



# 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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**Headteacher: Mrs A. Delgado**

newsletter no. 233 ~ 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Parents,

## **HALF TERM ~ Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

**Mon 30<sup>th</sup>**

**INSET DAY ~ school closed to pupils**

**Tue 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Back to school in winter uniform**

**Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Nov**

**All Saints Day ~ Mass @ St George's 9.30 am ~ everyone is welcome.**

I cannot believe that we are already at the end of the first half term! It's been a great first seven weeks at the school. It has been wonderful to welcome our reception children to the family of St George's. They have settled extremely well and their Year 6 buddies have been wonderful companions and role models. It was wonderful to see so many parents during this last week discussing how well their child has settled and ways to continue to support their learning and progress. Thank you to the staff for their commitment and the children for always trying hard to do their best. Currently, **142** children still have 100% attendance and I hope this continues in the second half of the term.

### **Class Assembly**

Well done to St Anthony's class for their super assembly on Thursday morning. They celebrated the uniqueness, talents and qualities we all have and how God loves each and every one of us. My thanks go to Miss Rusz and the class LSA's for supporting, organising and preparing the children

### **Class Celebration & Mass**

It was lovely to see so many friends and family attending St Therese's Class celebration last week and St Peter's class Mass. Year 1's theme was 'Families' and Year 6's was 'Loving'. Thank you to Mrs McLoughlin, Mr Sims and Fr Brett for organising and leading the liturgy, and of course the children for sharing and rejoicing in their faith.

## St. George's Times Tables Challenge

As you may well be aware, the Government's expectation is for all children to know their multiplication facts up to  $12 \times 12$  by the end of Year 4. This is a challenging expectation and, as a school, we are committed to achieving this. Therefore, to ensure a consistent approach to times tables in the school, and to celebrate the success of our children, we are introducing the 'Times Tables Challenge' for children in Years 2 to 6.

The challenge will enable the children to work through the times tables in the order they are intended to be taught, as outlined in the Curriculum. Once a fortnight, the children will have the opportunity to earn Bronze, Silver, Gold and Diamond certificates when they have achieved a particular milestone:

**Bronze** – 2, 5 and 10 times tables (Year 2 expectation)

**Silver** – 3, 4 and 8 times tables (Year 3 expectation)

**Gold** – 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 times tables (Year 4 expectation)

**Diamond** – all times tables up to 12 at pace

For Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates, the children will be required to answer 36 questions in 3 minutes; for the Diamond certificate, they will have to answer 36 questions in 2 minutes. Certificates will be given when all tables are answered correctly in the given time. It will not be possible to skip certificates and go straight to Diamond. The certificates will be presented fortnightly in the celebration assembly on a Friday and this will be a wonderful way to celebrate the achievements of the children in Mathematics.

Going forward, one benefit of this challenge is that it will prepare the children for the new times tables test, which will be completed online by the current Year 2 when they are in Year 4 (in 2019-2020).

As we are introducing the challenge, any extra practice at home will obviously boost your child's confidence. This will give you the opportunity to see how they are progressing and continue to be involved in your child's development. There are a number of times tables drills available online and the children can also use 'PlayLive' on EducationCity to practise.

As a school, we hope that The Times Tables Challenge will be a great success and allow our children to become confident and competent Mathematicians.

*Mr Sims*

*Mathematics Subject Leader*

## Birthdays

Congratulations to everyone who has celebrated this week:

**Faith, Xavier & Lexi Rose (St Joseph)**

And to those celebrating during the half term holiday.

**Albert & George (St Francis), Eva & Aubrey (St Therese), Harley & Thomas (St Elizabeth),  
Kyrea & Noah (St Bernadette), Murphy, Samuel & Henry (St Peter)**

**Mr Sims and Mrs O'Shea**

## Head Teachers Awards

Well done to all the children recognised for their achievements this week.

**Archie** ~ (St Francis) ~ for an enthusiastic and focused start to school life

**Ava-Joy** ~ (St Therese) ~ for making us so proud with her enthusiasm & perseverance at home & school with her phonics. She has shown us what a super star she is. Keep it up Ava-Joy!

**Lee** ~ (St Elizabeth) ~ for his effort and perseverance in all areas of the curriculum

**Florance V.** ~ (St Bernadette) ~ for her enthusiastic attitude in class and working with great focus to complete any work she is set

**James** ~ (St Joseph) ~ for working well collaboratively. A supportive, encouraging partner and kind friend, James, you are a fantastic role model.

**Catherine** ~ (St Anthony) ~ for approaching year 5 with outstanding effort and enthusiasm. Keep working hard to be the best that you can be!

**Henry B.** ~ (St Peter) ~ for being a superstar! Not only does he work incredibly hard and set a great example, he is also the most superb friend.

And a special Head Teacher's Award goes to **Poppy** from St Anthony's class. This week Poppy spotted one of our younger children who had wandered off after being collected at the end of the day. She very sensibly alerted her mum and they brought him back to school.

Thank you and well done Poppy!

## Friends of St George's

Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting on Monday afternoon. It was great to listen to everyone's ideas and opinions. You should have received your Design a Christmas Card/gift pack this week. You may think it's a little early, but we want to make sure that the finished articles are ready in plenty of time for **THIS** Christmas! The PTA ask that you return the designs by **FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER**, via your child. Xmas4schools Artwork Instructions are at the end of the newsletter.

## Operation Christmas Child

On Monday the children took part in a wonderful assembly all about Operation Christmas Child better known to them as "Christmas Shoe Boxes"



Each family should have received a leaflet this week giving you more information.

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project, devoted to spreading love, joy and smiles to children in parts of the world who really need them. This is a charity that St. George's supports every year and one that our children enjoy very much. Please support this worthwhile charity if you can, returning your shoe boxes no later than **9.00am on Tuesday 28th November**. If you are unable to fill a shoe box but would like to donate a couple of items we will happily fill some extra boxes in school. We also have some spare leaflets in the office if you need any more. We have 65 boxes in the office to give away on a first come first served basis. Alternatively you can cover your own shoe box.

### Attendance Award

Congratulations to Year 6 who have 100% attendance for the second week running! Well done to all of you.

### Photos on Social Media

All parents and families enjoy seeing photos and videos of their children's school life. To enable this to happen at the various events during the school year and ensure the safety of all our pupils, we remind parents at the beginning of assemblies and productions not to upload any images that have other children in the picture. This is also the case at sports and musical events. We understand that in exceptional circumstances, a parent or carer may not wish their child to be photographed or videoed in this way. If this is the case we ask that they contact the school to discuss how this can be best achieved.

Occasionally, the local press will be invited to take photographs of school events and special achievements. We also like to use photographs of our children in our prospectus and similar documents, for parent information meetings, newsletters, website and on our display screens around the school. The child's full name is never published next to their photograph. If you do not wish photographs of your child to be used for these purposes, then please let us know. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

### Open mornings for Reception 2018

We will be holding information sessions for parents who are thinking of applying for a place for their child in September 2018. Each session will take place from 9.30~10.30am.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November

Please ring the school office (01702 293522) to make an appointment.

### RAINBOWS

If your child is struggling through a painful experience, and you would like any further information on how we could support them, through group mediation, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Delgado or your child's class teacher.



### Prayers



Please remember all in our community.

Have a wonderful half term holiday, see you on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October,  
God Bless,

*Mrs Delgado*

# Xmas4schools™

## ARTWORK INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEACHERS/ORGANISERS

Please read these instructions carefully to ensure you get the best results:

**DO** ✓

• Bright, colourful Christmas designs that fill the A4 paper produce the best results.

• Use paint, felt tip, crayon, inks and coloured pencils.

• Use collage.

*(Make sure all pieces are securely stuck on!)*

• Use glitter glue.

• Make sure any text is bold, legible and kept within 1cm of the edges of the A4 paper.

• Make sure any border design is nice and large as we trim about 3mm off the cards to give a professional finish.

**DON'T** ✗

• Please **DO NOT** use sprinkle glitter (glitter glue is fine) - it has a tendency to fall off and end up on other children's artwork and our scanners!

• If you are doing collage, please **DO NOT MAKE THE SHEET THICKER THAN 2 PIECES OF PAPER.**

• Please **don't** fold the artwork, or use staples or sellotape.

• **Avoid metallic finishes** over large areas.

• **Pale coloured pencils** on a white background do not reproduce well.

