

St. George's CE Primary School

Our School Motto - "Bringing faith and education together"

Newsletter
Monday 11th
September 2017
Term 1 Issue 2



Key Dates

Monday 11th September

Oak Class begin part-time schooling

Wednesday 13th September

Music for School
Presentation to pupils-pm

Thursday 14th September

Music@Malling Workshop
for Cedar and Willow
Oak Class start lunches
from today

Friday 15th September

Individual & Family
Photos from **9:00am**
'7 Billion Ideas Day' for
Sycamore Class
Swimming starts for
Cedar (Group 1) & Willow
Classes

Monday 18th September

Oak Class Parents Lunch
Music Lessons begin

Tuesday 19th September

Oak Class Bible Service
Music for Schools Parents
Presentation - **1:30pm**

Wednesday 20th September

'Meet the Teacher' Q&A
See note →

Thursday 21st September

Home School Association
AGM @ **5:00pm** in the
School Hall

Dear Parents/Carers

Mr. D. Jones, Headteacher

We are already into week two of a new term and things seem to be going very well. For some of us who are perhaps slightly older it feels 'like they've never been away!' The children and staff have adjusted well to their new classes and all seem very happy and settled; long may it continue!

I must pass on a big thank you to everyone who has adapted to the new security systems in school and I have received many positive comments, despite the slight disruption, about how important safeguarding is in all schools. I have also been pleased with the new reception area which has in turn given us slightly more space in school with a new designated FLO and SENCO Office, which was much needed.

Perhaps the biggest well done should be passed onto the 18 pupils in Year 6 who sat the PESE Test last Thursday. Despite the long day, and a lot of concentrating, all the pupils showed great 'stickability' in completing the series of assessment tests and were still smiling, although very tired, at the end of the day.

As one year group moves on another one starts so it was a big day when the new intake in Oak Class, more commonly known as the 'Little Dragons', came into school in their brand new uniforms and ready for their first 'real' morning in school, which all went smoothly. Even the parents were well behaved as they dropped off their children! There are a number of events to settle our new intake into school including a Parents Lunch and a first Bible Presentation Service.

Even as I am writing this note I can see that every child in Oak Class has had a fantastic morning and by the noise they made when they left, will be really looking forward to tomorrow and the rest of the year!

These 'Little Dragons' have already been visited at home, spent time in class, met the staff (including Poppy the class puppet) been given their first reading books and of course are looking ultra-smart which puts us all to shame in the first few days back!

AN ESSENTIAL DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

This year there has been a bit of turnaround of staff with new staff joining and those remaining moving around classes. To give you an opportunity to meet your child's new teacher and to see the classroom each teacher will be hosting a Q&A session after school. These will take place after school on **Wednesday 20th September**.

More information will follow in the coming days but can I highlight that these sessions are an opportunity for you to get a feel of the classroom and routines as opposed to a formal consultation evening.

Parent Consultations will take place later on in the school year in late November and in February next year. **Attached to this newsletter is a list of key dates to help you plan your diaries.**

All Looking Nice Please!

This coming Friday morning from **9:00am** the school hall becomes a photographic studio for the morning to allow the annual Individual & Family Photos to be taken to be ready in time for Christmas. It probably goes without saying but please remind the children to look their very best and be wearing the correct school uniform!

Every day in school does matter!

Over the summer break some of you may have seen a primary school league table published by a local paper placing St. George's School in the top 50 primary schools in Kent out of over 450. I am not totally sure of the formula of how they placed all schools in a rank order but it was interesting reading. For achievement and progress the school was rated as 5 star but for attendance 2 star. Now, although I am not a great believer in league tables, as they only tell a small part of the story of a school, it does however highlight how important school attendance is. Last year our school attendance target was **96.5%** which we were on target to achieve until the latter part of the summer term. Alas a combination of illness and sadly family 'unauthorised' holidays prevented us from achieving our aim.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if this time next year I can report that St. George's has climbed the ladder again due to improvements in attendance!

Just a reminder but once again this year no holiday during term time will be granted as authorised absence. Of course no child should be expected to come to school if they are seriously ill but often pupils could come into school later in the day when they are feeling better.

So this school year can we all have a real push to achieve so that everyone gets into the habit of attending school every day.

New School Value of RESPECT!

As you will be very aware we are now working on a new cycle of six school values. This term our theme is **Respect** which will form the basis of all our Collective Worships. During Worship this term the pupils will be talking and learning about how Jesus showed respect for those around him and how we can show reverence to those and things around us. This will be expanded to include those in our community who are excellent role models for the pupils to follow.

Achievement Awards

The end of Term 6 seems such a long time ago but I am determined to print the photograph of the six achievement cup winners who are seated below. They include: Bonnie, Jimmy, Xavi, Charile, Heath and Elina. Lets hope that this year we will have many new faces holding their cups. Those currently with the cup at home can you return them to Mrs Rye ready for them to be awarded at the end of this term please.



Understanding Christianity RE Day!

Last Friday the whole school moved off the normal timetable for a 'team building event' based around the theme of 'The Bible.' Each year group throughout the day took a section of the Bible which they investigated in a range of practical ways, launching our new RE Scheme of work - Understanding Christianity.



Reminders!

Online Safety

<http://st-georges-wrotham.kent.sch.uk/staying-safe-online/>

Online safety is vitally important to ensure children stay safe whilst accessing the internet. To learn more about the risks facing our children when they use computers, please follow the link above to access lots of useful websites including:

Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP)

a police agency tackling child abuse on the internet. This website includes a unique facility that enables parents and young people to make reports of actual or attempted abuse online.

Internet Matters, an online portal giving tips on protecting children from online grooming, privacy, cyberbullying, identity theft and inappropriate content.

After School Care

Please don't forget our 'friends' from 'North Downs Kidz' for any families with Child Care issues after school. The children are taken from school to Culverstone Primary School. Details available on 07758 007842.

Want to Get On Your Bike?

Finally, KCC are offering affordable refurbished bicycles (fully serviced, clean and in a variety of sizes) for sale on

Wednesday 13th

September – they will be outside County Hall in Maidstone from 8am to 2pm. You can also donate unwanted bikes.

