

November 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/Carers,

We have come to another busy month at school and the children have been looking at the topic 'My Place My Time'. This topic has had a real emphasis on local Geography and local History. Year 3 visited Compton Verney and had an exciting day outside that linked to the Stone Age. Year 1 have had the opportunity to visit Hartlebury Museum, and their workshops linked to their learning about old toys.

It was wonderful to see some snow falling last week, and for some of our families it was their first experience of this. Many children were offered the opportunity to play outside on the field for a short while and Mr Roberts even challenged his children to catch a snowflake in their mouths!

During November the children have had opportunities to continue to build strong relationships within the school community. A group of children represented 'The St George's Family' at St Mary's Remembrance Service, also attended by the Chair of Governors. The children met many veterans who shared their experiences and a lovely gentleman, who had served as a Sergeant Major, taught the children how to march using his marching stick! The remainder of the school showed their respect at school with a service led by our very talented History Leader, Mr Atkinson. The children have created a wave of colourful poppies in our school hall which looks wonderful.

Last Saturday, children joined Mrs Stewart and myself at St George's Church for their Christmas Craft Fayre. The lovely Mrs Teague, who is our school Wrap Around Co-ordinator, had made some lovely Christmas crafts to sell at the Fayre. The children raised £60.00, and the school made a donation to the church too. I was so proud of our children who used 'marvellous manners' and spoke with confidence to members of the public. We even met a real author, who we have invited into school for World Book Day in the new year.

The children will continue to learn and play outside during the colder months. Can you ensure, if your child visits the forest, they are dressed appropriately. Furthermore, weather permitting, the children will continue with outdoor PE, so it essential that they bring their PE kit to school and they are able to wear a blue or burgundy tracksuit if they wish to. Playtimes continue during the colder months, so your child will need a warm waterproof coat at school.

We have many events planned at school during the coming weeks and important dates are included in this newsletter. It would be wonderful if every child in Reception and Year 1 and Year 2 were able to return to school for the evening Christmas Performance. It is a real challenge for young children to stand in at the last minute due to parents/carers not bringing their child/ren back to school. If for any reason your child is unable to return to school for the evening performance, please inform your child's class teacher, so other children are prepared well in advance.

I am sure that I will see many of you on the playground during the next few weeks and I look forward to experiencing all the lovely festivities we have planned for your children during the month of December.

Kind regards,

Headteacher

Attendance

NOVEMBER 2024

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

Attendance for the month of November was 93.98%. This is below our target so let's have a big push on attendance in December!

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.

Just a reminder that we are now having to follow statutory guidance from the DfE regarding attendance. We want to work with you to improve school attendance. However, if attendance does not improve, we now follow Worcestershire County Council processes to fine- we don't want to get to this stage so please work along us! If your child has repeated absences due to illness, we may ask to see supporting evidence. You will be notified of this if it is the case.

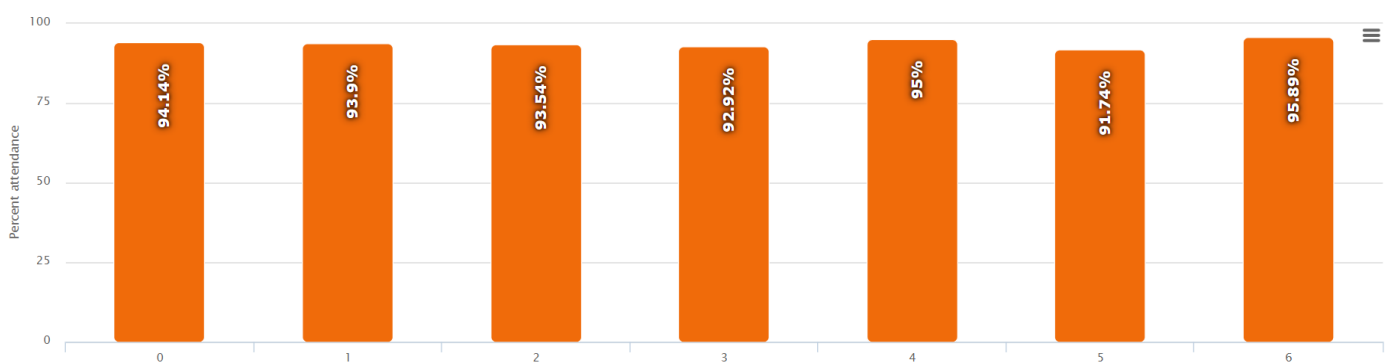
What are we doing to reward good attendance?

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.

Well done to Year 6 for the best attendance in NOVEMBER!

November 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	94.14%	24%
1	93.90%	20%
2	93.54%	12.5%
3	92.92%	13.3%
4	95%	9.68%
5	91.74%	24%
6	95.89%	6.25%

GOOD ATTENDANCE MEANS....

Being in school at least 95% of the time...



There are **365 days** in a calendar year

175 of those days are NOT spent at school

Education is important - don't miss out!

NURTURE LEARN SUCCEED

With God's guidance, we nurture our St George's Family to have a passion for learning and give them the strength to face challenges, so that they succeed and flourish in life's journey.



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

Jesus came to bring life in all its fullness. He nurtures all who needs strengthening, helps us learn how to love one another, gives us courage to succeed in life's purpose.

Odd Socks Day 2024

What is Odd Socks day?

Most importantly, Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!

All the children had to do to take part was to wear odd socks to school. Odd Socks Day takes place on the first day of Anti-Bullying Week each year to help raise awareness of bullying.

In 2023 over 5 million children, 1,000s of parents, 100s of workplaces and lots of celebrities and influencers got involved. In previous years celebrities such as Ant and Dec, Emma Willis, Brian May, Craig David, Sir Mo Farah and Annamarie donned their odd socks!



Online Safety- Cyber Security

Did you know that schools are increasingly becoming targets for cyber-attacks? To help protect our community, we want to remind you be cautious with any communications that appears to be from us. If you ever receive a message that seems suspicious, please let us know.

Remember, we will never ask for passwords to personal accounts, such as ParentPay. If something doesn't look right, please report it to the school office immediately.

Thank you for your support to help keeping our community safe.

Playground Equipment



As Christmas is approaching, you may be thinking that you want to clear out some room for new toys ready for Santa's visit! If you have any pre-loved toys or dressing up clothes (even old clothes such as scarves, caps, elastic skirts etc) that could be donated to school for

the children, we would love to know. Send a photo to the school office of what you are prepared to donate and we will get back to you as soon as possible!

Maths KIRFS



KIRFs (Key Instant Recall Facts) have been designed to support the development of the mental skills that underpin much of the maths work in school. They are particularly useful when calculating, be it adding, subtracting, multiplying or dividing. An important part of maths development has always been rote learning of certain numeracy facts. For many years this has included practising times tables. At St George's, we have added more structure to this throughout school, as well as adding several other elements of instant recall maths.

Each half term, children will be given Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs) to *practise and learn at home* as well as the work in school. These sheets include practical ideas for parents and carers to assist children in grasping the key facts. *It is important that children know these thoroughly and can recall specific facts instantly.*

Whilst children have a wide range of abilities in mathematics, the KIRFs are designed to be a set of facts that need to be learnt thoroughly as they build on each other year on year. *Again, we stress that the children must aim to know their KIRF inside out, back to front and with instant recall.*

We strongly encourage you to engage with your children in the learning of their KIRFs; fun, practical ideas are included on your sheet and should be undertaken regularly at home. We know that, by internalising these key facts which have been carefully structured to build upon each other term by term, year by year, children will leave St George's with a much stronger foundation of mathematical understanding to build upon.

Here are the KIRFS for Autumn Term 2:

Year 1- I can add 0 or 1 to a number. I can add 2 to a number.

Year 2- I know doubles and halves of numbers to 20. I know near doubles to 10

Year 3- I can count in 3s and I know the multiplication and division facts for the 3 times table.

Year 4- I can count in 6s. I know the multiplication and division facts for the 6 times table. (up to 12x6)

Year 5- I can find factor pairs of a number.

Year 6- I know the multiplication and division facts for all times tables up to 12×12 .

SEND

If your child is on the SEND register or you have met with Miss Woodward regarding your child's additional needs, please email the school office on office@stgprimary.org if you are interested in attending a SEND coffee morning.



NURSERY

Nursery went on walk to look for signs of Autumn, we took baskets to collect any autumn treasures to bring back to nursery. The children were very excited to find red, yellow, orange and brown leaves there were some leaves bigger than their head.



We used the leaves for lots of creative activities



The children were so excited to play in the snow, we made a snowman and then took a tub of snow inside to see what would happen ... by the end of the session the snow was now water, what has happened?

“It's melted “



Thank you to Hiru for sharing his amazing picture on Tapestry- he told the children he used a telescope to see the moon! We love to share any news you have with the children at carpet time, just log into Tapestry and add photos and a comment.

Thank you for all your support.

The Nursery Team 😊

RECEPTION

The children in Reception have been busy learning about signs of Autumn during our Topic sessions. We have enjoyed exploring the outdoor environment to look closely at the leaves that have fallen from the trees; discussing their size, shapes and colours. The children have learnt about how the weather changes in Autumn and have loved using our outdoor weather station to observe the changes in weather; collecting rain and observing the wind.



We were especially surprised and excited to see snow!



In Art, the children have enjoyed learning about the Artist Jackson Pollock and created a class painting in the style of his famous paintings. We looked at different ways of applying paint, using tools like paintbrushes, straws, toothbrushes, sponges etc. and how two colours of paint can be mixed together to make a new colour.



Our PE Day will continue to be on a Friday. Please can you ensure PE kits are in school if you have not done so already. Thank you for your continued support.

The Reception Team

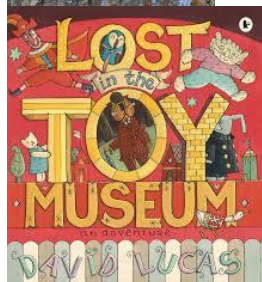
Miss Austin, Miss Such and Miss Webb 😊

YEAR 1

We have been very busy in Year 1!



We have enjoyed our Forest School sessions and one of our activities was making reptiles and amphibians using clay and sticks that we found in the Forest School area! We had such a lot of fun! Please ensure that your child comes to school in the correct forest clothes on a Friday until the end of the term.



In Talk 4 Write we have been looking at the book 'Lost in the Toy Museum'. We have worked really hard to write our first ever story! We used capital letters, full stops and used conjunctions in our writing. One of our favourite activities has been pretending to be the toys in the museum and playing a game of hide and seek.



In History we have started to look at Kidderminster high street in the past. We have thought about what it looked like in the 1850s, 1950s and today. We have thought about how it looks similar and how things have changed.

In Art, we are looking at Delph pottery. We have enjoyed creating our very own Delph pottery style title and painting it in the style of

Delph pottery.

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.

This half term our PE lesson will be every Monday. Please ensure that your child brings a PE kit to school on these days 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 1 team 😊

YEAR 2

We have hit the ground running and what a start we have had! We have explored a variety of books in our writing. We are currently reading 'Into The Forest' where the book explores other possible connections linked to 'Little Red Riding Hood', 'Jack and the Beanstalk', 'Hansel and Gretel' as well as 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. We have been exploring a range of adjectives, verbs and adverbs whilst remembering the all important capital letters and full stops.

In maths we have explored place value, looking at where numbers are placed and the importance of the one's and ten's column e.g. 18 and 81 are too very different answers. We have recently moved on towards subtraction/ take-away where the children are exploring a range of methods which will help them when working out future mathematical questions. We have been using a numberline which is something we encourage. The children are able to draw this themselves and can add or subtract using it as a tool.

In phonics the children continue to push themselves with blending sounds to understand words whilst, some are looking at increasing their fluency. No matter what your child's reading ability please continue to read with your child at least three times a week; it really makes a difference.

We have explored lots in Geography looking at human and physical features, where we went to our local park to see these for real life experiences. We then started looking at our area where we go to school and comparing the differences between a village, town, and city.

In History we have started looking at 'The Great Fire of London'. We have been looking at how it started and what circumstances allowed this catastrophe to happen: such as buildings being made of wood and being too close together. We linked this to our writing where we explored what a diary is and who Samuel Pepys was.

In PE we have explored a variety of skills from throwing and catching, using a racket to aim with a ball as well as exploring space and our spatial awareness. We will continue to have PE twice a week and sometimes the day can change due to other circumstances or events so please continue to send your child's PE kit to school.

Thank you again for all your continued support and please come and see the team if you have anything you would love to share, worries or concerns.

Thank you from the Year Two team, Mr Carrette and Miss Steward.

YEAR 3

There has been lots of fantastic learning in Year 3 this month and we managed to get out on our first trip, which the children all enjoyed.

In English, we have let our imaginations run wild creating our own monster fact files, in which we organised paragraphs around a theme and used sub-headings. Our monsters lived in some very funny places and ate all kinds of things - from fluff, to bogies and even leftover food. In maths, we have continued with our unit on addition and subtraction using the formal column method and learning how to regroup. In art, we have been looking at watercolours and the work of David Gentleman to create our own landscape image. In reading, we have completed Cinderboy and we are moving on to use our expert tips reading the magic finger by Roald Dahl.

In Science, we are looking at animals, including humans and we have looked at the role of the Skeleton and how it helps animals and humans. In Geography, we have continued to learn about our local area, and we had just learnt about the water cycle when we were lucky enough to have one type of precipitation on our doorstep. As this does not happen often, we went outside for a short while to socialise and explore this precipitation. Mr Roberts asked everyone to try and catch a snowflake on their tongue. It was very exciting!



This month we have started our history topic all about the Stone Age and we visited Compton Verney to carry out a range of Stone Age activities to kick start it all off. We were outside all day, and we moved around different activities that the Stone Age people would have done including building shelters, creating cave paintings, making fire, building walls by weaving sticks and a mixture of horse manure and mud as well as grinding wheat to make flour and a basic bread before we baked some on the fire at the end of the day. We even managed to eat lunch outside on picnic blankets, which was a fantastic idea. We chased a human deer on our way to camp too.



We are all looking forward to the month ahead and all of the activities that are planned over the next few weeks.

Please remember to read with your child and sign their book each evening, the expectation is at least five times per week and each child that reads this will be entered into a raffle to win prizes. If you do have any problems over the next few weeks, no matter how small, please come and see me at the start or end of each day or send an email to the school office to arrange a meeting. Thank you for your continued support from home.

From Mr Roberts and the Year 3 team 😊

YEAR 4

We have been very busy in Year 4 this month and we have been working very hard. I would like to thank those who attended the parent consultation evenings; it was lovely to meet you all discuss your child's interests and current progress.

This month, we have been developing our listening skills by playing our listening games. These include 'Giant's Keys' and 'Spot the Odd One Out'. In Writing, we have written our own version of the *Papaya that Spoke* using inverted commas to show speech between characters. The children had great fun coming up with their own talking fruits and objects! In maths, we have been focusing on formal methods for addition and subtraction including using regrouping. We have then applied these to a variety of reasoning problems. We are having a big focus on times tables. Please spend some time using TTRockstars at home!



We have been looking at our own locality in our Geography lessons this month. We have reactivated prior knowledge of the four countries that make up the United Kingdom and the surrounding seas. We have then learnt about the difference between hills and mountains by comparing the Malvern Hills to Snowdonia in Wales. We have then explored the features of a mountain including its summit and ridge. We explored the 8 points in a compass and used this to understand maps. We have started a focus on The Ancient Greeks and looking at democracy and Greek pots.

In our science lessons, we have been exploring the function of teeth and the digestive system. The children had a great time using tights representing to represent the intestines to simulate the digestive process. We used orange juice and a bag to represent the stomach acid and stomach and broke down food on the bag. This was all passed through the tights. The juice that came out represented the nutrients entering the blood and whatever was left over came out the end of the tights! It was a messy lesson!

Please keep supporting your child to read 5 times a week. We have an exciting raffle where the children can choose their book if they win. The more times they read 5 times a week, the more tickets they get!

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Atkinson

YEAR 5

It has been another very busy month for Year 5. In English, we have almost finished our unit on the text 'The Day the Crayon Quit.' The children have loved this unit and this week we are writing a persuasive letter as Duncan to convince the crayons to stay.

In Maths, we have just finished looking at multiplication and division. However, it would be great if you could continue to encourage your child to practise their multiplication and division facts at home for all times tables up to 12, as this will improve their fluency and will make it easier for them during maths lessons. We are now on our fraction unit, and even though we might be finding it a bit tricky, we are looking forward to the challenge!

We have been reactivating our knowledge of the world in Geography by locating and labelling different locational knowledge on a world map. We have also been looking at different climate zones and have used images, newspaper articles and different maps to look at the impact that flooding has on our local area.

In Art, we are looking at the artist Henri Rousseau. Over the last few weeks, we have been using our painting/colour-mixing skills to produce our very own Rousseau style jungle painting.

Year 5 will continue their swimming lessons at Holy Trinity School until February. Children will need to bring **a swimming costume, a towel, a swimming hat and goggles (optional)**. Please ensure that all items are clearly marked with your child's name.

Our other PE day will continue to be a Wednesday, and we are doing hockey this term. Please ensure that your child brings their PE kit to school on these days and can remove any jewellery they are wearing. If earrings cannot be removed, kindly provide tape for them to cover the earrings. Additionally, please make sure that long hair is tied back for these sessions.

In KS2, students are expected to read at least five times per week. Please record this in their reading record. Those who meet this goal will be entered into a special reading raffle, giving them the chance to win a prize.

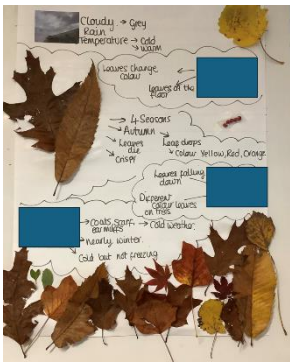
Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Powell, Mrs Stewart and Mrs Smith 😊

YEAR 6

We have had another busy month exploring lots of new topics and practising our formal methods in maths and all the children have worked very hard. The children showed real resilience when they sat their SATs papers this month, they should be really proud.

In our writing lessons, we focused on writing a narrative to entertain. We used 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' by C.S. Lewis as a driver for our writing. We focussed on accurately applying inverted commas in our work to show dialogue that advances the action. This was our first piece of writing this year where we concentrated on writing at length and the children persevered well to create descriptive and well thought out narratives.



In Maths, we have applied our formal methods of addition and subtraction to a range of questions across the maths curriculum. We have continued to learn more about methods for multiplication and division whilst building our fluency with the formal methods. The children are reactivating their formal methods during morning missions and their maths fluency lessons.

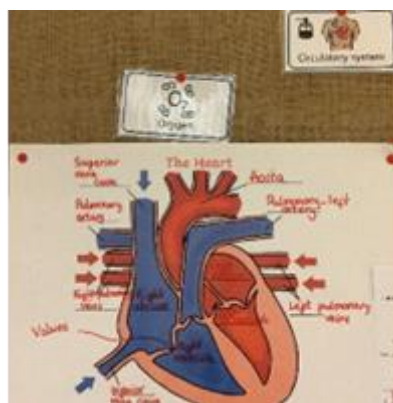
In our Geography, we have explored the different biomes across the world and compared them to our own temperate biome. We loved exploring the playground for evidence that we live in a temperate biome, we especially loved throwing the leaves in the air to create an autumnal picture. In our art

lessons, we are using our sticky knowledge from geography to create a biome in a jar linked to the biome of our choosing, which they have now completed and they look fantastic!



In Science, we completed our work on the circulatory system, and we researched the function of the heart and blood during this, we loved making our own blood to understand the different components that

make our blood. We looked at why our heartbeat increases when we exercise and the importance of drinking water and keeping hydrated. We explored how what we put in our bodies will have an effect on us and discussed the ways smoking and vaping have negative effects on our health.



Miss Edwards and Mr Atkinson will continue to run a Year 6 SATs BUSTER club on a Thursday 3:15 pm – 4 pm, this is a great opportunity for the children to continue practising their Maths, Reading and grammar in preparation for their SATs.

Keep up the fantastic work Year 6!

Miss Edwards and Miss Moraity 😊

Church & School Partnership



We are excited to announce that we are working towards our Church & School Partnership Bronze Award. This is an exciting opportunity for us to work collaboratively with St George's Church, so that together we can look at what we already do together but most importantly seek new, exciting ways to build even stronger relationships. The overall aim of the project is for us to work together to enhance the lives of the people within our community.

We have already been very busy meeting regularly and have made a great start with developing the partnership. So far, we have:

- ✓ Attended the church coffee morning and art group, where a group of Year Six children had great fun joining in with an art focus all about 'close up' observational drawings.
- ✓ Attended the annual Service of Remembrance at St Mary's Church with a small group of children, who represented our school family beautifully.
- ✓ Been invited to support the recruitment process of a team vicar, where a group of children from KS2 had great fun questioning a candidate.
- ✓ Attended the Church Christmas Fayre, where Year Six children helped to sell a selection of wonderful Christmas decorations created by the children within our Wrap Around Club, helping to raise funds for both the Church and School.

We look forward to being able to update you on our progress next time!

Mrs Stewart

IMPORTANT DATES and REMINDERS

Friday 6th December – own clothes day – please donate toiletries or chocolate for our Christmas Fayre

Monday 9th December – YR, Y1 & Y2 Nativity Dress Rehearsal (for the school)

Monday 9th December – Flu Vaccination Catch Up Session

Tuesday 10th December – YR, Y1 & Y2 School Nativity 9.15am (for Parents/Carers)

Tuesday 10th December – YR, Y1 & Y2 School Nativity 6.00pm (for Parents/Carers) – Children to return to school at 5.30pm to change

Thursday 12th December – YR to Y6 School Panto Trip to Artrix Theatre in Bromsgrove

Friday 13th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 13th December – Christmas Fayre 3.15pm in the School Hall

Wednesday 18th December – Christmas Service at St George's Church
Everyone welcome - Children to be at Church at 8.45am

Wednesday 18th December – Christmas Lunch (Provided by the Black Pear Trust)

Friday 20th December – Christmas Party Day (Details to follow)

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

Monday 6th January 2025 – Children return to school

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

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.