



# St. George's CEP Newsletter

Issue 29: Friday 2nd May 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)**

This term is going to feel a little unusual being so short and with two bank holidays in. We have enjoyed some wonderful weather this week and thank you for supporting your children staying safe in the sun with applying sun cream, sending in water bottles and wearing hats.

Beech Class (Year 1) enjoyed a wonderful day at the Himalayan Gardens. The flowers were in bloom and created a spectacular backdrop to a place to enjoy and learn in.



Back in school we have had NSPCC workshops encouraging children to 'Speak Out & Stay Safe'. In Willow Class (Year 4) and Sycamore Class (Year 6) we have had students and teachers from Sevenoaks School come in and teach Creative Writing and Latin!! There's also been the sound of singing around the school building as classes learn different songs through the decade's, in preparation for our school's VE 80 Celebration next week.

## **May Day!**

Thursday saw the first of May arrive with record breaking temperatures. In school though we were visited by the Hartley Morris Men & Ladies, who entertained us with their dancing – they had an early start at 5.29am with the sun rising, but still had the energy to share their dances and even get us to join in and learn some too!



**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 **95.2%**

Attendance this **term**:

Oak (Year R): 96.5%

Beech (Year 1): 96.6%

Maple (Year 2): 99.0%

Cedar (Year 3): 94.7%

Willow (Year 4): 95.8%

Hazel (Year 5): 93.5%

Sycamore (Year 6): 93.3%

**Congratulations to  
BEECH 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 Girls Vs Boys!



The winners this week are THE GIRLS!

Heads up there is a National Maths Day on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May and I heard a rumour 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. Andrew'**

### '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...

**Teddie**



**We are so proud of this young man. He had an operation before the Easter holidays but has come bouncing back to school this term and he is a bundle of fun and has shown a real love for his learning!**

### What's coming up?

Don't forget it is a four-day week next week with Monday being a bank holiday. We are back in school on Tuesday and will be focusing on VE 80, there are fire safety talks, more creative writing and Latin and Cedar Class (Year 3) are going Greek. The week after our focus is on supporting our Year 6 children as they have their SATs week – they've been working really hard; I was impressed with their work when teaching them this week!

The last week of term brings class photos, class visits, athletics events and National Maths Day. It might be a short term but we are definitely packing a lot in!



## 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

