

DECEMBER 2024

NEWSLETTER



Tel: 01562 824206

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

Message from the Head

Dear Parents/Carers

We have come to the end of a very busy Autumn term and the children and staff at St George's deserve a well-earned break. The children should be so proud of all their efforts and achievements, whether during learning time, by following our behaviour policy or just by being amazing members of the St George's Family.

At school, History has been the subject driver this half term and the children have been learning about local History. Please talk to your child about their learning and see if they can recall any historical 'sticky knowledge'. This sticky knowledge is available on your child's parent planner that was sent home earlier this half term.

The Christmas Reception/Key Stage One Nativity was well attended and enjoyed by all. The children sang with loud and proud voices and so many of the children returned to school for the evening performance, which was wonderful.

Our Christmas Fayre was a huge success with so many children and staff running stalls and making gifts to sell. After all our spending on resources, we still made a profit of £515.38, which will go into school funds to be spent on the children.

Congratulations to Mrs Tobela who won the 60 minute session voucher for Access Bars Therapy at Harmony and Bloom which was kindly donated by Mrs Rakoczi-Szemes.

Mrs Stewart once again wrote a wonderful Carol Service. All the children spoke with confidence to retell the Christmas story and the singing was beautiful. It was a pleasure to see so many children being able to use British Sign Language, whilst singing the Christmas Carols. This is something we want to continue to embed at school. The bell ringing was amazing and was led by Reverend David. To see the concentration on the children's faces was so inspiring and something they should all be proud of. Our new to country pupils, wished everyone a 'merry Christmas' in their home language which was enjoyed by everyone.

All the children on roll were offered a free Christmas Lunch, served by the staff and funded by the Black Pear Trust. This was a lovely meal cooked by our very talented kitchen staff and was enjoyed by the children and the staff. The Christmas cookies were delicious, and the children loved telling each other jokes from the crackers.

We are so appreciative to Home Start who support so many of our families. They donated an abundance of gifts that have been distributed to many of our families. We appreciate that for some, this time of year can be financially challenging, and we are always grateful for their support. If at any point you feel that you may need some support, whatever that may be, please do let us know. Even if school is unable to offer that support, we are able to signpost you to someone who may be able to help.

During this festive time, do enjoy spending quality time with family and friends. I wish all our families within the St George's community, a happy and restful break and I look forward to seeing the children safely back at school on Monday 6th January 2025!

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EM Stewart'.

Headteacher

Attendance

AUTUMN TERM

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

Attendance for the AUTUMN TERM is 95.35%. This is just below our target so let's have a big push on attendance next year!

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, office@stgprimary.org. 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 6 for the best attendance for the AUTUMN TERM!
The received some boxes of chocolates to share!**

Autumn Term 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	92.55%	32%
1	93.99%	24%
2	95.98%	16.67%
3	94.52%	13.33%
4	96.45%	9.68%
5	93.92%	24%
6	96.92%	6.25%

READING

Regular reading practice at home remains one of the most important and beneficial activities that adults can complete with children. Developing a love for reading can only happen when children get the opportunity to share books, listen to stories and see success in their own reading. Being able to read, opens doors in the wider world and allows success in and beyond the classroom. Please continue to read with your children every day and make this a moment of joy to embrace.

To support children's engagement in reading, Mr Atkinson has launched a reading challenge for the children to complete over the Christmas break. Please look out for this challenge and encourage your child/ren to take part!



Christmas reading challenge!

As well as reading everyday as normal, why not try to complete our Christmas reading challenge!

Complete the bauble challenges and add them to the Christmas tree! You could cut and stick them; draw your own baubles or take photos of you completing the challenges.

Decorate your tree and bring it into school when we return. Completed entries will be entered into a draw to win a book of your choice.



Name: _____
Class: _____



WHO DO I CONTACT IN THE HOLIDAYS WHEN SCHOOL IS CLOSED?

In the school holidays, when school is shut, there is still support available for you. Here are some numbers and places to call if you need support:

LISTED ARE SUPPORT SERVICES SHOULD YOU NEED THEM


-  If you are worried about the safety and welfare of children and young people living in Worcestershire -
Worcestershire Family Front Door - 01905 768020
-  24 hour Domestic Abuse Helpline -
West Mercia Women's Aid - 0800 980 3331
-  If you need someone to talk to -
Samaritans - 116 123
-  Are you, or is a young person you know, not coping with life? -
Papyrus - 0800 068 4141
-  **Always call 999 in an emergency**

Looking for things to do over the winter holidays?

HAF Worcestershire has lots of activities running over the holidays - **free for eligible families and including a healthy meal and snacks too** 🍷

The HAF Worcestershire programme is funded by the Department for Education and aimed at children and young people from reception to year 11, who can access free school meals. Children with additional vulnerabilities may also be eligible.

Eligible families can get 4 free passes this winter.
1 pass = 1 free activity session including food.

Find out what's on, how to register and book here  www.worcestershire.gov.uk/HAF



NEW DEVICES OVER CHRISTMAS

All National Online Safety, we believe in, empower, support, and advise our children and adults with the information to help our children and adults stay safe with their children, what they feel is needed. This guide is not intended to be a substitute for professional advice. If you have any concerns, please contact us at info@nationalonlinesafety.com for further guidance, terms and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about **SETTING UP NEW DEVICES FOR CHILDREN**

At Christmas, millions of lucky children will be excitedly ripping the wrapping off new phones, tablets, computers or consoles. However, in the rush to let young ones enjoy their shiny gadgets, many parents neglect to set these devices up safely – increasing the chances of children going online and stumbling across adult content, making expensive downloads or installing unsuitable apps. A little time configuring the device properly can save a lot of anguish later. Here are our top tips to ensure that a dream gift on Christmas morning doesn't turn into a nightmare by New Year.

PASSCODES FOR IPHONE/IPAD

If your child's getting their own iPhone or iPad, you can set parental controls that make it difficult for them to access inappropriate content or download expensive apps. Once the device is set up, go to the Settings app and tap Screen Time, then select Use Screen Time Passcode and enter a passcode. Keep it to yourself so your child can't switch the protection off.

SCREEN TIME SETTINGS ON IPHONE/IPAD

Once you've set a Screen Time Passcode, you can adjust various safety settings. You could, for example, only allow communication with people from the Contacts app, place restrictions on App Store purchases and apply age limits to movies, music and web content. There are many more protective options available within the Screen Time settings section.

FAMILY LINK FOR ANDROID

Parents can manage Android phones and tablets, as well as Google Chromebooks, through Google's Family Link app. This gives your child some independence (and lets parents monitor which apps are being used, set limits on content and ensure that parental permission is required to install apps. Look for Family Link in the Google Play Store.

ADD A CHILD TO FAMILY LINK

The easiest way to add a child's device to Family Link is to set it up with its own Google account. It's a good idea to create this before they use their new phone, tablet or Chromebook. Once they're logged in, open the Family Link app on your phone, press '+' in the top right and add a new family member using their Google account details. Then follow the on-screen instructions.

FAMILY SHARING ON A MAC

Families using a Mac get similar screen time options to iPhone and iPad users. Again, if you're setting up a Mac for a child, make yourself the main admin and add them as a user. This is handled through Apple's Family Sharing service, which not only allows you to put controls on child accounts but share apps and other purchases with them too. Search 'family sharing' at <https://support.apple.com>.

PLAYSTATION PARENTAL CONTROLS

With parental controls for the PS5, you'll need a PlayStation Network account (or the 'family manager') and the child will need their own account, which they should sign in with on the console. This all needs to be set up in advance, so you might want to do it before the big day. Go to PlayStation.com and search 'family account' for instructions.

DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR CHILD

If you're planning to implement any kind of restriction or protection settings on your child's new device, we'd recommend having a discussion with your young one first about what these controls do, and what they are for. If you try to impose parental controls surreptitiously or with no advance warning, don't be surprised if your child tries to find a way around them.

SET AN ADMIN ON PCS

On Windows PCs and laptops, it's important not to let your child share a general user account or be the root admin on the device. If you're booting up a new family PC or a child's own device, set it up using your own account details and you'll become the admin by default. Then set up children with their own separate account: Settings > Accounts > Family & Other Users > Add Other User.

SET WINDOWS LIMITS

Once your child's account has been created, a parent admin can go back into the Family & Other Users menu and apply limits to it. These include restricting screen time, the type of games and apps that can be installed, web filters and more. Microsoft also includes reporting tools which, for example, can email you with a weekly summary of your child's activity on the device.

TREAT AN XBOX LIKE A PC

The same control settings you use for a PC can be used to apply parental controls on an Xbox. Again, once your child is signed into the Xbox with their own account, you can then monitor and restrict their activity from a PC or web browser. Microsoft's dashboard allows you to manage voice communication through the console, so you can limit who can contact your child, for example.

INSTALL XBOX FAMILY SETTINGS

If you don't have a PC, but your child does have an Xbox, it might be easier to use the Xbox Family Settings app for iPhone or Android. Here, you can restrict console screen time (particularly handy if the console is in a bedroom), restrict communication and monitor the types of game being played. There's also a feature where you can allocate spending money for games or in-game purchases.

STAY VIGILANT

It's important to remember that none of these methods is 100% foolproof. Nobody will ever invent flawless filters or parental controls – not least because what's unacceptable to some parents is perfectly acceptable to others. So although devices' parental controls will help to keep your child safe online, they work best side by side with good old-fashioned parental vigilance.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, What? PC? and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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#WakeUpWednesday



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NURSERY

Nursery have enjoyed learning about Christmas. We had a wonderful activity morning where parents joined us to make party hats, reindeer food, decorate a biscuit and iced Christmas trees.



Thank you to the parents who came and joined their children.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

From Mrs Williams, Mrs Khan and Mrs Ashbourne

From

The Nursery Team

RECEPTION

During December, the children have been busy role-playing as Santa and his elves in their toy workshop! The children have loved using the dressing up clothes to play in role. They have also enjoyed using wrapping paper to wrap up the presents, ready for Santa's sack.



The children also loved taking part in their Christmas Nativity. Thank you to all that came to watch!



From all the team in Reception, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all again in the New year!

Miss Austin, Miss Webb, Miss Such and Mrs Lavelle 😊

YEAR 1



In Talk 4 Write we have been looking at the book 'The Jolly Christmas Postman'. We have worked really hard to write our letter to Santa! We used capital letters, full stops and used conjunctions in our writing. One of our favourite activities has been walking to the post-box to post our letters to Santa.



In Art, we are looking at Oral Kiely. We have enjoyed creating our very own Christmas wrapping paper in the style of Oral Kiley.



In Year 1, children are expected to read every night with an adult at home. Please can you make sure this is recorded in their reading diary. Those who read every night will be entered into a special reading raffle to win a prize.

Before school, please can you not let children play outside the Year One area as these activities have been set up ready for their learning.

Next half term our PE lesson will be every Monday. Please ensure that your child brings a PE kit to school on this day and remove any jewellery that they are wearing. Please make sure that all your child's PE kit and school uniform is named.

Thank you all for your continued support!

Miss Edwards and the Year one team!

YEAR 2

Year 2 have had an excellent first term at St George's where we have covered a lot!

In maths we've looked at Place Value, Addition and Subtraction and challenged ourselves with tricky calculation!

In writing we have read a variety of books with different purposes including 'Silly Billy', 'Red Riding Hood', 'Into The Forest' and then we created our own stories based on 'Hansel and Gretel'.

In reading we have been progressing well with our phonics every morning and it has been evident with those children who have been reading at least three times a week, so please keep up the great work!

Next half term our PE lesson will be every Monday and Thursday. Please ensure that your child brings a PE kit to school on these days. Please make sure that all your child's PE kit and school uniform is named and remains in school for the half-term.

Thank you for all your hard work and support this term.

Many thanks from the Year 2 Team,

Mr Carrette and Miss Steward

YEAR 3

Year 3 have enjoyed a very busy first term which included our trip to Compton Verney, church services, children in need, antibullying week, snowfall, and a very busy timetable. It has been great to get to know the children and build relationships with them and you as parents. In English we have written character descriptions, persuasive letters, fact files and built on our existing grammar skills. In maths we have completed our units on place value and addition and subtraction and after the Christmas break, we will continue with multiplication and division, learning the formal methods to help solve associated problems.

The children have enjoyed art, learning about Frida Kahlo and David Gentleman and about plants and animals, including humans, in our science lessons. In our French lessons we have learnt greetings and about colours and some basic shapes and the children can identify the size shape and colour of given 2D shapes. In music it has been a pleasure to watch the children's confidence grow while learning to play the violin and those that took a violin home were very good at going online and practising at home – thank you for your support with this. We were able to record a performance of Mamma Mia where the children sang and played the violin, a vast improvement on week one! 😊

In History, we have learnt lots about the changes from the Stone Age through to the Iron Age and the children have shown great maturity understanding that this was so long ago and so some of the ideas could be incorrect as it is a time where things were not written down/recorded like they are in the present day. We even pretended to be archaeologists digging up the past using the artefacts that we borrowed from Hartlebury Museum.



Please can you return named PE kits to school when we return in January, and these can be left in school on the children's pegs. Thank you for your continued support this term and we hope that you have a wonderful festive period and enjoy time with your families at this special time of year.

Mr Roberts and the Year 3 team 😊

YEAR 4

Year 4 have been very busy during the last few weeks. We have worked very hard with our times tables and all the children continue to make good progress with these. I have also been very impressed with how many children are now reading 5 times a week! We have enjoyed learning about the Ancient Greeks and how they created the Olympic games and democracy. We have used our knowledge of Greek gods by creating a non-chronological report on Zeus and Aphrodite. We have used Ancient Greek pottery, and more recent sculptures by Benard Leach and Michael Cardew, to inspire us with our own clay models – it was messy work! More recently, we have made Christmas cards to give to our loved ones.



We hope you have a safe and happy Christmas!

Mr Atkinson and the Year 4 Team

YEAR 5

Year 5 have been working very hard during December and have enjoyed making their Christmas cards and calendars this week. They have also had the opportunity to enjoy some lovely, festive activities such as; the Christmas service at the church and some arts and crafts. Some of the children also visited a care home to show the residents their amazing bell ringing skills and to deliver some wonderful Christmas cards. Well done to those children- you brought joy to the residents, and we are very proud of how you represented our St George's family.



From all the team in Year 5, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year!

Miss Powell, Mrs Stewart and Mrs Smith. 😊

YEAR 6

Year 6 have had a very busy first term and they have been working incredibly hard. The class very much enjoyed the church service this week where lots of them had important roles in the festivities, we are super proud of all of them. Some pupils also had the opportunity to visit a local care home to show off their bell ringing and spread joy among the residents.

During our celebration music lessons, we explored the song Silent Night. The children learnt the song and created their own actions to it before having a go at singing in rounds. Their final challenge was to learn Silent Night in German as we had linked the song to the Sainsbury's Christmas advert and our future history topic focussing on the war and the Christmas day truce.

We hope the children have a safe and lovely holiday as well as a good rest as they really deserve it!

Miss Edwards, Miss Moraity and Miss Timms 😊



The Black Pear Trust Christmas Tree at Worcester Cathedral Christmas Tree Festival



The children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, across the Black Pear Trust, came together to create peg dolls and animals to show the Christmas story. Children in Key Stage 1 also made baubles which featured themselves wearing their nativity costumes.

Church & School Partnership

As part of our School & Church Partnership, a group of children from across KS2, enjoyed attending St George's Church art group, where they worked alongside members of the church and local community to create beautiful Christmas cards. Together, the church and school have since distributed the cards throughout our local community to share our love during the festive season.

Bell Ringing

For the last six weeks, a small group of children from Year Five and Six, have been attending a bell ringing club after school, led by Reverend David. The children have enjoyed learning a number of festive Christmas carols in preparation for their performance in our Christmas service at church, as well as a performance at Brook Court, a local care home within our community. The children excelled themselves in both performances and their utter determination shone brightly throughout. We are so very proud of their courage and success- what a fantastic achievement!



I look forward to updating you all on our progress towards our Church & School Partnership Bronze Award in the new year!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas.

Mrs Stewart (RE & Worship Lead)

IMPORTANT DATES and REMINDERS

Friday 20th December-School Closes at 3.15pm for the Christmas Break

Monday 6th January 2025 – Children return to school

Monday 6th January 2025 – Year 5 Swimming every Monday

Monday 3rd February - Thursday 6th February – Y5/6 Residential Visit Llanrug

Friday 10th February – Year 4 start Forest School

Friday 14th February – TED Day - children not required to attend

Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February – Half Term Holiday

Monday 24th February – All children return to school

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 **£6.00**.
- The second slot available is from **3.15pm-5.30pm** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Friday **3.15pm-5.15pm** at a cost of **£7.50**.
- 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 office@stgprimary.org or ring on 01562 824206.

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