

DECEMBER 2025



St. George's
C of E School

NURTURE, LEARN, SUCCEED

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



Message from the Headteacher:

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the autumn term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly wonderful and busy few weeks at our school. It has been a term filled with learning, creativity, and community spirit, and I am incredibly proud of everything we have achieved together.

First and foremost, I would like to thank our children for their hard work, enthusiasm, and resilience. They have embraced every opportunity to learn and grow, and their efforts have been evident in all aspects of school life. A huge thank you also goes to our dedicated staff, whose commitment and care ensure that every child is nurtured and supported to succeed. And of course, to you—our parents and carers—for your continued support and encouragement. It really does make all the difference.

This term has been full of festive highlights. Our **Christmas Nativity** was a joy to watch, showcasing the talents and confidence of our pupils. The **Carol Service** was a beautiful occasion, bringing us together in song and reflection, and the **Christmas Fayre** was a fantastic success—thank you to everyone who contributed, attended, and helped make it such a warm and welcoming event. As a school community, we raised the grand total of **£713.36**, which we will be using to enhance play provision during breaktimes for the children. Our first purchase is a portable sound system to encourage the children to sing, dance and perform during their breaktimes. They love this!

As always, our school vision—**Nurture, Learn, Succeed**—has been at the heart of everything we do. We strive to create an environment where every child feels valued, learns with curiosity, and achieves their very best. This term has been a shining example of that vision in action.

As we head into the Christmas break, I hope you all find time to relax and enjoy the company of loved ones. This season is a special opportunity to pause, reflect, and make memories together. On behalf of everyone at school, I wish you a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

We look forward to welcoming the children back in January for another exciting term of learning and growth.

Warmest wishes

Clare Snape

Head teacher

Attendance December 2025

The target this year is to ensure all children have at least 96% attendance.

Attendance for the month of December was 93%. Sadly, this is below our target of 96%.

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 9.15am on 01562 824206 or email, if you prefer, office@stgprimary.org. 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. If you are unsure whether to keep your child off school or not, please see the visual across:

What are we doing to reward good attendance?

We want to celebrate 100% attendance and good class attendance. As part of this, we are rewarding each class with a certificate for meeting our 96% or above target. We will display each class's weekly attendance on a display for the children to see every day in the school hall.

Well done to those children who have had 100% attendance so far this year and in December- they will go into a prize draw for some exciting prizes! We have Safari Park tickets and art sets up for grabs!

Well done to Year 5W for the best attendance in December with 98.4%.

In the new year, we would love to see improved attendance in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2- if you require any support, please talk to a member of the team.

UK Health Security Agency

NHS

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No
but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

SCAN ME

Advice and guidance
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>



Reception	83.9%
Year 1	85.6%
Year 2	90.0%
Year 3	94.1%
Year 4	96.0%
Year 5CM	95.3%
Year 5W	98.4%
Year 6	98.0%

Top Tips for Safety

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

Top Tips for a Tech-free Christmas

12 Top Tips for Children & Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



#WakeUp
Wednesday

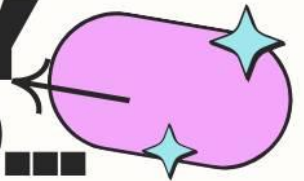
The
National
College

Who do you contact in an emergency when school/hubs are closed?

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**.

WHO TO CONTACT WHEN THE FAMILY HUBS ARE CLOSED...



LISTED ARE SUPPORT SERVICES SHOULD YOU NEED THEM



If you are worried about the safety and welfare of children and young people living in Worcestershire -
Worcestershire Family Front Door - 01905 768020



24 hour Domestic Abuse Helpline -
West Mercia Women's Aid - 0800 980 3331



If you need someone to talk to -
Samaritans - 116 123



Are you, or is a young person you know, not coping with life? -
Papyrus - 0800 068 4141



Always call 999 in an emergency

Provided by:


Herefordshire and Worcestershire
Health and Care
NHS Trust

BARNARDOS

In partnership with:

Delivered on behalf of
 **worcestershire**
county council

Nursery



On the 10th December Nursery enjoyed a visit from **Ross the Magician!**

Ross arrived and wowed us with a fabulous magic show for the parents and children. Sharing problems with us about a monkey whose tail fell off, Dave the dog who kept weeing and he even made us marshmallows from tissue paper! To finish Ross gave all the children a magic balloon.

After the children enjoyed an activity morning with their grown-ups, they made paper hats for the party and paper chains for their Christmas trees. They also made reindeer food. The parents enjoyed tea and coffee and decorated biscuits which they shared with their children.

We all had a wonderful morning.

The Nursery Team

EYFS/KS1 Nativity

Whoops-A-Daisy Angel



What a truly magical performance our Early Years and Key Stage 1 children gave in our Nativity! The hall was filled with smiles, laughter and festive cheer as the children confidently sang, spoke their lines and shared the Christmas story.



We are incredibly proud of everyone for their enthusiasm, courage and hard work.

A huge thank you to our parents and carers for your continued support — from helping the children practise at home, to joining us to celebrate the performance. Your encouragement helped make the event so special for the children.



Well done to all our children for a fantastic Nativity and for spreading so much joy this Christmas season!

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

The EYFS and KS1 Team 😊

Christmas Carol Service

We are immensely proud of all the children for their outstanding efforts during the Christmas Carol Service. Their hard work and commitment have made this celebration a wonderful success. We hope that the songs brought a little Christmas joy to your day and helped make the season even more special.

We would like to say a big thank you to our amazing readers, who shared our special Christmas poem with you. They all spoke with proud and loud voices and did brilliantly. A big thank you also to our wonderful, confident actors and actresses, who enabled the poem to come to life and finally a big thank you to our Reception and Key Stage One children for building The Nativity Tableau beautifully during the choir's special performance of 'We Three Kings'.

This was the very first occasion in which the choir performed together, and their dedication and teamwork were evident throughout their performances. Each child contributed to creating a truly memorable event, and we are especially proud of our soloists, who demonstrated remarkable confidence and talent. Well done, Pheobe and Noble!

Lastly, another proud moment for us all, was watching our Year Five and Six Bell Ringing Club perform their Christmas carols. This year, Reverend David introduced them to belleplates instead of the handbells, which some of the children played last year. The concentration on their faces was truly remarkable, and we could all clearly see how hard they had been rehearsing. All four tunes played were incredible and definitely added even more Christmas spirit to the event.

Mrs Colley-Mardell



The Church and School Partnership Award Presentation



On Wednesday, 10th December, we held a special celebration at school to mark a fantastic achievement: we were presented with the Gold Award for the Church and School Partnership Award! We were thrilled to welcome many important visitors who joined us for this momentous occasion. The award was presented by Bishop Martin of Worcester, and we're proud to say that we are the first school in Worcestershire to receive this prestigious Gold Award.

The celebration was a joyful event, filled with beautiful singing from the whole school. We also shared a community acrostic poem and heartfelt stories from some of our children, who have been actively involved in serving our community. One of our favourite things to do is to visit Brook Court Care Home, and it was wonderful to hear the children share their experiences and the joy these visits bring.

It truly was a remarkable event, and I want to take this opportunity to extend a big thank you to our entire St George's family. Without everyone working together, this award wouldn't have been possible. The support and dedication have made a real difference, and I am so grateful.

While we're celebrating this achievement, we're also determined to continue our work alongside the church to support our local community. So, keep an eye out for future events—we have plenty more planned! Let's keep the momentum going and make an even bigger impact together.

Mrs Stewart

Worship & RE Lead



School Term Dates September 2025 to July 2027

<u>HOLIDAY</u>	<u>Last Day at School</u>	<u>SCHOOL TED DAYS</u> <u>School Closed</u>	<u>SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON</u>
SPRING HALF TERM	Thursday 12 th February	Friday 13 th February	Monday 23 rd February
EASTER	Friday 27 th March		Monday 13 th April
Mayday	Monday 4 th May		Tuesday 5 th May
SUMMER HALF TERM	Thursday 21 st May	Friday 22 nd May	Monday 1 st June
END OF SUMMER TERM	Friday 17 th July		

School Term Dates September 2026 to July 2027

<u>HOLIDAY</u>	<u>Last Day at School</u>	<u>SCHOOL TED DAYS</u> <u>School Closed</u>	<u>SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON</u>
AUTUMN TERM 2026			Tuesday 1 st September
AUTUMN HALF TERM	Friday 23 rd October	TED	Monday 2 nd November
CHRISTMAS	Friday 18 th Dec	DAYS	Monday 4 th January 2027
SPRING HALF TERM	Friday 12 th February	TO	Monday 22 nd February
EASTER	Thursday 25 th March	BE	Monday 12 th April
Mayday	Monday 3 rd May	ANNOUNCED	Tuesday 4 th May
SUMMER HALF TERM	Thursday 28 th May		Monday 7 th June
END OF SUMMER TERM	Wednesday 21 st July		