JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

St.George's C of E School
NURTURE, LEARN, SUCCEED

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

The long month of January has come and gone and the children have been enjoying their return to school. They have had a real focus on their local Geography, and we have seen some of the children exploring the school grounds and also their local area. Mr Carrette has secured some trees from the school council to enhance our school grounds. We may need some help to plant them when they arrive. I'm sure Mr Carrette will be in touch!

Research shows that if children are actively engaged during non-structured periods of the school day, this impacts on positive behaviour choices. The playground leaders are visible on the playground and a playground game is introduced to the children in a weekly assembly. Also, the support staff are encouraged to interact with the children during their play. I have visited other schools within the trust to see how breaktimes are managed and we have implemented many resources on the playground for the children to enjoy. We are sending a plea for donations of good quality, pre-loved toys e.g. train sets, Duplo, garages, prams, blocks and older children's dressing up clean clothes e.g. elasticated skirts, shirts, scarves, hats, old sunglasses. If you have any of these items, please can they be brought to the school office.

The new menu is being enjoyed by all and we have seen an increase in children choosing a hot meal. Karen, the Trust Catering Manager has completed a marvellous task in creating a healthy and enjoyable menu. The new menu was designed in consultation with the adults and the pupils across each of our schools in the Black Pear Trust. Karen is in the process of designing a portfolio of all the meal options on our menu with photographs and details of ingredients which will support some of our parents and children with choosing their meals. Having spoken with Karen, she is always available to have a conversation about the menu or to discuss any issues you may have with your child choosing their meal options. Please contact the school office if you would like a further conversation with Karen.

Next week we have parent consultations arranged with teachers. It is always lovely to see the parents meeting with the child's class teacher to discuss their learning and we are always ready to share resources with you to support your child's learning at home. We aim for 100% attendance, so if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, the class teacher will endeavour to contact you by phone.

Family engagement remains a priority area on our School Development Plan. We hold regular workshops throughout the year and are mindful that we would like to plan future workshops. If you have any inspiring ideas for future workshops or just feel that you would like to become more involved with your child's education, do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher or a member of the senior leadership team. We are always willing to listen to your ideas.

The Church /School Partnership is growing from strength to strength. We have captured this on a new display board in the main corridor. The children are more visible in church and several church members have visited the school. We have created an action plan with the Partnership Working Party but if you have any further ideas to continue to develop these strong links, please speak to myself or Mrs Stewart. Our Young Leaders are working towards serving our school community so are ready and willing to listen to new ideas.

I look forward to seeing you before or after school on the school playground or during Parent Consultation meetings next week. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Headteacher

Attendance
January 2025

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

Attendance for the month of January was 94.53%. This is below our target so let's have a big push on attendance in February!

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.

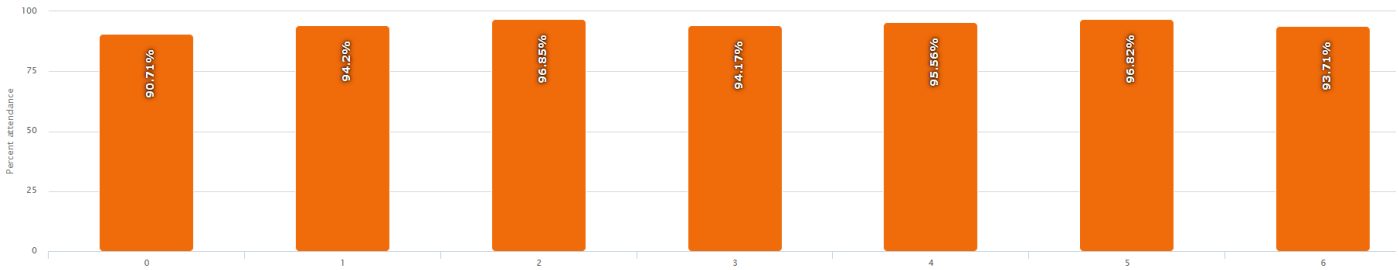
What are we doing to reward good attendance?

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.

Well done to Year 2 for the best attendance in JANUARY!

January Attendance



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

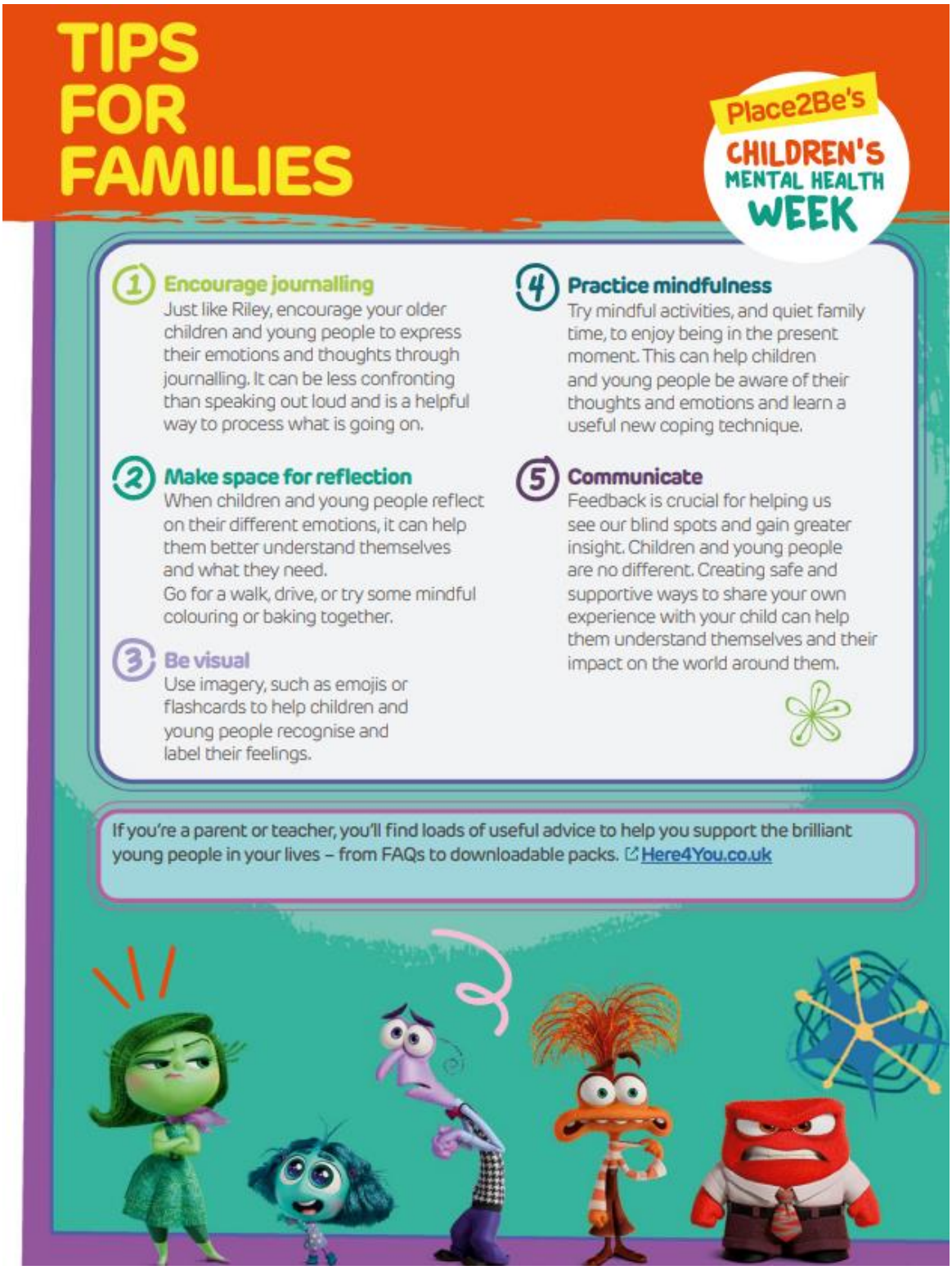
	Autumn Term Attendance	Persistent Absence (under 90%)
Rec	92.11%	26.92%
1	94.01%	20%
2	96.08%	8.70%
3	94.49%	10%
4	96.19%	9.68%
5	94.66%	12.5%
6	96.15%	9.68%

Children's Mental Health Week 2025

Children's Mental Health Week 2025 will take place from 3-9 February 2025.

The theme for 2025 is focus is **Know Yourself, Grow Yourself**, with the aim to equip and empower children and young people across the UK to embrace **self-awareness and explore what it means to them**. We want children and young people to discover how getting to know who they are can help them build resilience, grow and develop.

Here are some top tips to support your child's mental health and wellbeing:



Safer Internet Day 2025

Safe Internet Day will take place on 11th February 2025 with celebrations based around them of 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from online scams'

Here are some top tips to keep you and your child safe online:

Tips for Parents and Carers: Keeping you and your loved ones safe online

This Safer Internet Day we are starting a conversation about how to spot, respond to and report all types of scams online. Scams can take many forms and may target anyone, including young people. Use these top tips to keep you and your loved ones safe online.

Enjoy going online together and talk regularly about your family's online lives

The internet is amazing and can help us all to access information and entertainment. Spend time online with your child to understand how they are using technology and talk together about the good and the bad parts of being online. Talk about your own experiences and find other opportunities to get the conversation started, like stories in the news. Make sure your child knows they can talk to you about anything that they see or experience online.

Take online security measures seriously

The internet can be a tool used by criminals to target their victims, but a few simple steps can help keep you and your accounts secure. Use strong and separate passwords for online accounts and set up two step verification (2SV) where it's available. You may also be able to set parental controls to prevent unwanted online purchases and limit children's access to harmful content.

Look out for warning signs that someone or something online cannot be trusted

"It just seems too good to be true!" – Other common signs of a scam include contact that you weren't expecting or being asked for money or personal information (think: bank or contact details, passwords, or phone numbers). Scammers use other tactics to manipulate their victims into paying, like playing with your emotions, or building a sense of urgency so you are rushed into making a decision. If you aren't sure it's reliable, don't risk it.

Remember that anyone can be a victim of a scam

Scammers are good at what they do and will target anyone. We all need to stay vigilant and support those who are most vulnerable including children and the elderly by helping them recognise what to look out for. If anyone in your family has been scammed, talk openly about it. There should be no shame in being victim to a scam and it's never your fault.

Know where to get help if something goes wrong

If you or someone you know has been the victim of a scam online, you're not on your own. Help is available and you are not to blame for what has happened. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, you can report fraud and cyber crime online to Action Fraud or by telephoning 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, report to Police Scotland by calling 101. You may also be able to report via social media, if the scam has taken place there or to another relevant organisation, like your bank, if you think your account is at risk.

Remember, if you or anyone else is in immediate danger, call 999 immediately.

Top Tips for use Tips for Parents and Carers of 3-7 year olds

This Safer Internet Day we are starting a conversation about how to spot, respond to, and report all types of scams online. Scams can take many forms and could target anyone, including young people. Whilst your 3-7 year old may not yet be ready to use the internet independently, use our top tips to start good online habits now that will help keep them safe in the future.

Enjoy going online together

Spending time online together with family is an important learning experience for the youngest internet users. Not only will you both enjoy the quality time together, but you can supervise their usage and guide them to make the safest choices.

Talk about their online experiences

Help give your child the language to explain what they're experiencing online by starting conversations about the internet and technology as early as possible. Talking regularly about what they love doing online, as well as any worries they may have , will help establish this habit and mean they're more likely to come to you for help as they get older.

Make use of settings, especially relating to online purchases

Parental controls and other safety settings can help protect your child from online harms, including scams. To avoid any nasty surprises on your bank statement, make sure in-app purchases or new downloads require a passcode, and don't set card details to autofill on devices your child has access to.

Explain that not everything online is true

If your child is too young to understand what fraud is, you can still lay the groundwork to help them stay safe online as they grow. Start simple and talk about the difference between real and make believe. Help them recognise that not everything online is true and that some things they see or hear could be stories, jokes or tricks.

Make sure they know they can always come to you

The most important thing for your child to know is that you are always there to support them, online and offline. Encourage them to talk to you if anything they experience makes them feel worried or upset, and show them they can trust you to stay calm, listen and help make things better.

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Parent Consultations

Next week is parent consultation week and the SENCO will be available to meet parents of children who are on the SEND register on Tuesday evening (11th Feb) from 3.30pm-6.00pm. If you wish to book an appointment, please sign up for your 10-minute slot at the school office. Many thanks, Miss Woodward.

NURSERY

This term Nursery have been learning about 'What's in my world?' They have bought pictures in of their homes. We looked at shape and features of their homes eg roof, windows, door

We have also been learning about the weather; the children learnt how to mix their own colour and then flick the paint to represent rain.

They enjoyed painting their own rainbows and enjoyed a Rainbow relaxation activity focusing on their breathing. If you would like to do this with your children click the link below

https://youtu.be/IlbBI-BT9c4?si=uP_IcNgj2H1kn93s

We have also shared the Gruffalo's Child and painted our own representation.

One of our focuses has been to strengthen our muscles in preparation to write, we made marks to Icey Wincey Spider using push and pull, continuous rotation, vertical arcs and horizontal arcs.

RECEPTION

The children have had a busy few weeks back at school. During our new topic of 'What's in my world?', the children have enjoyed learning about their locality in Kidderminster. We have explored features of our school; drawing maps and creating models using our construction materials, as well as looking at places and buildings within Kidderminster.

The children particularly enjoyed going on a local visit to Kidderminster Library! They were very well-behaved and were fantastic role models for St George's when walking to and from the library.

Thank you to those of you who are reading with your child at home. Please continue to write in your child's reading record when you have read with them at home, so we can celebrate this at school and enter your child into the weekly reading raffle!

Polite reminder that our Forest School day is a Thursday. Please can you ensure your child comes into school dressed in suitable clothing and footwear for Forset School every Thursday.

Thank you for your continued support. 😊

The Reception Team

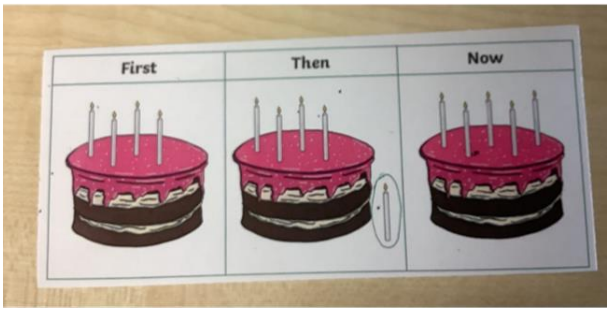
Miss Austin, Miss Webb, Miss Such and Mrs Lavelle

YEAR 1

Year 1 have had an amazing start to the new year, and we are all really proud of all of the children for how they have settled back in after the break!

In writing, we have been busy writing our own stories based on 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers! We have enjoyed building our own igloos in construction.

In maths we have been looking at addition and subtraction including first, then, now stories - this is an example for addition. Ask your child whether they can tell you the story and write the calculation!



In our topic work we have started our new topic 'Around the World'. We now know about human and physical features of Antarctica. We also know why a polar bear can't eat a penguin!

We have also enjoyed making our Christingles too!

Please remember that the school expectation is that you read five times a week and that this is recorded in your child's home-school link book. Reading is so important, so please try to read as much as possible!

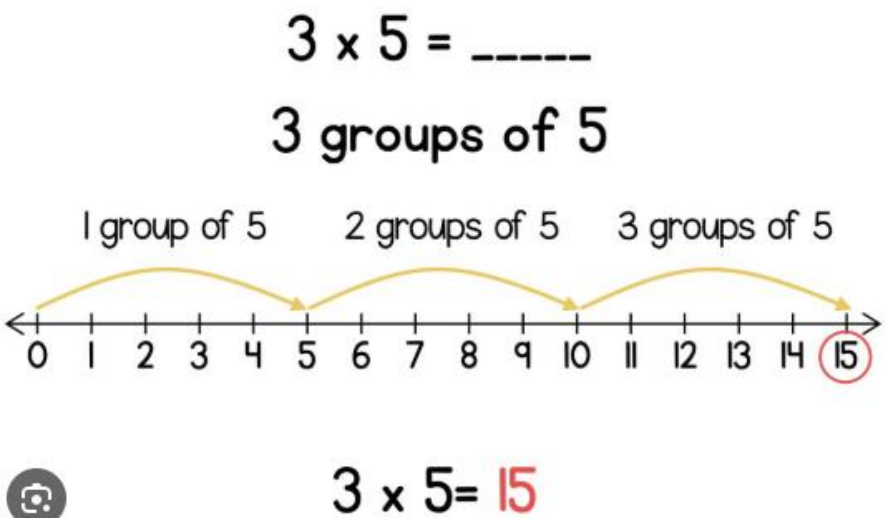
Thank you so much for your support!

Miss Edwards and the Year 1 team 😊

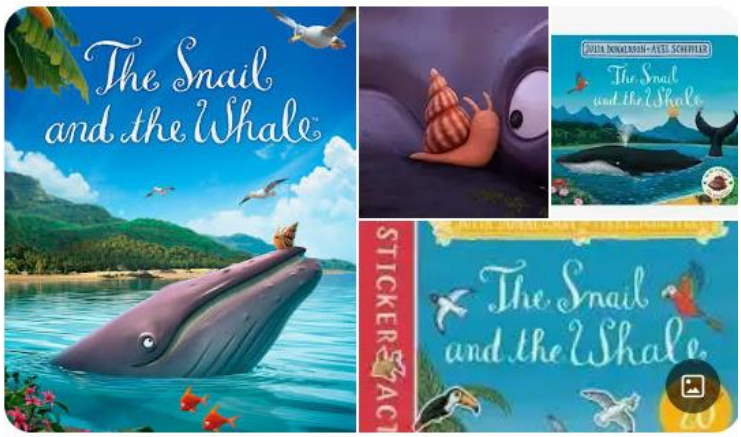
YEAR 2

Year 2 have had a brillant start back and have really pushed themselves with their learning.

In maths we progressed from Place Value, Addition and Subtraction to Multiplication where we have used groups to help sort amounts **equally** as well as using a numberline to show equal jumps. In writing we have been looking at



In writing we have been looking at 'The Snail and the Whale' where we have retold the story using a storymap as well as re-writing this as if we were the author. We have then followed this theme to looking at 'Whales' where we began to write our own non-chronoligcal report with sub-headings such as 'Diet', 'Facts' as well as 'Where do they live?' The children have workled so hard and have used the internet to find even more information linked to questions that they thought of themeselves . This information was then added to their report.



Please continue to read with your child every day and remember that your child needs their PE kit in school for the whole half-term. I want to thank you for all your support as we continue the year.

A big thank you from Mr Carrette and Miss Steward

YEAR 3

In year 3, we have had a great start to the spring term and the children have been full of enthusiasm with their learning. In English we have completed a setting description using expanded noun phrases and prepositions linked to our geography topic on rivers. In maths the children have been really good at understanding their formal methods for multiplication and division and in reading the children have been captivated by our story the girl who stole an elephant by Nizrana Farook.

In science, we have been learning about rocks and the rock cycle where we have been looking closely at rocks and recreating them using sweets as well as carrying out small experiments to explore their permeability and hardness.

In art, we have been learning about the print artist William Morris, and we have enjoyed investigating printing using objects that we have found around school, and we are busy creating our own designs based on nature inspired by him and the artist Lynn Bailey.

In geography we have started to learn about the river Nile, and it's features, and we are enjoying our lessons in RE learning from each other about Islam and how festivals and worship show what matters to a Muslim. As part of our core mental health lessons, we thought about what we need to flourish and grow and compared it to a tree. We then went out around the school site and chose a tree that we would nurture and look after to ensure that it too would flourish, and we each tied a ribbon on it as a sign of our commitment.

Thank you for your continued support from home and if you have any issues or queries please do not hesitate to speak to one of the adults in class or contact the school office.

Mr Roberts, Mrs Brettle, Miss Grant and Miss Lily – The Year 3 team 😊

YEAR 4

We have had a lovely and busy start to the Spring term in Year 4! In our Writing, we have created diaries based on the book *Leo and the Gorgon's Curse*. We have used some of our knowledge of Greek myths we studied last term to help with our writing as well as developing our use of subordinate clauses and fronted adverbials.

In maths, we have been learning how to use formal methods to divide a three-digit number with regrouping. We have been using our times tables knowledge to help us and we have been practising these daily. Please continue to use TT Rockstars at home to practise times tables; doing this frequently will help with quick recall of times table facts!

Times Tables Rock Stars: Play

In our Geography, we have been learning about the tectonic plates and how mountains and volcanoes are formed! We are going to be making our own volcano erupt soon! In our Art lessons, we have been looking at the collages made by Eric Carl and David Wightman. We will use Wightman as inspiration for our own collages where we will be using wallpaper for our designs! In Science, we have been experimenting with electric circuits and learning about electricity. We have had great fun using all the equipment!

We have also had great fun in Forest School this month! We have built dens, cleaned the forest with litter pickers and had hot chocolates. We are looking forward to having a campfire and toasting some marshmallows. Please can you remember to come in normal school shoes and bring a change of shoes – it's getting muddy!

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Atkinson, Miss Adamson, and Mrs Hamid

YEAR 5

Year 5 have had a busy start to 2025!

In writing, students have been studying *Ice Trap! Shackleton's Incredible Expedition* by Meredith Hooper, a text they have found highly engaging. They have produced impressive setting descriptions, demonstrating their ability to incorporate similes, metaphors, and relative clauses effectively to enhance their writing. We are now transitioning to our next text, *Wisp: A Story of Hope* by Zana Fraillon. The students will be working towards composing a diary entry, allowing them to further develop their creative and reflective writing skills.

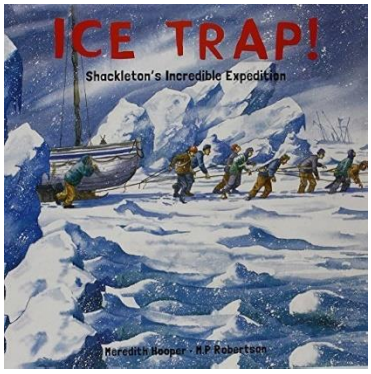
In mathematics, we have recently concluded our unit on multiplication and division. Although the children initially found this topic challenging, we are extremely pleased with their perseverance and their ability to apply various strategies to overcome difficulties in multiplication and short division. Our next unit will focus on fractions, where students will build on their understanding and develop their skills in this key area of mathematics.

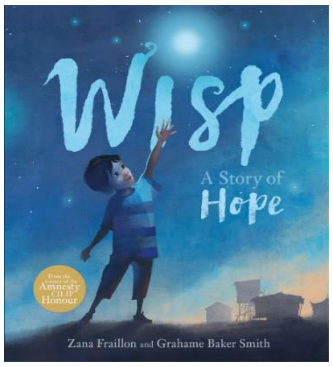
Every Monday, the children have had the wonderful opportunity to participate in swimming lessons at Holy Trinity and this has been a fantastic way for them to build confidence, improve their skills, and stay active. Furthermore, every Tuesday, the children have the wonderful opportunity to learn how to play the violin. They thoroughly enjoy these sessions and continue to make great progress with each lesson.

Please remember that the school expectation is that you read five times a week and that this is recorded in your child's reading record. Reading is so important so please try to read as much as possible!

Thank you so much for your support!

Miss Powell, Mrs Stewart and Mrs Smith 😊





YEAR 6

We have been working very hard in Year 6 this term and it's been busy!

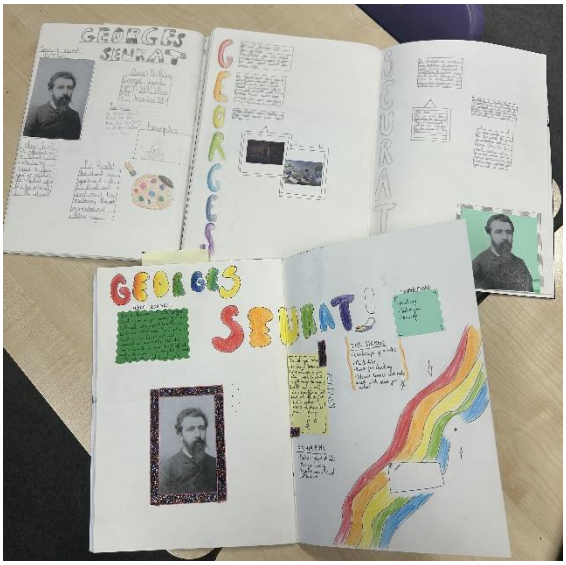
In our writing, we have used an animation called Francis as our inspiration to create setting descriptions with suspense. We have continued to develop our knowledge of using clause types for effect as well as using figurative language to create suspense. The class have been using the zone of relevance to examine the effect of theirs and others work.

In maths, we have focused on decimals including the four operations and lots of developing our skills to problem solve. We are just beginning to move onto decimals, fractions and percentages looking at equivalency and understanding how to compare and order these. The class have also been working hard in their extra arithmetic lessons, and this have been showing during their practise arithmetic papers.

In science, we are learning about how fossils are made and how they help us understand our very distant past. We are discovering how animals have evolved to adapt to their environments and will soon look at our own evolution.

In our PSHE lessons, we are learning about how to keep safe online especially on social media. We understand what is appropriate and inappropriate to say when we talk to each other online.

The class has been focussing on pointillism in art this term, which is a technique created by the artist Georges Seurat. They created lovely artist profiles where they had a go at presenting their work in different ways and with different types of media.



Please continue to support your child in attending the SATS busters sessions. We are starting to gear up for SATs and these sessions will help to support your child.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Edwards, Miss Moraity and Miss Timms 😊

Our Christingle Celebration

On the 16th January, we held a special Christingle celebration in school. Every child in school had great fun making their Christingle oranges in preparation and learned all about its importance within Christianity, exploring what each part of the Christingle orange represents.

The celebration at school was led by our wonderful Worship Committee, who did a fantastic job sharing the history of the Christingle and the important work that the Children's Society have carried out over the years. The Worship Committee also shared a special story with the school reflecting on how we can all play our part, by being the light to those in need.

As part of the celebration, we were lucky to have Reverend David leading the lighting of the Christingles. He too shared a special story, which also reflected on the importance of light and the significance it has within our lives, but his story really helped us to consider what life would be like without light, without the ability to see. Reverend David also introduced us to two of his special friends, who help him to support and serve our local community.

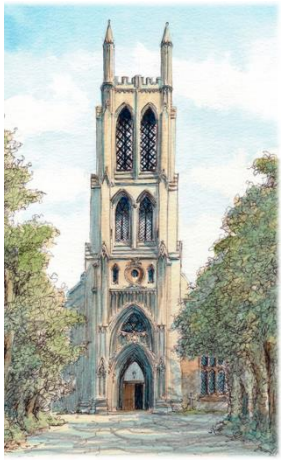
The celebration was the perfect opportunity for our St George's family to come together to celebrate and be grateful for what we have as well as a time for reflection, a time to sing and a time to share poetry and prayers.

The Worship Committee should be very proud of themselves! I am very grateful for their support.

Mrs Stewart

(RE and Worship Leader)

St George's Church Events



As we continue to strengthen our links with St George's Church, we would like to remind you of the different events that the church has to offer throughout the week. There are also some exciting opportunities for the children to get involved in over half term.

Please see the church website for further information.

Events - St George's Church, Kidderminster - A Church Near You

All are welcome to St. George's Half Term event with a parent/carer. Fun craft activities, games, singing and the story of The Kind Stranger/ Good Samaritan.

Refreshments served throughout. Come and join in the fun!

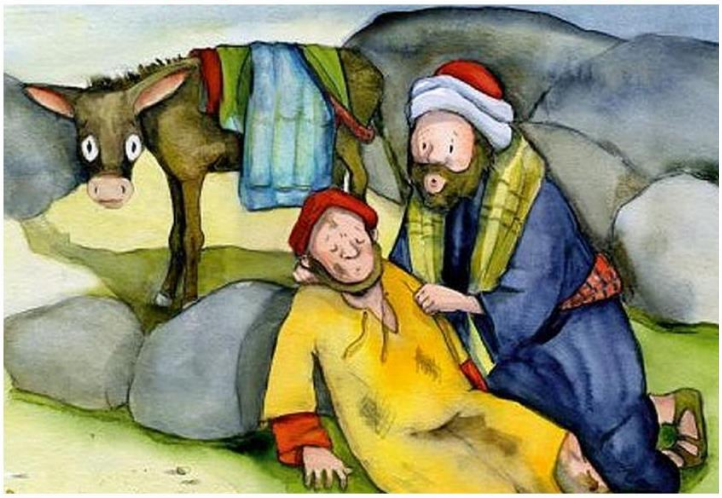
St George's Church

Radford Ave, Kidderminster, DY10 2ES

Children's Half-Term Activity Morning

10am to 12noon Tues 18th February 2025

The Good Samaritan



Fun Activities, Crafts & Games, Refreshments

For children up to 11 years (Yr 6) accompanied by a parent/carer cost £1 per child under 2's free

For more information

Parish Office-01562822131/office@kidderminstereast.org.uk
Web-www.kidderminstereast.org.uk Facebook-Parish of Kidderminster East

NHS
Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services
Herefordshire and Worcestershire

WELLBEING AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TEAMS W.E.S.T

WEST TEAM IN YOUR SCHOOL

Here to support your children with their emotional needs.

Beth
Education Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP)

Stacey
Senior Mental Health Practitioner

Ask your mental health lead for details

Find out what WEST has to offer:
www.camhs.hacw.nhs.uk/west

NHS

Starting Well Partnership

Free support to help you stop smoking

Over 80% of cigarette smoke is invisible. Quitting is the best thing you can do to protect you and your family.

Available to mums, dads, carers, in fact anyone living with a child under the age of 19 in Worcestershire.

Quit and stay on track with:

- Free Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT)
- Rechargeable vapes (for anyone over age of 18)
- 1:1 support or family sessions with a trained advisor

Scan QR code for more information:

Smoke Free Homes Service

www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/smoke-free-homes

Stay Connected

Delivered on behalf of worcestershire

Spring 2025

Do you love singing?

then join us-

Primary Chords

CONCERT

The Rhythm of Life

Friday March 21st

St Mary & All Saints' Church

Kidderminster

PRIMARY CHORDS

the children's choir of Kidderminster Choral Society for 5 – 11 year olds

When

Every Wednesday

4.15-5.15pm

Term starts-

January 8th 2025

St Mary's Chantry,

Kidderminster

- **Games & vocal warm up**
- **Varied repertoire**
- **Part singing**
- **Instrumental playing**
- **Termly concerts**

£30/£27 Termly

Contact: primarychordschoir@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES and REMINDERS

Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th February – Year 5/6 Llanrug trip

Tuesday 11th and Thursday 13th February – Parents Evenings – Please sign up for this on your classroom door. Parents of Year 5/6 that are in Llanrug please contact the school office on 01562 824206

Friday 14th February – TED Day. Children not required in school

Friday 14th February – Half Term week

Monday 24th February – All children return to school

Tuesday 25th February – Year 4 Swimming

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day

Friday 21st March – Red Nose Day

Thursday 10th April Easter Service – St George's C of E Church

Friday 11th April – TED Day. Children not required in school

Friday 11th April – Easter Holiday

Monday 28th April – All children return to school for the summer term

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.