



# St. George's CEP Newsletter

Issue 28: Friday 25th April 2025

*'Bringing faith and education together'*

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

**Our value this term is HONESTY**

**Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.  
(1 John 3:18)**

Welcome back! I can hardly believe we are a through a third of the school year and entering the summer term. The weather has been shining towards the end of the week so hopefully this is a good omen for the coming months. There has been a flurry of activity with children in Beech Class (Year 1) working on some gardening, while supporting their well-being and Oak Class (Year R) were watching birds hatching in a bird box.



Maple Class (Year 2) have also been focusing on making our school litter free. They went on a litter picking walk and then wrote me letters about how sad they were about how much litter there was and ideas to make it a better place. Henry in Year 2 gave his advice "Stop littering because it is bad for animals and the environment."

## **St George's Day!**

On Wednesday we celebrated St George's Day. We spoke in worship about the myth of St George & The Dragon and how the value of courage was needed. There was a lot of red additions to our school uniform and we loved the knights and princesses in Oak Class!



**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): 95.5%

Beech (Year 1): 93.8%

Maple (Year 2): 98.8%

Cedar (Year 3): 94.9%

Willow (Year 4): 95.8%

Hazel (Year 5): 93.3%

Sycamore (Year 6): 93.8%

**Congratulations to:  
MAPLE CLASS  
You are the highest attenders  
this week!**

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.

Heads up there is a National Maths Day on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May and I heard a rumor there might be a TT Rockstar dress up on this day so save the date and watch this space!!

Dojo Points Winning House for this term:

**St. Patrick'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...

**Henry**



**Writing a very informative letter questioning why people drop litter and the damaging impact it has on the environment, animals and the children's future!**

## Clubs starting next week!

Thank you to parents for signing your children up to our school led clubs. We have something on every day of the week to extend our school day. Can I ask that if your child is unable to attend a session then you need to inform the school office by phone call by 1pm so the adults leading have an accurate register. If your child misses two sessions, they may lose their place giving a child on a waiting list a chance to join instead.

Please remind your child about expectations of behaviour at school clubs for the enjoyment and pleasure of the children and teachers attending and leading them. If the expectations are not followed then they may be asked to leave the club by the staff member leading it.

Collection from clubs at 4.15pm will be from the main playground. The gate will be opened and the children dismissed by a staff member.



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

