

# St. George's CE Primary School

Our School Motto - "Bringing faith and education together"

Newsletter  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November  
2017  
Term 1 Issue 11

Dear Parents/Carers

Mr. D. Jones, Headteacher



## Key Dates

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> &  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Autumn Parents  
Consultations from  
**3:30pm**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November  
'Wear Red' H.S.A. fund  
raising day – chocolate  
fine please....

Friday 1st December  
FLO Coffee Morning from  
**9:00am**  
School led clubs end  
today.

Monday 4th December  
December Family Service  
from **10:00am**

Friday 8th December  
H.S.A. Christmas Fayre  
3:30pm in school hall

Tuesday 12th December  
Oak Class Nativity  
Production to Parents  
from **9:30am** & **4:00pm** in  
the School Hall

Thursday 14th December  
KS1 (Beech & Maple  
Classes) Nativity to  
Parents from **9:30am** and  
**4:00pm**.  
H.S.A. 'I believe in  
Christmas' Stall.



## Remembrance Service and Poppy Appeal

For us, remembering our past is an important part of growing up and our participation in this important community event is appreciated by the village. Last Monday Year 6 House Captains laid poppy crosses at the war memorial, reading a poem, saying prayers and taking part in the one minute's silence to remember all those who had served our country from the village. During the previous week the School Council helped with the collection for the poppy appeal which has been donated to The Royal British Legion.

## Term Time Leave!

I have received a small number of requests for leave of absence over the last few weeks. It made me think that it may be worth making the situation clear again regarding authorised and unauthorised leave. Although each case will be judged on 'its merit' it is unlikely that any request for a holiday during term will be granted. In short any request for a holiday during term time will automatically be responded to with a letter stating that the leave will be unauthorised which will in turn will be recorded on the school register and this can be accessed by the External Attendance Officer. Of course this carries the danger of a possible financial penalty which clearly we all wish to avoid. In reality the school has no choice other than to follow this guidance, from the DfE, which I and the Governors support. If you feel that your child's absence would be classified as exceptional a request can be made to the school by writing a letter to the headteacher explaining the reasons for absence

Only in exceptional circumstances will the school authorise a leave of absence, examples in the guidance suggest a close family funeral. Every single one of us wishes that every child at this school achieves their potential during their time at St. George's, but for this to happen every single pupil needs to be in school as much as possible. Can I thank the vast majority of families who work hard to ensure that their children are in school as much as possible. We are now entering the 'winter' season in school and it is very likely that children will be on occasions poorly with colds and sickness. Clearly, if they are unwell then they need to be absent from school, but please can I ask that for each day they are off you contact the school using the phone messaging service and then follow this up with a written note on the child's return.

## STONEPITTS FARM CHRISTMAS TREE OFFER 2017

Staff will know that I tend not to use the word 'Christmas' until the start of December but on this occasion I will as our local neighbours at Stonepitts Farm, Seal Chart, are once again offering donations to the school when trees are purchased. All you need to do is to produce this newsletter when buying the tree and the donation will be added towards the final donation. More details can be found at this website [www.stonepitts.com](http://www.stonepitts.com)

### Parent Consultations

Don't forget to book your Parent Consultation appointment by going to the online booking system. Spaces are being booked up quickly so please do not delay!

Our termly Parent Consultation evenings are taking place on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>** and **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November** for all year groups, with the exception of Year 6, between 3.30pm and 6pm.

### Children in Need Day

Yes, Friday was the annual Children in Need Day with all the school thinking about other children not quite as fortunate as themselves. Our usual Friday Awards Assembly was focused on this with the disaster in the Philippines very much in our thoughts and prayers. Covering Pudsey Bear, which was very popular again, raised **£224.33**, which will be donated to Children in Need. A BIG thank you to you all! The School Council has decided that this year donations from the forthcoming Nativities in Key Stage One will be forwarded to the Philippines Typhoon Appeal, so please can we all 'dig deep' to support this very worthwhile cause.

### Parent Forum 17<sup>th</sup> November

Last Thursday the Parents Forum met again to discuss all things to do with school life! A big thank you to all the parents involved – they have no special qualifications - just a desire to help move the school forward.

The meetings are completely informal, we sit together and have friendly discussions around different areas of school life.

Watch out for the minutes which will be able to be viewed on the school website. If you have any wider school suggestions to how we can improve our school further please contact your child's class rep so it can be raised at the next meeting which is being held on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018**.

### 'Futsal' ball news....

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November, Mr Shield was able to take 6 very excited boys to a 5 a side football tournament at Sevenoaks School. Held indoors, the event is not common for primary school children, using taller, narrower goals and a smaller, and heavier 'futsal' ball.

The competition was run as a round robin league, meaning that each team was able to play each other once across the afternoon. After a tough start against eventual winners St. Thomas', St George's chalked up their first win in their second match with a hard fought 1-0 battle against St Matthew's Primary.

Over the course of the afternoon, the team worked incredibly hard, with few breaks, to scrap and battle for points. The highlights included a massive 5-1 victory against Lady Boswells School and a few fantastic team passing goals. Eventually, the afternoon ended and St George's earned a very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of the 7 competing teams, with our very own Nehemiah being named as player of the tournament by the referees and officials.

Players: Ellis L, Charlie P, Rory T, Nehemiah O, George D, Levi C



There was more sporting events being held last week with our school hosting a Netball and Football 'Play & Learn' afternoon for local schools. A great afternoon of developing skills and teamwork was had by all. It was especially pleasing to see so many children making their school 'debut' and looking the part in new kits in both sports. Thank you to Mr Shield for organising the event.

## Reminders!

### Educational Sunday at St. George's Church

Many thanks to the parents and children who came to support the school and the Church at Educational Sunday yesterday. Edward led the Sunday Service, which also included a Baptism, but six children from our school supported the sermon and led prayers. There were many comments from the parishioners about how well they read so a BIG thank you to Alice, Issy, Stanley, Elina, Emma and William for doing so well.

And thank you to the teachers who also came along too!

### Online Safety

As the season of present giving is coming upon us soon just a note about 'Online Safety.' It 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 below 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, inappropriate content.

<http://st-georges-wrotham.kent.sch.uk/e-safety/>