



# St. George's CEP Newsletter

Issue 27: Friday 4th April 2025

*'Bringing faith and education together'*

'Letting our light shine' (Matthew 5:16)

**Do not let kindness and truth leave you.  
[Proverbs 3:3]**

It has been quite a week in the run up to the Easter Break! All of the children performed in great Easter services at the start of the week. The children in Key Stage 1 kicked off the day with an emotional performance, then Key Stage 2 read and sang in St George's Church and the final performance was by Oak Class to their parents – thank you all the parents and family who attended one, two or even all three performances! There were some cracking easter Hats in the competition this week, I even saw some flapping chick wings as they bopped to our I-Rockers performing their second school rock concert!

This week seventeen children took part in the District Cross Country event. There were 18 participating schools with over 350 runners in total. The sun was shining and our teams did so well - LKS2 running 800m and UKS2 1600m. Every child ran well, we sustained a couple of injuries but other team mates helped them in true sporting spirit. We also had two outstanding winners: Ebba and Oscar both coming 1<sup>st</sup> in their events!

There's been fun as the children enjoyed PTA events – the Easter Raffle Draw, Easter egg hunts with an accompanying book for each child – thank you!



## Goodbye to Miss Gower..... hello to Mrs Shield!

The children have been telling me what exciting things they are looking forward to over the easter break but it seems Miss Gower has pipped us all as she is getting married! As she returns in Term 5 she will be Mrs Shield – we wish her and hubby- to-be a very special day!

**Respect    Courage    Kindness    Forgiveness    Hope    Honesty**

You can find out about what's going on at St George's in a variety of ways:

Visit the school website: [www.st-georges-wrotham.kent.sch.uk/](http://www.st-georges-wrotham.kent.sch.uk/)

Follow us on twitter: @StGeorgesKent and Instagram: stgeorgesceprimary\_wrotham

Keep up to date with newsletters on our website and keep an eye on the class pages

**Attendance** is important and our aim is to achieve **above** 96%.

Whole school attendance this **year** so far is **95.1%**

Attendance this term:

Oak (Year R): 94.1%

Beech (Year 1): 94.3%

Maple (Year 2): 96.5%

Cedar (Year 3): 94.9%

Willow (Year 4): 95.3%

Hazel (Year 5): 94.6%

Sycamore (Year 6): 96.5%

**Congratulations to:  
SYCAMORE & MAPLE CLASS  
You are the highest attenders  
this term!**

Any other absence must be requested using our absence request form. This can be found through this link:

<https://forms.gle/3dVUrxXZt9v5REKR9>

Any request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated and, where possible, **at least two weeks** before the absence, with details of the request and full reasons. The headteacher may require evidence to support any request for leave of absence and/or request a meeting to discuss further detail.

### Times Tables Rockstars:



Thank you to Mrs Demirelli for organising the weekly TT Rockstar challenge.

We always advocate that knowing times tables is part of life skills so keep going over the easter break and see if we can get some individual prizes for those children going the extra mile with their learning!

Dojo Points Winning House for this term:

**St. David's**

### **'Letting Your Light Shine' (Matthew 5:16)**

This corner on our newsletter highlights people connected to our school who fulfill our school vision, this week that honour goes to...

**Mrs Malone**



**Thank you for the kindness you showed to many children & schools volunteering to be an official at the District Cross Country competition this week!**



### Anyone for cricket?

Some of our children have been taking part in cricket sessions recently in their PE lessons. These have been provided by the charity Chance to Shine and delivered by a coach from Kent County Cricket Club.

Cricket is a great way for boys and girls to enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle and to make new friends. Some of the local cricket clubs in our area will be running All Stars Cricket (for 5-8 year olds) and Dynamos Cricket (for 8-11 year olds) over the coming months.

This link gives information about All Stars Cricket: <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars>

Click here for details of Dynamos Cricket: <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/dynamoscricket>

Other cricket clubs in your area run their own tailored sessions for primary school children. It's always worth checking their individual website for details.

## Bringing faith and education together “Letting our light shine” (Matthew 5:16)

### Our week in pictures...





There are 190 days in a school year, which leaves 175 days to spend on whatever you choose.



Officers from Kent County Council's Kent PRU & Attendance Service (KPAS) work closely with families, schools, and other services to promote the regular attendance of children at school.

[www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-attendance](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-attendance)

POSITIVE ATTENDANCE FOR ALL

## School Attendance: A Guide for Parents & Carers



## YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

You have a legal duty to ensure your child receives a regular education at school or otherwise, which will help give them the best possible chance of success in life.

If your child is of compulsory school age and registered at a school, but absent without good reason, the school may choose to unauthorise any of those days. This could result in the council taking action against you for each child absent, including:

- A fine (known as a penalty notice)\*
- Attendance Prosecution through the Magistrates Courts which could lead to a fine of up to £1,000 or a parenting order being issued.
- An Education Supervision Order (ESO) through the Family Courts.

\*Your child's school may apply for the council to issue a penalty notice to you if:

- Your child goes on holiday without the headteacher's permission.
- Your child is absent without a suitable explanation, or none is provided or arrives late after the time the register closes.

\*You may receive a penalty of £160 for each child's absence if paid within 28 days, and reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days. However, if a second penalty is issued in a 3 year rolling period the fine is £160 with no option to pay the reduced rate. A third penalty cannot be issued in the 3 year period and therefore you may face prosecution in the Magistrates Court which could result in a maximum fine of £1,000.

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

### Too ill to attend school?

Children can attend school with minor ailments (toothache, headache, stomach ache, cold, sore throat).

If you are unsure how long your child should be absent with an illness speak with your child's school, GP or pharmacist for advice.

### Medical Appointments

All routine appointments should be booked outside school hours. Your child's school may request sight of 'medical evidence' (e.g. copy of a prescription, medicine packaging with a label or appointment card). If you are unable to do so the school might unauthorise the absence.

### Reporting Absences

It is your responsibility to notify school if your child will be absent and should do this every day until they return. If you do not respond or school has other concerns then staff may decide to visit your home in line with its safeguarding policy to check you and your child are ok.

### Absence during Term Time

Your child must not be absent from school:

- For day trips / birthdays / holidays
- If weather is bad or are running late
- To care for other family members
- Due to the illness of a parent or sibling

The school will likely authorise an absence only in very exceptional circumstances, such as in the event of a family emergency.

## EVERY DAY COUNTS

### Persistent and Severe Absence

Any child with attendance of 90% or below (regardless of the reason for any absences) is considered to be a persistent absentee by the government. This equates to 2 days off school each month. Do you know what your child's attendance percentage is? Any child with attendance of 50% or below is classed as a severe absentee.

If your child is persistently or severely absent the school may arrange a meeting with you to find out what is causing this and what is needed make things better. This may result in the creation of a formal attendance contract or referrals to services such as Early Help.

### Punctuality

Arriving late to school is unsettling for your child and can be disruptive to their teacher and other children. It is important your child arrives on time.

If your child arrives late this will be marked as so on the register. If your child arrives very late, this may be logged as unauthorised absence, even if they are in school. Be sure you know the times the school marks pupils as late.

Minutes late per day	Equals days worth of teaching lost per year
5 minutes	3.4 days
10 minutes	6.9 days
15 minutes	10.3 days
20 minutes	13.8 days

