



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. 586 ~ 4th September 2026

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. From next week, 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:

Tina, Esme, Teodor, Noah, F., Noah V., Ari, Indi, Grace, Hannah and Alexander

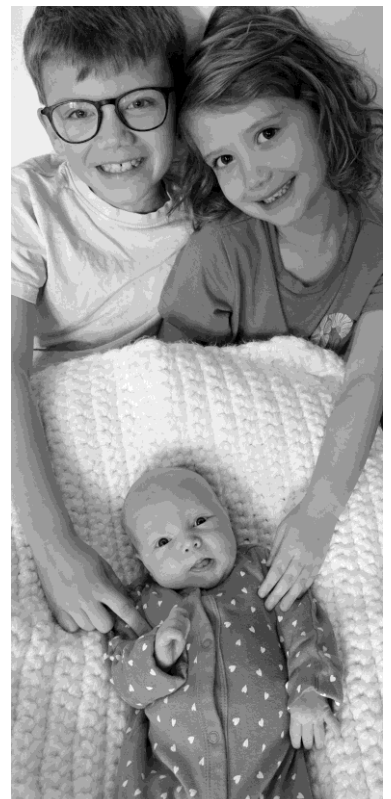
The EYFS staff were amazed at how well they settled; it was as if they have always been here! The remaining children arrive next week – we can't wait for a full house!

We also welcomed three new children and two new members of staff.

Harry has joined St Bernadette class, his sister Alicia has joined St Joseph's class and we welcome back Ezinne to St Peter's class. Miss Irons too up her position as year 2 classteacher and Miss Hodges has joined the key stage 1 team. We hope you all enjoy being part of the St George's family.

Congratulations!

George from St Peter's and Matilda from St Elizabeth were very pleased to announce that their new baby sister, Tabitha, has arrived. She was born at the start of the summer holidays, so George and Matilda got to spend the whole summer with her. Congratulations to the whole family!



Parent Information Meetings

There will be parent meetings for years R – 6 over the forthcoming weeks. They will take place in the class at 9am, 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. The slides will also be available on the class pages of the school website. Parents will enter via the main pedestrian gate.

Thursday 10th September ~ Year 5 ~ 9am

Friday 11th September ~ Year 4 ~ 9am

Tuesday 15th September ~ Year 6 ~ 9am

Wednesday 16th September ~ Year 3 ~ 9am

Thursday 17th September ~ Year 1 ~ 9am

Tuesday 22nd September ~ Reception class ~ 9am

Wednesday 23rd September ~ Year 2 ~ 9am

The Mighty Mile!

As part of the school's P.E. provision, children from year 1-6 will be running once 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 be running on their PE day.

PE Days

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

Monday ~ Reception (starting from 21st September) & Year 6

Tuesday ~ Year 5 & 2,

Thursday ~ Reception (starting from 21st September), Year 3 & 4

Friday ~ Year 1

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. 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. 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.

Communication

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.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Southend United will begin next Tuesday, 8th September. Parents will need to book via SUFC website.

Lunchtime clubs and after school clubs will begin from the 14th September, apart from choir which will begin after half term. The link to sign up will be sent out next week.

From this term, there will be a weekly fee of £3 for children attending our after-school Rugby clubs on Monday and Thursday. Due to changes in the funding available to schools for sporting and enrichment activities, we have had to introduce a charge for our clubs. We have, however, worked hard to keep the cost as low as possible and continue to offer a wide range of opportunities for our children. To make things easier for families, you can choose to pay weekly at £3 per session, or alternatively, you can pay £30 in advance for the whole term. There is also a £10 fee for cross stitch for resources.

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.

Running club – Children to bring P.E. kit into school (unless it is their PE day)

After school rugby club – Children bring their P.E. kit into school with them to change into. You will receive a link next week to apply for this term's clubs.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Before school – 8am			Year 1 & 2 Dance club (first half term) KS2 dance (second half term)	Netball Club Mrs Irons
Lunchtime club 12.00 – 12.30	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 Girls Football KS1 Lego club	Choir	Well-being club KS2(no need to book, just drop in) 11+ familiarization Year 5	Running Club
After school club 3.15pm – 4.10pm	Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby	Southend United Football Yr 1 – 6		Year 3 & 4 Tag Rugby Year 5 Cross stitch club Mrs Irons finishes at 4pm (10 max)

Reading Awards 2026-27

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 7th 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!

Any child who reaches CHAMPION READER will have a special experience as a reward. This year, the children spent the morning at the park and had ice lollies when they returned. Who knows what we will plan for this year's champion readers!

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 MCAS. As always, thank you for your support.

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 quite a number to check, we would appreciate your support in not including unsuitable items.

School lunches can be ordered up to the night before. If not, we will presume that you wish to provide lunch for your child. We are unable to provide a nourish lunch that has not been ordered and parents will be asked to come to school to provide a lunch. 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 child's MCAS app.

Healthy Snacks

Just a reminder that all infant classes receive fruit or vegetables to encourage healthy eating. Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 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>

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:

Carter & Temilade (St Francis), **Alexandra & Teddie** (St Therese), **Matilda** (St Elizabeth),
Jacob (St Bernadette), **Dolly** (St Joseph) & **Ruby** (St Peter)

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

Have a lovely weekend,

God Bless,

Mrs Delgado