every Monday and children are tested on them at the end of the week. In addition, the homework is released on Monday and collected on Fridays. This work is important to embed key skills which are vital for progression in school. Both homework books and reader books are checked regularly, and we urge you to support your child to complete these by the respective deadlines.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation and we look forward to another exciting school term,

The Year 3 team

Mr Bell and Miss Steward

YEAR 4

Year 4 have been working really hard this half term and we have been using our Expert Tips across the curriculum to help us explore new vocabulary, make connections and much much more.

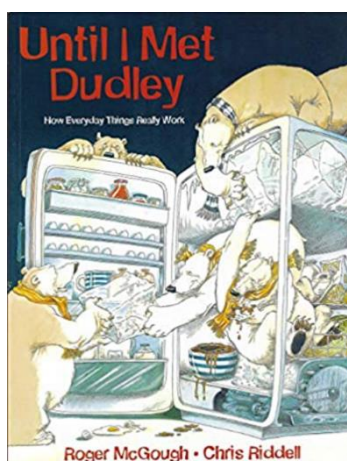
In our Reading lesson, we have been exploring the story 'Journey To The Centre Of The Earth' where we have made some fantastic predictions, explored vocabulary by acting out Professor Liedenbrock's 'stride' and have written their own book review.



In Maths, we have had an emphasis on our timetables as the Year 4 timetables assessments are not too far away now. We have been looking at patterns in the timetables to help us remember them more, as well as starting to practise them during our morning mission time. Currently, we are looking at length and perimeter and the children have really understood the comparison of

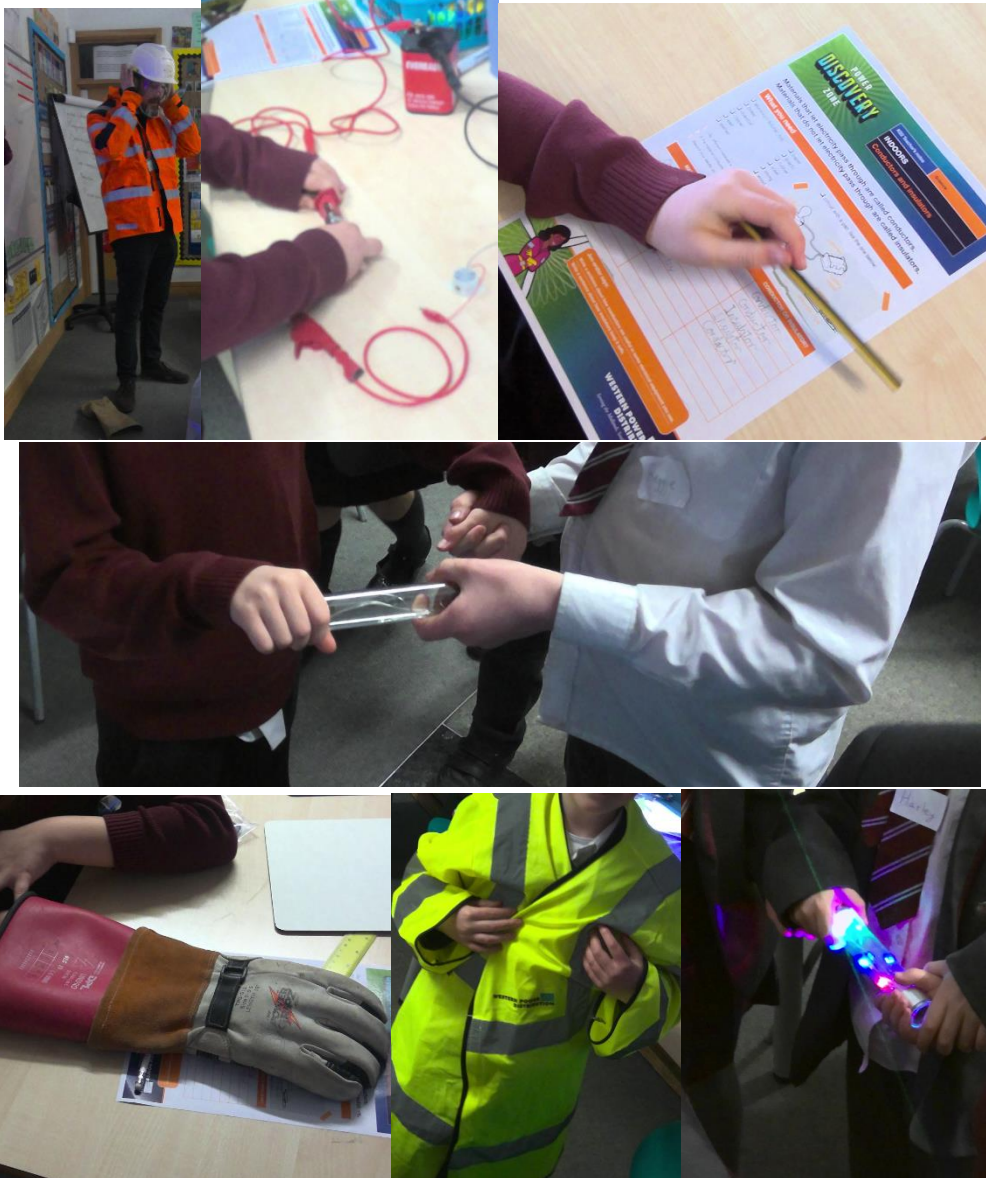
1000 metres= 1km.

In Writing, we have been looking at both fiction and non-fiction in our book 'Until I Met Dudley'. We have looked at the language features used by the author and have then created our own explanation of a 'cat feeding machine'. After adopting the same non-fiction language features, we thought we would have a go at writing how a star catching machine would work, allowing us to use our imaginations to create a fictional piece of writing.



In PE I have been so proud of how the children have matured where they can be seen problem solving and working hard to learn the lessons skills. We are currently looking at volleyball and gymnastics. Can I remind the children that volleyball lessons take part outside and it can be quite cold at the moment so please ensure your child has a warm sweatshirt/tracksuit. Gymnastics is taught inside and the children must wear their school PE kit/or similar, in order to take part. Suitable PE kits should be worn to ensure the child's safety on apparatus.

In Science we had an exciting visitor who came to talk to us about electricity, how we should respect it but also what amazing things we can do with it. We looked at open and closed circuits using wires as well as our bodies. We used terminology such as conductors (allows electricity to pass through it like our bodies being predominantly water) and insulators which stops electricity passing (such as rubber and wood. The children had so much fun trying on his very own uniform that he needs daily to stay safe



Reading books are looked at every Monday and it is the expectation that pupils read at home at least 3 times weekly and that this is recorded in the home link diary. As the children are given more responsibility in Year 4, they can write in their diary themselves and it is their responsibility to remember it too.

A massive thank you to all your support and cooperation and if there is anything you would like to talk to me about, please don't hesitate to ask

The Year 4 Team

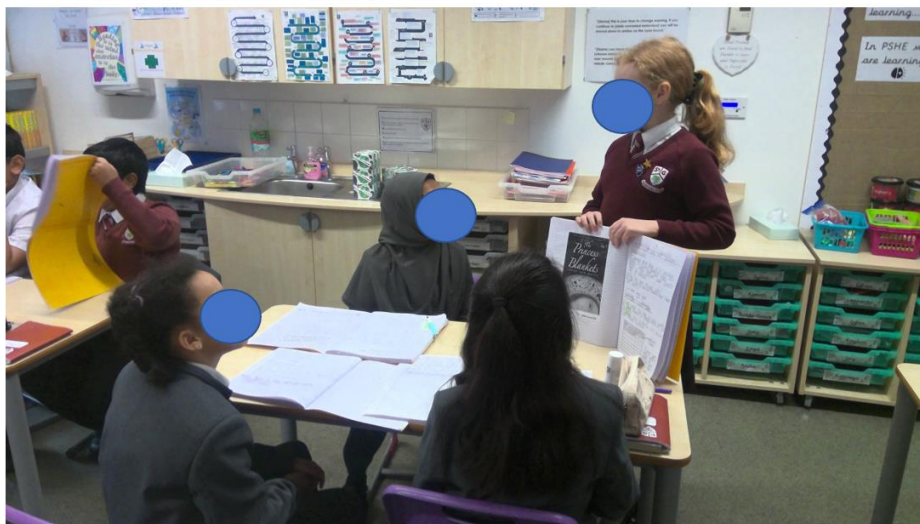
Mr Carrette, Ms Moraity and Mrs Wilcox

YEAR 5

Year 5 has been working really hard coming back from the Christmas break. We started with looking at our New Year goals for 2023 and how we can apply that to our positive classroom ethos. We also introduced our important 5 visible consistencies which is expected to be always shown and represented throughout the school.

In Reading, we started the class text 'Holes' by Louis Sachar, where we have met the character Stanley and follow his journey at the juvenile centre for 'bad boys' Camp Green Lake. We started off the topic by predicting what the story was about using the title and front cover.

In Writing, our text focus is 'The Princess' Blankets', which is a story about a Princess who spends her days cold and can never warm up. We are looking at how to persuade and are leading up to write a speech from the King to ask the kingdom to support the royal family in finding a cure. We have applied modal verbs to create a 'Dragon's den' style pitch where the children came up with their own ideas to warm up the princess. We have also looked at relative clauses and emotive language to start to prepare for our speech, ensuring that the kingdom feels sorry for the princess and therefore needs to help her.



In Maths, we have started the topic of fractions, during this time we have been looking at finding equivalent fractions, converting mixed numbers to improper fractions, converting improper fractions to mixed numbers, comparing/ordering fractions and adding/subtracting fractions. All

children have kept a fraction wall in their maths books and have referred to these where necessary.

In Science, we have started our topic of Earth and Space. We have been introduced to the different planets in our solar system and had class debates on whether the Earth was flat or spherical using scientific evidence. We have also looked at phases of the moon, we used Oreos to represent this (and of course we got to eat some).



Please continue to talk with your children about what they get up to at school, this contributes embedding their learning and deepens their understanding. Please ensure you are reading with your children AT LEAST 3x per week and practising their spellings daily.

Monday and Tuesday is still our PE days and please continue to bring Forest School clothes on Friday.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Wellman and Mrs Appleby.

YEAR 6

It has been a very busy start to Year 6 this year with a huge push of test practice getting ready for SATs, parents' meetings for SATs and Llanrug and also focusing on our new topic 'Around the World'. Around the World is a Geography based topic that sees the children get a better understanding of the way that the world is being effected by global warming.

In this edition of the Year 6 updates, we thought that we would focus on a few reminders for the children and you at home.

SATS

Thank you for those of you joined our SATS information meeting at the start of the month. It was really useful and we are very grateful for the support that you are giving your children. Please view the following link to see the PowerPoint that was shared in that meeting [Year 6 SATs 2022 Presentation for Parents, Carers & Guardians \(stgprimary.org\)](#).

Also, if you haven't already and would like to purchase the 10-minute SATS Booster revision books that we are selling, then please purchase them on the Teachers2Parents app. If you would like any support for your revision at home, then please see the following link for supporting documents:

[Free KS2 Maths Worksheets For Year 3 To Year 6 \(Mastery Teaching\) \(thirdspacelearning.com\)](#)

[Literacy Shed Plus - Literacy Shed Plus - Teaching Resources Made Easy](#)

Llanrug

Our Year 6 residential to Arete Llanrug is approaching next week. Please ensure that the children have everything they need for the trip using the kit list that you have been given. We would like the children at school by 8:15am on Monday 6th February please so we are ready to leave at 8:45am. If your child requires any medication then they need to bring this along in a labelled envelope with the completed administering medication form that your child brought home last week. We will communicate with adults at home via the Parents2Teachers texting service so please do not send your child with a mobile phone or device. Also, if you would like to pick up your child from 1pm on Friday 10th February, then that would be great (a more accurate time will be shared on Friday 10th the February due traffic and the journey home!). We are all super excited and we hope that your child is to- we're sure that you will enjoy the rest too!

Reading

Finally, we would like to send a reminder about reading at home. As a school, we would like to see our children reading at least three times over week. We would like to thank the children and parents who are supporting us with this, however, a large number of children are not meeting this goal. We would like to remind you that it is important to read with your child or ensure that they are reading three times per week. Please note that their reading record needs to be signed each week by an adult at home. Thank you for your understanding and we drive forward to improve our reading offer at St George's.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Year 6 Team

Fire service visit



Nursery and Tots had a wonderful visit from the Fire Service on Tuesday 7th February. The children were amazing and asked some wonderful questions to find out some more information. The fire fighters allowed us to use the hose and we all pretended to be real firefighters! The children were so excited!!!! The fire service has asked if all parents could fill in a short questionnaire about fire safety and return this to school. They have also said for you to be aware that if you currently don't have any smoke detectors in your house to contact the fire service.

[01562 823 649](tel:01562823649)



Important Dates for Your Diary:

LLANRUG RESIDENTIAL Y6 - MONDAY 6th FEB – FRIDAY 10th FEB

SCHOOL CHOIR - AT SHRUBBERY CARE HOME - WEDNESDAY 15th FEB

BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM – THURSDAY 16th FEB

TED DAY – FRIDAY 17th FEBRUARY – CHILDREN NOT REQUIRED IN SCHOOL

RETURN TO SCHOOL – MONDAY 27th FEB

DONATIONS PLEASE

We are looking for donations of spare uniform please! We especially need skirts, trousers, socks, tights and underwear. If you have any that you would be willing to donate, please send it to Reception/Year 1 via the main school office. Thank you.

Items for junk modelling! We are looking for cereal boxes, tissue boxes, kitchen paper tubes etc. (not toilet roll tubes or boxes of cereals containing nuts thank you). If you have any, please send either straight to Year 1 or via the main school office. Thank you.

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility

If you feel a child is at risk of immediate harm and needs immediate protection phone the police and the Family Front Door on **01905 822666**.



We are offering an 'after school provision' throughout the week at St George's for the **all the children**. Your child/children will have the opportunity to do some **creative and engaging activities** and will be provided with a **hot snack** if they choose to stay for the **later slot**.

- After school club starts at **3.00pm**.
- There will be two slots available for the 'Little Pears'.
- The first slot will run from **3.00pm-4.30pm** at a cost of **£5.00**.
- The second slot available is from **3.00pm-5.30pm Monday – Thursday and 3.00pm till 5.15pm on Friday** at a cost of **£6.50**.
- If your child is staying until **5.30pm**, they will be provided with a hot snack. Hot snacks e.g., 'beans or cheese' on toast.

If you would like your child/children to attend 'Little Pears' after school club, please contact office@stgprimary.org or ring on 01562 824206.

Please contact us as soon as possible, so we can ensure that we can facilitate your wishes.

School Term Dates September 2022 to July 2023

HOLIDAY	SCHOOL CLOSSES ON	SCHOOL TED DAYS	SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON
SPRING HALF TERM	Thursday 16 th February	Friday 17 th February	Monday 27 th February
EASTER	Thursday 30 th March	Friday 31 st March	Monday 17 th April
MAY DAY	Monday 1 st May		Tuesday 2 nd May
SUMMER HALF TERM	Friday 26 th May		Monday 5 th June
END OF SUMMER TERM	Friday 21 st July	Monday 24 th July Tuesday 25 th July	N/A