# APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER



Tel: 01562 824206 Email office@stgprimary.org Website: www.stgprimary.org

"I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

#### **Message from the Head**

Dear Parents/Carer

Another month has flown by, and we are still waiting for some sunshine!

The children are working extremely hard, and the teachers are preparing many children for statutory assessments. Phonic Screening will take place very soon, the Multiplication Checks and the Year 6 SATS. We are incredibly proud of the progress the children have made throughout the year and the resilience they show on a daily basis.

Our topic, 'Those That Came Before Us', was a huge success and some classes wore costumes with pride to launch it. Please continue to ask your children about their learning so that knowledge is reactivated and will therefore be remembered.

We are really proud of our Early Help/Supporting Families offer and it is wonderful that so many of our parents are asking for strategies to support their children. We are mindful that we would like to continue to engage with our parents, so please ask for any support or help you require. I see asking for help as a strength and not a weakness, so we welcome your engagement. Mr Modley, our Pastoral Leader, together with our SENDCo, Miss Woodward, are responsible for sign posting parents to face-to-face or online courses. We have strong links with 'Starting Well' Wyre Forest and have included details of their parenting courses in the newsletter.

This half term we have secured a Speech and Language Therapist – Gregory Douse – who will be on site every Friday morning. If you have any concerns or want some clarity regarding any Speech and Language need for your child, he will be available to speak to you if you contact the school office.

Once again, a gentle reminder to please label all of your child's uniform. Please remember that all the children at St George's take part in PE lessons so require a PE kit. With Sports day approaching, it is a priority for your child to have either pumps or suitable trainers for their outdoor games. It is not safe for children to participate in PE activities wearing school shoes.

As we are hoping the weather will be improving in the next few weeks, summer dresses are available from the school office. We are selling them at the same price as the supermarkets and we are not making any profit. We have a good supply of dresses in a range of sizes – this will help to ensure that the children wear the correct colour and style.

Mrs Jones will be contacting the parents of the children in Year 2 in preparation for their move into Year 3, as blazers are worn in Key Stage 2 as part of our school uniform. We are mindful that juggling finances can be challenging, so please do not hesitate in speaking to the office or the leadership team if you require any support. We have a huge supply of pre-loved uniform available to sell at a reduced price. So many of our kind parents donate their child's uniform once they have left St George's; this is then washed and stored in school.

I hope we all see some sunshine over the bank holiday weekend. Have a restful and enjoyable weekend with friends and family.

Kind Regards

## Attendance APRIL 2024

The target this year is to ensure all children have at least 96 % attendance.

Attendance for the month of April was 93.4%. This is below our target so let's have a big push on attendance in May!

Thank you to all Parents and Carers for ensuring that their child/ren attend school and are **punctual for the start of the school day**. Good attendance has a positive impact on your child's well-being and educational outcomes.

We do know that from time-to-time children are really too poorly to come to school. If this is the case, please ring the school office by 9.15am on 01562 824206 or email, if you prefer, <a href="mailto:office@stgprimary.org">office@stgprimary.org</a>. Phones are manned from 8.00am but an answerphone service is available before this time. It is important that you inform school if your child is unwell.

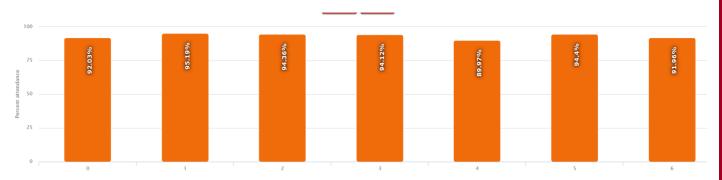
#### What are we doing to reward good attendance?

We want to celebrate 100% attendance and good class attendance. As part of this, we are rewarding each class with a certificate for meeting our 96% or above target. We will display each class's weekly attendance on a display for the children to see every day in the school hall.

Don't forget that we have two HUGE prizes to give away at the end of the academic year. We are giving away a prize to one child, drawn from a lucky dip, whose attendance has been 100% for the whole academic year. We will also be giving away a prize to one child who have received 100% for the Summer Term. The current prizes are family tickets for the Severn Valley Railway!

#### Well done to Year 1 for the best attendance in April!

#### **April Attendance**



Please see below a table of attendance for each class for the school year so far:

	Autumn Term Attendance	Persistent Absence (under 90%)
Rec	90.27%	41.67%
1	95%	12.5%
2	93.36%	21.43%
3	95.2%	16.13%
4	93.22%	36.36%
5	94.25%	13.33%
6	94.57%	20%

#### What is bullying?

Bullying is **intentional behaviour** that hurts someone else. It includes name calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumours, threatening or undermining someone.

It can happen anywhere – at school, at home or online. It's usually **repeated over a long period of time** and can hurt a child both physically and emotionally.



If you are ever concerned that bullying is happening to your child, please inform a member of the leadership team or your child's class teacher so that we can deal with it quickly and effectively. We have a **ZERO TOLERANCE** approach on bullying and aim to teach the children the effects of it using restorative approaches to restore behaviour.

#### **Online Safety- Snapchat**

Snapchat can cause significant issues and is the centre of friendship problems online.

Please see the leaflet below for information-remember it is a 13+ app!



It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up—and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some challenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone your child adds, unless they change the settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 6host Mode is enabled (again via settings). It's safest not to add people your child doesn't know in real life – especially since the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchat users to see where your child regularly visits and checks in.

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

#### **Parent Workshops**

We have been very lucky to work in partnership with Starting Well. Please sign up to our remaining coffee mornings: Understanding my child's behaviour and fussy eating! Talk to Mr Modley if you want help to book on them!





## **FREE WORKSHOPS**

- \* Looking After Ourselves
  - o 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 9.00am 11.00am
- \*Understanding Children's Behaviour
  - o 21st May 2024 9.00am 11.00am
- Fussy Eating
  - o 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024 9.00am 11.00am

Venue: St George's C of E Primary School, Birmingham Road, Kidderminster, DY10 2BX

Visit our TryBooking page to book your place or scan the QR code:

https://www.trybooking.com/uk/eventlist/startingwellpartnership



Alternatively, please get in touch with your local hub:

Brookside Family Hub, Borrington Rd, Kidderminster, DY10 3ED - 01562 827207

Half Crown Wood Family Hub, Princess Way, Stourport, DY13 0EL - 01299 877920

Email: admin.wyreforest@barnardos.org.uk













#### Reading

Developing children's ability to accurately decode new words and read fluently is one of school's most prioritised aims. Developing reading at all levels in school is an area that requires support both in and out of the classroom – reading at home is key to success. Please ensure that your child reads at least **5 times every week** and that these reads are recorded in their reading diary.

For early readers, supporting children to apply their phonic skills supports children in their ability to recognise sounds and read more words. If you need some support with **Special Friends, Fred Talk, Read the Word**, then please speak to your child's teacher or Mr Harris.

As children read more words on sight, it is still important to listen to them read aloud regularly and develop a love for reading. The time sharing a book is not only incredibly enjoyable, but extremely beneficial in developing fluency and comprehension. If this is an area you feel you require additional support, then please contact your child's teacher or Mr Harris.

An interesting initiative to support reading, called Turn on the Subtitles, is detailed below. The idea is that having subtitles on when accessing a digital device or television will automatically help develop children's reading without any further action. Such a simple action is definitely worth trying.



#### **NURSERY**

In Nursery we have been learning about 'What is at the Bottom of the Garden?' The children have been looking at spiders, caterpillars, butterflies and ladybirds. We have looked at how they are the same and how they are different. The children have also found out what they like to eat and their natural habitat. Over the past 3 weeks the children have been watching our caterpillars grow, they found out that caterpillars also use a web to protect them from birds and wet weather. This week the caterpillars have changed into a cocoon and the children are very excited to see them turn into a butterfly.







We have enjoyed lots of creative activities making spider webs by threading wool, icing spider biscuits and looking for mini beasts in our garden.







Nursery will be having a Bug Party on the last week of term we will let you know a day nearer the time.

Mrs Williams and Mrs Khan

#### RECEPTION

Reception have started their new summer term topic of 'What's at the bottom of my garden?'. So far, the children have really enjoyed learning about different minibeasts; identifying their names and features, creating observational drawings and using books to find out facts about their favourite minibeasts.

We started the topic by heading out into our outdoor area to look for minibeasts. The children loved using different resources to observe the minibeasts closely!





We also have the pleasure of looking after some new little visitors in our classroom! They were absolutely tiny when they first arrived, and the children have loved checking the caterpillar station every day to see how they have changed. The caterpillars have now formed their cocoons and the children are patiently waiting for them to transform into butterflies before we set them free!

This has linked in with our current Talk4Writing text of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle. We have explored retelling the story together over the past couple of weeks using puppets and story maps. The children have become familiar with this text, so we recommend reading it together at home or encouraging your child to tell you the story!

Thank you to those of you who are reading at home with child, please continue to write this down in their Home-School Link Book. Our expectation at St. George's is 5 reads a week.

This week we handed out letters regarding our upcoming beach trip in June and we are super excited about this! We anticipate there may be some queries or questions you may have about the trip so please do talk to a member of the Reception Team who can help to reassure you and answer any questions you may have. Thank you all for your continued support.

Miss Austin, Mrs Brettle, Mrs Hoult and Mrs Jahan 😊



Welcome back to the summer term! I am so excited for all of the super learning that is heading our way!

On our first day back we had a history 'wow' day and 'Amelia Earhart' came to see us! We got to dress up as explorers and use super props to help us learn about other explorers as well! We used actions to help us learn new vocabulary and we had such a super fun day!









In maths we have been learning about place value to 50 and now we have started our new topic on money! You can help us learn about money by helping us to pay small amounts in a shop by selecting the right coins. HSBC are also coming in to work with us to help develop our understanding of money too!

In writing we have been writing our own stories based on 'Emma Jane's Aeroplane' by Katie Haworth. We are working super hard at joining our ideas using 'and' and remembering to use capital letters, full stops and finger spaces too. We are trying super hard to use question marks and exclamation marks as well!

In science we are learning all about plants and we have been doing lots of our learning for this down in Forest School. Please remember to send your child in their Forest School clothes every Monday until half term. Please also make sure that you send welly boots if they don't already have these in school. Thank you.

One activity in science that we really enjoyed was doing a sticky scavenger hunt! We had to find lots of different flowers and stick them next to the correct photograph. We also stuck some of the other flowers that we found.

The phonics screening check is fast approaching! Thank you once again to all of the parents who attended one of the phonics workshops. Please make sure you are practising the words that we are sending home and that you are supporting your child to access the videos that we have sent home too. If you have any questions or require any further support, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please also remember the importance of reading at home! The expectation is that you read at home at least five times a week and this is recorded in your child's home-school link book. Reading is so important as it underpins all learning, so we really value your support with this.

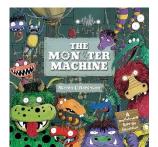


The children are now taking part in outdoor PE and will soon be starting to practise events ready for sports day! It is really important that all children have their correct PE kit in school every day. We will send them home every half term for a wash. We currently have many children who do not have their full PE kit in school. If you are not sure what your child needs, please feel free to speak to me or a member of the office team who will be able to support you.

Thank you once again for all of your support.



Whilst Mr Carrette is spending time at home with his family, Year 2 are being taught by Mr Harris and Mr Modley – under the careful supervision of Miss Steward, Miss Grant and Miss Rogers! If you have any questions or need any information, please speak to any of the school leaders on the playground or contact the school office.

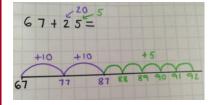


We have recently completed writing some very curious instructions on how to make a 'monster sandwich', inspired by The Monster Machine by Nicola Robinson. We had to use our imaginations to devise an ingredients list full of truly disgusting items – please be wary if your child offers to make you a

snack!

Our new writing topic is based around the successful story The Tin Forest by Helen Ward and Wayne

Anderson. We are being ambitious with our vocabulary selections to write descriptions based on the curious settings from the book. We are having a particular focus on the accuracy of our sentences so please support this with any work your child completes at home.



In maths, we have been refining our calculation skills and developing our accuracy in using number lines to add and subtract. We are also practising our 2, 5 and 10 times tables to ensure we are confident at chanting and recalling key facts. Any additional practise at home will support our learning considerably.

Across the wider curriculum, we are enjoying our learning in a range of subjects. In art, we have been looking at the work of Nathan Wyburn and developing our own collage techniques. In science, we are looking at the life cycles of different animals and will be inviting some exciting visitors to our class soon! Our athletic skills are improving in PE and we hope to show them off at sports day later in the term. Please ensure your child's full PE kit is in school every day – we will send it home at half term ready for a wash.



Please continue to read with your child at home. The expectation is that every child completes at least five reads at home each week. Please record these to help us keep track of the children's progress and interests.

Many thanks,

The Year 2 Team

On our first day back we had a History 'WOW' day where we got to dress up as Ancient Egyptians. The children loved learning about the Pyramids of Giza and King Tutankhamun. Their favourite part was getting to renact the different items that were found in Tutankhamun's tomb. We had an amazing day and the children are keen to continue learning about Ancient Egypt in their history, reading and writing lessons.



In PE, we have been enjoying our athletics unit this term. We have learnt different ways to improve our running and jumping techniques so far. We have also been able to take part in an enjoyable and engaging football session with the Harriers. Please can you continue to ensure that your child has their pe kit in school every day.

In Maths, the children have been busy learning about fractions and we are currently learning about mass and capacity. The children are also continuing to practise their times tables during maths fluency.

In Writing, we have enjoyed writing a letter to Mrs Snape to persuade her to invite more visitors to St George's to do more educational workshops with us. We are soon going to be developing the use of our persuasive devices to create a persuasive leaflet- so watch this space!

In Science, we have been looking at light and how shadows are created. We cannot wait for our trip to Think Tank to develop our understanding of this topic more.

This term the children have been going to Forest School every Friday. They have enjoyed sharing special circle time and exploring the forest. They have also been working on their teamwork skills and have liked playing games together. On their first visit, they were also treated to smores on the fire with Mr Carrette.



Thanks for all the support,

Miss Powell, Mrs Stewart, Mrs Ashbourne and Mrs Edgington

Year 4 wowed back into the summer term by starting back with our history WOW Day and our workshop about the Ancient Mayans. The children enjoyed learning all about Ancient Maya and where it was in the world as well as some of their customs and beliefs. Certainly, the fact about the discovery of chocolate has stuck with them and they enjoyed trying out the difficult Mayan game of pok-ta-pok as well as some maths activities.

In English, our history focus means that we were able to use this to write a diary entry as if we were the explorers that discovered the Ancient Mayans in the rainforest and tasting chocolate for the first time, which of course meant we had to do a taste test in class to imagine what that would have been like. We are now moving on to writing instructions using our adverbs and imperative verbs for making hot chocolate the Ancient Mayan way.



In Maths, we have completed our unit on perimeter, and we have moved onto fractions starting with counting in fractions beyond 1. In reading, the children have loved reading The Iron Woman by Ted Hughes (one of our Key Authors) and we are moving on to non-fiction texts to explore different text types using our expert tips. In science we are currently exploring sound and what makes sound and how it travels.

In French, we are looking at food and in PE we are looking at changing levels in our dance lessons and moving in time with the music as well as practising our athletic skills in preparation for sports day later in the summer. In RE, we are learning about the impact of Pentecost for Christians when Jesus left and in PSHE we welcomed a visit from a local councillor to tell us about their role and what they do as part of our unit about citizenship. We are also getting hands on with violins in our music lessons.



Please can we ask that PE kits remain in school all week as sometimes unfortunately days have to change due to unforeseen circumstances, but usually PE days are Monday and Thursdays.

Please can you encourage your child to practise their times tables on TT Rockstars, or in other ways, as much as possible to increase their times tables recall up to 12 x 12 for the upcoming national tests and read at home at least 5 times a week.

We thank you for all your continued support and if you should have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to speak to us at the classroom door or contact us via the school office should the need arise.

From Mr Roberts and Mrs Smith 😊



#### Year 5 are continuing to make staggering progress in their learning throughout their KS2 journey.

In Writing, we have been looking at a text called Ice Trap, which is based on Ernest Shackleton's journeys in Antarctica. We have been exploring the uses and effectiveness of our vocabulary choices in order to create setting descriptions that allow the reader to clearly picture the landscape of Antarctica.

As a class, we have enjoyed using the zone of relevance to scaffold our conversations about the effectiveness of similes and metaphors.

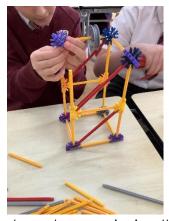
For our current reading lessons, we have been looking at Tom's Midnight Garden by Phillipa Pearce. We have enjoyed learning about Tom and how he came to discover a secret garden and a mysterious grandfather clock that always ticks at the wrong hour and even has a thirteenth hour. For one of our lessons, we even ventured into Forest School to imagine how Tom was feeling when he discovered this peculiar garden. In our DEAR time at the end of the day we have still been enjoying texts written by our Year 5 authors.

In Maths, we have finished another fractions topic where we explored a variety of different fractions learning multiply mixed number fractions by an integer as well as exploring fractions of amounts.

We have now started our new topic of percentages and decimals.

During this topic, the class is going to continue to have lots of opportunities to explore solving word problems giving reasons for their methods and answers.

During this term, Year 5 were able to take part in a STEM workshop. The children were challenged to build a crane out of Kinex. They all thoroughly enjoyed their day exploring how cranes work and taking part in a building competition as a class. Please look at some of our creations in progress in the pictures below.







The children have been enjoying their swimming lessons on a Monday morning and we are seeing lots of progress in the confidence in the water.

Please ensure your child is reading **5 times a week** and their reading diary is signed and coming into school with them. Please can you ensure they are writing what book they have read as well as the pages that they have read.

Thank you for your continued support.

Keep working hard Year 5! We are proud of you.

Miss Edwards and Miss Moraity 😉

This has been a busy month for Year 6 as we head towards SATs in May and the children are working very hard. In Maths, we have explored shape including identifying angles and working out missing lengths and angles in right angles, straight lines, full circles quadrilaterals and triangles. We identified the parts of a circle and how to find the radius and diameter. We have also spent lots of time reactivating all our mathematical knowledge by applying it to a range of problem solving and

reasoning from across the curriculum.



In spelling and grammar, we have learnt about how to use semicolons to between two independent clauses that are closely related. We have begun our narrative unit on the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe where we are focusing on using speech to show differences in formality.

In P.E, the children enjoyed developing their tennis skills. They learnt how to underarm serve then move around a space to predict where the ball would bounce. They then developed their forehand and backhand to return the ball while ensuring their body is in the correct position to receive the ball.

In our PSHE lessons, we have focused on the appropriate use of Snapchat which is a 13+ app. We have learnt about how to keep safe while using it and how to talk to our friends. As we head towards SATs week (w.c 13<sup>th</sup> May), please continue to support your child's wellbeing if they are feeling anxious. We will be sending out advice on how to support your child soon.



Thank you for your continued support.

Year 6.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES and REMINDERS**

Mon 6th May 2024 - Bank Holiday -school closed

Mon 13th May - Fri 17th May - Y6 SATs

Fri 24th May – Break up for half term

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> June - All children return to school

**Thurs 13th June** – Redditch Gotta Sing Choir Event

Fri 14th June – Year 4 Visit to The Three Counties Show

Mon 24th June – YR & Y6 Visit to Weston Super Mare Beach

#### Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility

If you feel a child is at risk of immediate harm and needs immediate protection phone the police and the Family Front Door on **01905 822666**.



We are offering an 'after school provision' throughout the week at St George's for the all the children. Your child/children will have the opportunity to do some creative and engaging activities and will be provided with a hot snack if they choose to stay for the later slot.

- After school club starts at **3.15pm**.
- There will be two slots available for the 'Little Pears'.
- The first slot will run from 3.15pm-4.30pm at a cost of £5.00.
- The second slot available is from **3.15pm-5.30pm** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Friday **3.15pm-5.15pm** at a cost of **£6.50**.
- If your child is staying until **5.30pm**, they will be provided with a hot snack. Hot snacks e.g., 'beans or cheese' on toast.

If you would like your child/children to attend '**Little Pears**' after school club, please contact <u>office@stgprimary.org</u> or ring on 01562 824206.

Please contact us as soon as possible, so we can ensure that we can facilitate your wishes.

## School Term Dates September 2023 to July 2024

HOLIDAY	SCHOOL CLOSES ON	SCHOOL TED DAYS	SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON
MAY DAY	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May		Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May
SUMMER HALF TERM	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May		Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June
END OF SUMMER TERM	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	N/A