



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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newsletter no. 507 ~ 6th September 2024

To our wonderful community,

Welcome Back

It was wonderful to welcome the children and families back this week. I look forward to a fabulous year where we will celebrate together and support one another. There will be diary dates at the end of every newsletter, as we expect that new events to be added throughout the year. It has been a busy first three days back, especially as we welcomed our first group of reception children. Hello and welcome to:

Matilda, Sienna, Zara, Isla, Donny, Beau, Aden, Molly, Liza & Oliver

The EYFS staff were amazed at how well they settled; it was as if they have always been here!

The remaining children arrive next week – we can't wait for a full house!

We also welcomed two new children. Baffuor joined St Therese class and Zayaan joined St Anthony class. We hope you enjoy being part of the St George's family.

Goodbye and Good Luck

We said goodbye to two members of staff during the summer, Mrs Harris and Ms Smythe. Mrs Harris had worked at St George's for 23 years as a higher level teaching assistant and midday assistant and Ms Smythe had recently joined Mrs O'Shea in the front office. We thank you both for your commitment to the school during your time at St George's and wish you every success in the future.

Congratulations!

Louie from St Elizabeth class is celebrating being a big brother for the second time! Baby George was born during the summer holidays and we have already met him! Congratulations to the whole family!



Dogs on and around the school site

As you are aware, we do not permit dogs onto the school site. This is for health and safety reasons, in addition to some children being very scared of dogs, regardless of size. We have noticed that there has been an increase of dogs accompanying the children on the school run and at the school gates. We are concerned that having moving groups of children, making the expected level of noise that children make, could startle a dog and cause them to react. Some children will stroke, pat or touch dogs, unaware if their temperament is suited to being so close to a child – again, this could cause a dog to react. We have also noticed that when some children come in through the gates, they are very nervous when passing a dog.

As a school, we would like to ask any parents who bring a dog on the school run to allow plenty of distance between their dog and the children coming in and out of school and not to bring their dog to the entrance/exit gates. Myself and Mrs Wallen are on the gate every morning, so if you need to stop a distance away, we are able to keep eyes on your child as they walk into school. On behalf of all our school community, I thank you in advance for your support.

Parent Information Meetings

There will be parent meetings for years R – 6 over the forthcoming weeks. They will take place in the class at 2.45pm, apart from Reception class, and will last no longer than 20 minutes. We ask all parents to be there as key information for the year is shared.

Monday 9th September ~ Year 6 ~ 2.45pm

Tuesday 10th September ~ Year 5 ~ 2.45pm

Wednesday 11th September ~ Year 3 ~ 2.45pm

Thursday 12th September ~ Year 1 ~ 2.45pm

Monday 16th September ~ Year 4 ~ 2.45pm

Tuesday 17th September ~ Year 2 ~ 2.45pm

Wednesday 18th September ~ Reception class ~ 9.00am

The Mighty Mile!

As part of the school's P.E. provision, children from year 1-6 will be running twice a week to improve the physical, social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing of our children. The Mighty Mile is a social physical activity, with children running, jogging or walking – at their own pace – in the fresh air with friends. The children will need to bring their trainers in on the days they are running, which will be confirmed at the parent information session.

PE Days

Just a reminder that the children come into school in their P.E. kit on P.E. days

Monday ~ Year 5

Tuesday ~ Year 4

Wednesday ~ Year 3

Thursday ~ Year 6 & Year 1

Friday ~ Reception class (starting from 20th September)

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Southend United, Tag Rugby and Boys/ Girls football clubs begin next week, with the remaining commencing from Monday 16th September. A link will be sent out on Monday for you to apply. You will receive a confirmation email of your child's place later in the week. With the exception of Southend United, all children will need to be collected from the playground and can exit via the gate that exits onto Eagle Way. Children attending Southend United can be collected from Shoebury Park.

Lunchtime football club – The girls to bring their P.E. kit into school with them to change into. They will need trainers (not football boots) and shinpads.

After school football club – Children bring their P.E. kit into school with them to change into. Children will need football boots and shin pads for both football clubs

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school – 8am					Year 1 & 2 dance club Mrs Bracknell
Lunchtime club 12.00 – 12.30	Mr Sims 11+ familiarization Year 5 Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby Year 3 & 4 art club Mrs Marquis	Well-being club KS2 (no need to book, just drop in) Mrs Wallen	Choir (Year 3,4,5 & 6) Mrs McLoughlin	*SSPSA Year 5 & 6 Girls Football Year 3 & 4 Science club Mrs Bracknell	
After school club 3.20pm – 4.15pm	Year 5 & 6 Netball Mrs Irons & Mrs Turner (20 max)			Southend United Football Yr 1 – 6 Year 5 & 6 Boys Football Year 5 & 6 Cross stitch club Mrs Irons finishes at 4pm (10 max)	

Reading Awards 2024-25

Reading is the key that opens and gives access to all areas of the curriculum. At St George's we consider reading to be a key skill that every child needs, as early as possible, so as to reach their full potential.

To positively encourage reading at home, the reading reward system will start again from **Monday 16th September**. Over the course of this year, there will be the opportunity for your child to earn certificates of achievement, once they complete a certain number of reads with a relevant comment by a parent or adult that your child has been reading to. For the younger

children, it may be that your child's reading experience for that day was sharing a book with an adult. As the children move into Years 5 and 6 and become more independent readers, this comment may be written by your own child around what they particularly enjoy, or a word or phrase that they needed to check to meaning of.

Each class teacher will keep a track of parent/child comments, in addition to the support we give for reading at school, and once the certain number of reads are reached, your child will receive a reading certificate. The totals are

50 reads ~ BRONZE READER, 100 reads ~ SILVER READER

150 reads ~ GOLD READER, 200 reads ~ DIAMOND READER

250 reads ~ SUPER READER and 300 reads ~ CHAMPION READER!

It would be fantastic to award every child in the school a certificate reaching the milestones.

There have been occasions when books have been returned with water or food damage. We understand that accidents happen, and it is especially easy for water bottles to pop open in book bags. However, due to the cost involved in purchasing and then replacing these books, we have to ask parents/carers to please ensure your children are careful when using the books at home or transporting them to/from school. If books are damaged at home, we will be asking the family responsible to pay for a replacement via Wisepay. Alternatively, you can purchase the book yourself and send it in to school. As always, thank you for your support.

Communication

As a school we felt that the communication between teachers and parents was very effective last year due to using the email system. If you need to contact your child's teacher, email them via the office office@st-georges.southend.sch.uk and mark it for their attention, or for the year group. You will receive a confirmation email that it has been received and the teacher will reply at the earliest opportunity. It may be after the school day has finished, or the next day, due to looking into a matter or due to the teacher not being in school. Please be assured that it will be dealt with. As ever, the staff thank you in advance for your support and patience.

Children being collected from school

If there is a change to who will be collecting your child at the end of the day, we ask that you email the office so the message can be passed on immediately. It would also be useful, where possible, if you could introduce the adults that are to pick up your child in your absence. If your child is in Year 6 and walking home, we also need a letter/email confirming this.

Lunches

As a school we promote healthy eating and healthy lunches for all our children. For a child to grow and develop properly, it is vital that they are eating a suitable diet. An example of a healthy lunchbox should:

- be based on starchy carbohydrates (bread, potatoes, rice, pasta)
- include fresh fruit and vegetables/salad

- include a source of protein such as meat, fish, eggs, cheese (or dairy alternative)
- include a side dish such as a yoghurt (or dairy alternative), tea cake, fruit bread, plain rice/corn cakes, homemade plain popcorn, sugar-free jelly
- include a still drink such as water, sugar-free or no-added-sugar drinks

It may be that children have the occasional packet of crisps or a chocolate covered biscuit etc, **but it should not contain:**

- sweets or pure chocolate bars (such as Dairy Milk, Wispa etc),
- fast food/left over takeaway from previous day
- food that is highly processed/high saturated fat content

All of these are directly linked to obesity and future health issues, such as diabetes. Lunch boxes are regularly monitored to ensure that the children have enough to eat and are eating the right types of food and with 210 to check, we would appreciate your support in not including unsuitable items.

Infant Lunches

Don't forget that we need to receive your order by Wednesday for the following week. If not, we will presume that you wish to provide lunch for your child. We cannot process orders after Wednesday as the completed orders have been sent to our supplier. Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any queries about the lunches, please contact the office.

You access the order form on the school website www.sgcps.co.uk

Lunch & Learn - Online Healthy Lifestyles Series for Parents

Starting a new school year can be exciting, but we know it also comes with the challenge of adjusting to new routines, habits, and lifestyle choices. Health for Life are inviting you to join the Health4Life team as we dive into helpful tips and strategies to make this transition smoother. We'll cover everything from creating healthy and sustainable habits around packed lunch boxes and snacks to managing fussy eating, oral health, and much more. Let's work together to ensure your child has a happy and healthy school year! You can join online by clicking on the flyer that was sent out with this newsletter.

Fussy Eating - Tuesday 10th September - 12pm - 1pm

Healthy Habits - Tuesday 17th September - 12pm - 1pm

Healthy Lunchbox - Tuesday 24th September - 12pm - 1pm

Oral Health & Sugar Tuesday 1st October - 12pm - 1pm

Healthy Snacks

Just a reminder that all infant classes receive fruit or vegetables to encourage healthy eating. Juniors can also bring in a healthy snack for break time.

Nuts

We have children at St. George's who have severe anaphylactic allergies triggered by peanuts and other nuts. The key to preventing an anaphylactic reaction is to avoid exposure to the trigger. Please do not send foods containing nuts or peanuts to school. This includes Nutella spread and peanut butter.

Uniform

Thank you for sending your children back to school so smartly dressed on the first day of term. Could you please check that all the children's items are named as we already have a few items which have been found unmarked.

If you need to order uniform, follow the link via the website or click on the link below <https://brandidentityschoolwear.deco-schools.com/shop/category/St-George-s-Catholic-Primary-School-?c=4936636>

Due to the change of supplier, there has been a delay in parents being able to purchase the smaller sized jumpers/cardigans. However, they will be available from the beginning of October. In the meantime, the children can wear their red P.E. sweatshirt. You can also contact the PTA who may have some sizes in the pre-loved uniform store.

Jewellery and Hair

Just to remind all parents that on health and safety grounds, we do not allow children to wear any jewellery in our school, including earrings. If your child had their ears pierced during the summer holiday and the healing process is still not complete by the time school starts again in September, we ask that you use micro pore tape or plasters to cover each ear to minimise the risk of the earring being caught and tearing the soft lobe or penetrating the bone behind the ear should there be unintentional contact during the school day. The wearing of earrings may also prevent the child from taking part in physical activities, both in curriculum time and extra-curricular activities.

Hair should be away from the face so as to not cause a distraction, and should be presentable and suitable for school. The school does not permit children to have extreme haircuts; this includes logos or patterns cut into the hair. Children's hair should not be coloured or bleached. Hair bands, clips etc should be red, white, navy or black. Make up and/or nail varnish should not be worn during the school day. Similarly, temporary transfers or fake 'tattoos' are not appropriate and should be washed off.

Birthdays

Congratulations to everyone who has celebrated a birthday since the beginning of September:

Matilda (St Francis), **Edie** (St Therese), **Dolly** (St Elizabeth),

Kitan (St Bernadette), **Aviya**, **Ruby**, & **Ellie** (St Joseph) & **Harry S.** (St Peter) and **Mr O'Shea**

Childrens' Liturgy

We are looking for more people to help with the Children's Liturgy in church on Sunday mornings during term time. No previous knowledge needed, and you will be shown what to do. You will need to undergo a DBS check for this role. Please email the church office (shoeburyness@brcdt.org) if you are interested.



FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S
PRESENTS

ST GEORGE'S HAS TALENT!

THURSDAY
3 OCT | 4 - 6PM

ACTS CAN BE A MAXIMUM
OF 3 MINUTES LONG

4 - 5PM - YEAR R, 1 & 2 ENTRIES
5 - 6PM - YEAR 3, 4, 5 & 6 ENTRIES

TICKET DETAILS TO FOLLOW!

PLEASE SUBMIT ENTRY DETAILS INC NAMES, ACT AND
ANY MUSIC/STAGING REQUIREMENTS TO
PTA@ST-GEORGES.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK

Friends of St George's News ~ Annual General Meeting

The Friends of St George's AGM will take place on **Wednesday 25th September @ 2.45pm**. As parents/carers at St George's School, you are all members and are invited to attend. The Friends of St Georges are looking for enthusiastic volunteers who are willing not only to raise money which will benefit all of the pupils at the school, but also help organise and run social events throughout the year. If you feel that you would like to play an active part in the school community, you may like to consider putting yourself forward for one of the positions. **Each post is for a year** and at the end of that time you can choose to either stand down or put yourself forward for re-election.

The posts are: **Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary**

If you think you may be interested and would like a little more information, please contact **Felicity Miller**, our current chair, who is happy to give further information about the different posts.

In addition to these, we also need **CLASS REPS**. This role requires you to be a link between the committee and parents/carers in that class, giving information, asking for support and taking forward any ideas etc. The class reps need to be nominated in the same way as the other FOSG positions.

Any person wishing to put themselves forward for any of these positions must complete the nomination form which can be found at the end of this newsletter

Celebration Day 2025 – Friday 27th June 2025

Celebration Day is the opportunity for parents and carers (and any other family members) to spend the day with their child/ren and the whole school community.

The children come to school in their P.E. kit for the day – no need for any change of clothes.

We encourage the children to wear a coloured t-shirt which indicates their house team.

Parents, carers and families are also encouraged to wear house colours! Sports morning usually begins around 9.15am in Shoebury Park. Families can bring chairs, blankets etc to sit on.

After sports morning, the children will be taken back into school so they can cool down, have a drink and use the toilet if needed. Families can then set themselves up in the park (or under shade in the playground if you would prefer), for their picnic lunch. At 11.30am, we ask that one adult per family come and collect their child from the usual end of day place so they can join you for lunch.

At 12.30pm, I will come out to the playground and onto the field and ring the bell for the children to return so that we can get ready for the marvellous musical performances in the afternoon! Once again, they will be able to have a cool drink and use the toilet. This will give parents of Reception, year 1 and 2 time to gather in the hall for their performance. Parents of older child can take their time as years 3, 4, 5 & 6 will be performing from 1.10pm onwards. It is a wonderful day, where all our families come together to celebrate the children of St George's. The date is in the diary section so you can already start making any necessary arrangements.

Pre-loved Uniform

We would like ensure a stock of good quality second hand uniform of all sizes which will be available for anyone who needs it. If you have any uniform your child will no longer use, please drop it into school to be sorted. We are looking for shirts, dresses, skirts, shorts, trousers, PE kits, raincoats, winter coats, school shoes etc. Please only send in good quality items.

Prayers

Prayer for a New School Year

Lord Jesus,

We ask for your help as we begin this new year.

Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us.

Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings and open our hearts and minds to new friends. Amen

We ask that you keep Mrs Rutter, Mrs Burton and their families in your prayers. Both Mr Rutter and Mr Burton are unwell at this time. We pray for healing and recovery.

Have a lovely weekend,

God Bless,

Mrs Delgado

Diary Dates

Further activities/dates will be added as soon as they have been finalised.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>
Monday 9 th September	Year 6 Information Meeting for Parents & Carers 2.45pm
Tuesday 10 th September	Group 2 Reception start
	Year 5 Information Meeting for Parents & Carers 2.45pm
Wednesday 11 th September	Year 3 Information Meeting for Parents & Carers 2.45pm
Thursday 12 th September	Year 1 Information Meeting for Parents & Carers 2.45pm
Friday 13 th September	Group 3 Reception start
Monday 16 th September	Year 4 Information Meeting for Parents & Carers 2.45pm
Tuesday 17 th September	Year 2 Information Meeting for Parents & Carers 2.45pm
Wednesday 18 th September	Reception Information Meeting for Parents & Carers 9am
Wednesday 25 th September	Friends of St George's AGM
Friday 27 th September	MacMillan Cake sale in school
Tuesday 1 st October	Feast of St Therese
Thursday 3 rd October	St George's Has Talent!
Friday 4 th October	INSET DAY ~ SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

	Feast of St Francis of Assisi
Friday 11 th October	Key Stage 1 & KS2 Cross Country competition @ Garons
Tuesday 15 th October	Netball League matches after school @ Shoeburyness High School
Wednesday 16 th October	Tag Rugby Competition Year 5 & 6 @ Southend Rugby Club
Friday 18 th October	Southend Schools Football tournament (girls) @ Len Forge
Monday 21 st October	Autumn Open Afternoon 3.30pm – 5.00pm
	Parent Consultation week
Wednesday 23 rd October	Assisi Football tournament (girls) @ OLOL
HALF TERM HOLIDAY ~ MONDAY 28th – FRIDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2024	
Monday 4 th November	Children return to school
Tuesday 5 th November	Reception Firework Dress Up day
	Feast of St Elizabeth
Monday 11 th November	Remembrance Assembly led by Year 6 10.40am
Thursday 14 th November	Reception 2025 Information Session for parents and carers 9.30am
Friday 15 th November	Southend Schools Football tournament (year 5/6 boys) @ Len Forge
Tuesday 19 th November	Reception 2025 Information Session for parents and carers 9.30am
Thursday 21 st November	Assisi Catholic Trust Choir Competition @ St Thomas More
Wednesday 27 th November	Reception 2025 Information Session for parents and carers 9.30am
Tuesday 10 th December	Year 1 & 2 Nativity Play 9.15am
Wednesday 11 th December	Year 1 & 2 Nativity Play 9.15am
Friday 13 th December	Reception Nativity Play 9.15am
Monday 16 th December	Christmas Games Day
	Non uniform day for winning house team
Tuesday 17 th December	KS2 Carol Concert 2pm at St George's Church
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper/Outfit day
Friday 20 th December	Last day of Autumn term
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY MONDAY 23RD DECEMBER – FRIDAY 3RD JANUARY 2025	
Monday 6 th January	First Day of Spring Term 2025
Thursday 9 th January	Sportshall Athletics Event Year 5/6
Friday 10 th January	Sportshall Athletics Event Year 3/4
Tuesday 11 th February	Netball League matches after school @ Shoeburyness High School
Thursday 13 th February	Year 5 Class Assembly
HALF TERM HOLIDAY ~ MONDAY 17TH – FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2025	
Wednesday 26 th February	Netball tournament @ Alleyn Court
Monday 3 rd March	Spring Open afternoon 3.30pm – 5.00pm
	Parent & Carer Consultation week
Tuesday 4 th March	Shrove Tuesday
Tuesday 18 th March	Netball League matches after school @ Shoeburyness High School
Wednesday 5 th March	Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 19 th March	Feast of St Joseph
Monday 24 th March	Key Stage 2 Assisi Cross Country
Tuesday 25 th – Fri 28 th March	Year 6 Residential Trip
Wednesday 2 nd April	Year 5 trip
Friday 4 th April	Last day of Spring Term
EASTER HOLIDAY ~ MONDAY 7TH APRIL – FRIDAY 18TH APRIL 2025 Wednesday 16 th April – Feast of St Bernadette Friday 18 th April ~ Good Friday Sunday 20 th April ~ Easter Sunday	
Tuesday 22 nd April	INSET DAY ~ SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Wednesday 23 rd April	First Day of Summer Term 2023
Monday 28 th April	St George's Day
Monday 5 th May	Bank holiday
w/b 12 th May	Year 6 SATS WEEK
Thursday 22 nd May	Key Stage 1 Assisi Cross Country @ St Teresa's, Rochford
Friday 23 rd May	INSET DAY ~ SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
HALF TERM HOLIDAY ~ MONDAY 26TH MAY – FRIDAY 30TH MAY 2025	
Monday 2 nd June	First Day of Summer Term 2025
Friday 6 th June	Year 4 Class Assembly @9.05am
w/b 9 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening
Tuesday 10 th June	KS2 Borough Sports @ Garons (afternoon session)
Friday 13 th June	Feast of St Anthony of Padua
Friday 20 th June	INSET DAY ~ SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Monday 23 rd June	INSET DAY ~ SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Wednesday 25 th June	KS2 Assisi Catholic Sports @ St Thomas More 9.30am
Friday 27 th June	St George's Celebration Day from 9am – all families welcome
Wednesday 2 nd July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly 9.05am
Thursday 3 rd July	KS1 Assisi Catholic Sports @ St Teresa's 10am – noon
Wednesday 16 th July	Year 5 & 6 End of Year Performance 9.15am & 6pm
Monday 21 st July	Year 6 Leavers Mass 2pm
Wednesday 23 rd July	Last day of term
SUMMER HOLIDAY THURSDAY 24TH JULY 2025	