



ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

At St George's, God calls us by name to love,
learn and achieve together, safe in the palm of His hands.

'I have called you by your name; you are mine' Isaiah 43



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To our wonderful community,

Mad March Hair Day – £1 🇬🇧

Get ready to go wild because our fantastic Mad March Hair Day is on
Monday 9th March!

For just **£1 per pupil**, children are invited to come to school with the
craziest, wackiest, most creative hairstyles they can imagine. Think:

- ✦ Bright coloured hairspray
- ✦ Sparkles and glitter
- ✦ Funky clips and bows
- ✦ Hair sculptures
- ✦ Wacky waves and wild styles

The bigger, brighter and more imaginative – the better!

Important reminders:

- Children should wear their **normal school uniform** on the day.
- We kindly ask parents to **avoid using hair dye**, as this can sometimes be more permanent than expected. Temporary sprays, clips and decorations are perfect!
- If your child would like to take part, please send in **£1**.

We can't wait to see the amazing creations – it's always one of the most colourful and fun days of the term!



Dates for March 2026

Monday 9th March

Mad March Hair Day - £1 donation

Tuesday 10th March

Mother's Day Gift Sale - £2.50 per gift

Wednesday 11th March

Year 3 & 4 Sportshall Athletics PM @ Garons

Thursday 12th March

Year 3 & 4 Tag Rugby @ Southend Rugby club

Reception Height and Weight check

Year 5 School trip to Braintree

Boys Football League match v Sacred Heart after school

Year 3 & 4 Girls friendly fixtures @ Greenways after school

Friday 13th March

KS1 Girls Football @ Len Forge

Monday 16th March

Netball League matches @ Cecil Jones after school

Reconciliation service with Fr Brett in school

Tuesday 17th March

Year 6 leave for Residential trip

Choir performing at The Royal Albert Hall

Friday 20th March

Year 6 return from Residential

Monday 23rd March

Non uniform day for winning house team

Year 5 & 6 Girls football tournament @ OLOL

Wednesday 25th March

Stations of the Cross led by Year 3 & 4 @ St George's

Church 2.30pm - all families welcome

Thursday 26th March

Easter Bonnet parade

Friday 27th March

Last Day of Term

Mass at 2pm - Children can be collected after @ 2.45pm

Congratulations!



It is always lovely to share news of a new member of St George's family! Edie became a big sister for the second time this week, as baby Maeve arrived! I have already met the youngest member of St George's family and she is beautiful. Congratulations to Mum, Dad, Edie, Nora and the whole family.

We also congratulate Jesse from St Bernadette's class who made his First Holy Communion at St Andrew's last weekend. He was also chosen to read at this very special occasion and was word perfect. We are all very proud of you!





Head Teachers Award

Congratulations to our winners this week.

Olivia ~ (St Francis) ~ for always being an outstanding role model, trying her best and being a kind friend

Isla ~ (St Therese) ~ Isla has had a brilliant week! She has blown us away with her excellent phonics and her fantastic counting in 2's and 5's. Great job, Isla!

Olivia ~ (St Elizabeth) ~ for consistently working hard in everything she does, enabling her to make excellent progress. Olivia is always well behaved, a kind and supportive friend, and sets a wonderful example to others. Well done!

Joseph ~ (St Bernadette) ~ for excellent mental maths recall. He was also really good at explaining his method. Well done Joe!

Ebony ~ (St Joseph) ~ for always working with focus and perseverance. Her learning behaviour is excellent, and she demonstrates kindness and empathy in her friendships. Well done, Ebony!

Ryan ~ (St Anthony) ~ for always working hard (especially in his maths), supporting others and being a wonderful role model in the class.

Freddie ~ (St Peter) ~ for always showing beautiful manners. He is always kind and thoughtful to others and is always on hand to help - well done!

And a special Headteacher's Award for Miss Fakely for being a wonderful support to St Anthony class, showing kindness and working with initiative. Thank You!

World Book Day Recap

We had an amazing World Book Day at school this year! A huge thank you to all the children for taking part — they truly looked wonderful in their fantastic costumes. It was lovely to see so many favourite characters brought to life.

A special thank you also goes to the parents and carers who supported the children in making and organising their costumes. Your creativity and effort made the day even more special! The shoebox dioramas were absolutely fabulous as well. The level of detail and imagination on display was incredible, and it was clear how much time and care had gone into creating them. Throughout the day, the children visited different classrooms and teachers, taking part in a variety of exciting book-themed activities. With all the year groups mixed together, it was a great opportunity for the children to meet others and make new friends. Finally, thank you to all the staff for organising such a wonderful day and making it such a memorable celebration of reading for everyone.

Reading Awards

Well done to **Eliana** (St Peter) who received her **BRONZE** award this week.

And well done to the children who received their **SILVER** reading award, **Tammy** (St Therese),
Demi (St Elizabeth), **Scarlett** (St Joseph) **Dami** (St Anthony)
and **Nana** (St Peter)

Congratulations to the children who received their **GOLD** reading awards this week.

Luca & Penny (St Francis), **Violet, Noah & John-Luke** (St Elizabeth)

KS2 Assisi Cross Country event

Our cross country team were in action at the Assisi Catholic Trust Cross Country event at St Thomas More on Tuesday morning. Some of our team members couldn't make it due to illness and we missed them! As several of the teams had less than 4 children (the minimum number to score overall points), we knew it would be impossible to finish in the top 4, but the remaining runners gave it their all! Their determination, endurance and the ability to find that 'little bit more' was remarkable. We celebrated a **GOLD** medal ~ **Finley** from St Bernadette class led from the front and several top 10 finishes. Well done to all of you:

Raven, Florence, Rosa, Harry, Johnny & Folarin (St Bernadette's Class)

Keziah, Isabella, Ella, Eva, Emilia, Tabitha, Finley, Jacob & Arlo (St Joseph's Class)

Diane, Abigail, Sophie, Lex, Teddy, Alex, Toby & Dalton (St Anthony's Class)

Chloe, Sinela, Iris, Zayaan, Freddie, Albie, Spencer & Ronnie W (St Peter's Class)



KS1 Tag Rugby



On Wednesday, our Key stage 1 rugby team represented the school at a local Southend event. It was a little overcast but the team brought excitement and sunshine to the morning! The team were fantastic, showing great improvement from the first game to the last game. The team celebrated a win and a very close draw! Unfortunately they did not get through to the final stages, but they were still a great team. Well done to: Reu'ven, Freddie, Violet, Violet, melissa, Hallie-May,

Conor, Philippa, reuben, Noah, Baffuor & Beau

Football League Match v Friars

On Thursday we played our next league match against Friars. It was a very close game, 0-0 at half time. The deadlock was broken in the second half and unfortunately we lost 2-0. Even though it was a loss, the boys kept going to the final whistle. The boys have their next league match on Wednesday against Sacred Heart. Let's hope it's a win!



Albie, Zayaan, Spencer, Folami, Ronnie, Freddie, Teddy, Zachariah, Sonny & Toby

Sports Award

This week, Billy from St Peter's class has been selected for the Sports Award. He was chosen for his great effort and impressive level of performance in this week's fitness training. Well done, Billy!

Punctuality Percentages

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
99%	97%	100%	99%	99%	99%	99%

Times Table Rock Stars

Congratulations to our TOP TEN rockstars this week.

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Finley - Year 4	Jacob - Year 2	Kyle - Year 6	Abigail - Year 5	Reuben - Year 2
6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th
Melissa - Year 4	Mia - Year 2	Milita - Year 4	Isabella - Year 4	Sophie - Year 2

Birthdays

Congratulations to **Millie-Rose** (St Francis), **Iris-Ivy** (St Peter) and **Mrs Heal**.



Prayers



We keep all of our community in our prayers.

God Bless, *Mrs Delgado*

Diary Dates

Further activities/dates will be added as soon as they have been finalised and will be in **BOLD**

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>
Tuesday 10 th March	Year 3/4 Sportshall Athletics
Wednesday 11 th March	Year 3/4 Tag Rugby tournament @ Southend Rugby Club
Thursday 12 th March	Football Match V Sacred Heart
	Year 5 Trip
Friday 13 th March	KS1 Girls Football @ Len Forge
Monday 16 th March	Netball League matches after school @ Cecil Jones
Tuesday 17 th – 20 th March	Year 6 Residential trip
	Choir event ~ Royal Albert Hall
Thursday 19 th March	Feast of St Joseph
Monday 23 rd March	Non uniform day for winning house team
Wednesday 25 th March	Rocksteady Concert 9.30am
	Year 3 & 4 Stations of the Cross @ St George's Church 2pm
Friday 27 th March	Last day of Spring Term
EASTER HOLIDAY ~ MONDAY 30TH MARCH – FRIDAY 10TH APRIL 2026 Friday 3 rd April ~ Good Friday Sunday 5 th April ~ Easter Sunday	
Monday 13 th April	First Day of Summer Term 2026
	Year 6 Bikeability
Tuesday 14 th April	Year 6 Bikeability
Thursday 16 th April	Feast of St Bernadette
Thursday 23 rd April	St George's Day
Monday 4 th May	Bank holiday
w/b 11 th May	Year 6 SATS WEEK
Tuesday 19 th May	Crowning of Mary school celebration – details to follow
Wednesday 20 th May	Science Fayre 2pm
Thursday 21 st May	KS1 Cross Country – Pentecost Dash! @ St Teresa's, Rochford
Friday 22 nd May	INSET DAY ~ SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

HALF TERM HOLIDAY ~ MONDAY 25TH MAY – FRIDAY 29TH MAY 2026

Monday 1 st June	Back to school
w/b 8th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening
Tuesday 9 th June	KS2 Borough Sports @ Garons (afternoon session)
Wednesday 10 th June	School Class Photographs
Saturday 13 th June	Feast of St Anthony of Padua
Tuesday 16 th June	Induction afternoon for Reception 2026
Friday 19 th June	INSET DAY ~ SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Monday 22 nd June	INSET DAY ~ SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Wednesday 24 th June	KS2 Assisi Catholic Sports @ St Thomas More 9.30am
Friday 26 th June	St George's Celebration Day from 9am – all families welcome
Tuesday 30 th June	Year 5 & 6 End of Year Performance 1.45pm
Wednesday 1 st July	Year 5 & 6 End of Year Performance 9.15am & 6pm
Thursday 2nd July	KS1 Assisi Catholic Sports @ St Teresa's 10am – noon
Friday 3rd July	Year 6 Transition Day TBC
Friday 10 th July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly 9.05am
Monday 13 th July	Non uniform day for winning house team
Tuesday 14 th July	Year 6 Leavers Mass 2pm @ St George's Church
Wednesday 15 th July	Rocksteady Concert 9.30am
Friday 17 th July	Last day of term
SUMMER HOLIDAY MONDAY 20TH JULY 2026	

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authority and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like PolyIno and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



The National College

See full reference list on our website

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