



School Newsletter 1

Autumn Term 2024
Thursday 5 September

Headteacher: Mr P O'Rourke
Deputy Heads: Mrs C McGivern
Mrs S Hukowski
Assistant Head: Mrs L Byfield
SENCo: Mrs J Burke

In everything we do today, we're following Jesus and his way

Our School Houses

St Thérèse of Lisieux	Blue
St Oscar Romero	Red
St Francis of Assisi	Yellow
St Josephine Bakhita	Green

Flu

There is important information attached to this newsletter about the flu vaccine. Please read through the information leaflet and follow the guidance on the consent form to give permission for your child to be vaccinated in school. The nursing team will be in school on Friday 27th September to administer the vaccine to all children from reception age to year 6.



At St George's, we consistently have on of the best uptakes in Enfield. Let's ensure we maintain this important achievement.



Letter from Chair of Governors

I am pleased to direct you to a special attachment to this week's newsletter. Michael Lacquiere is our new chair of governors and he has written a letter to all school families which I urge you to take time to read. Michael has been a governor for a number of years and is a familiar face around the school. I have been delighted to welcome Michael into school in his new capacity as chair on two occasions already this week. The role of governor, and especially of chair, is crucial to the success of the school and this is explained in his letter to you today.

Year 6 Meeting

Due to a clash of dates, the year 6 parent meeting scheduled for Monday 17 September has been rearranged for **Tuesday 1 October**. More specific information will be provided for year 6 parents in the days ahead.

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It is with great pleasure that we welcome our pupils back to school following the summer break. I trust that you and your families have had a restful and enjoyable summer holiday, and that our pupils are eager to embark on another year of learning and growth.

As we commence this new academic year, I would like to draw your attention to several important matters. Firstly, over the coming week, our school calendar will be populated with the myriad events and activities planned for the year ahead. I encourage you to keep a close eye on this website page, as it promises to be a busy and exciting school year filled with opportunities for our pupils to excel and flourish.

The government has recently announced a number of changes that will significantly impact the educational landscape. Of immediate concern to parents will be the measures introduced to improve attendance. I will be provide more detailed information on this topic later in the newsletter, and I urge you to review it carefully.

Additionally, there have been modifications to the inspection format, which are of particular interest to us at St George's. We anticipate that both Ofsted and the Diocese of Westminster will be conducting inspections this year, following our previous inspections in 2019 (Ofsted) and 2018 (Diocese). Rest assured that we are well-prepared and committed to showcasing the wonderful education and nurturing environment we provide.

As we embark on this new academic year, we remain steadfast in our commitment to living out our school vision in all aspects of school life. Our focus continues to be on developing the whole child, allowing each pupil to fulfil their individual potential while maintaining high standards throughout their educational journey. We strive to provide a welcoming and engaging environment where children feel safe, happy, and excited to learn.

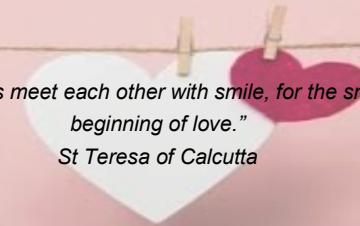
It is our unwavering belief that this environment enables our pupils to truly embody their motto: "In everything we do today, we're following Jesus and His way." This guiding principle underpins all that we do at St George's, fostering not only academic excellence but also spiritual growth and moral development.

I am filled with optimism for the year ahead. The dedication of our staff, the support of our parents, and the enthusiasm of our pupils create a powerful synergy that propels us forward. We should all embrace the many challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, working collaboratively to ensure that every child at St George's receives the highest quality education and pastoral care.

Mr P O'Rourke
Headteacher

"Let us always meet each other with smile, for the smile is the beginning of love."

St Teresa of Calcutta



Little Owl's Music

Come and join Ben our music teacher and Oakley the Owl for our brand-new toddler music and movement class.

Little Owl's Music is packed with age-appropriate singing, action songs, puppets instruments and bubbles! Our classes will introduce your toddler to fun and educational themes such as animals, transport, the weather, using nursery rhymes, props and action songs to get everyone involved!

Sessions will be held every Wednesday 2:30pm-3:15pm and Thursday 9am-9:45am in the Music Room (via the Gordon Road entrance)

For more information see www.st-georges.enfield.sch.uk and book on Happity

Sessions cost £7 (£5 for second child). Discount available for block bookings

Sessions are appropriate for confident walkers -3 year olds

Come and join us at for our fun filled toddler music and movement class with Ben our music teacher and Oakley the Owl.

Little Owl's Music is packed with age-appropriate singing, action songs, puppets instruments and bubbles! Our classes will introduce your toddler to fun and educational themes such as animals, transport, the weather, using nursery rhymes, props and action songs to get everyone involved!

Sessions will be held every Wednesday 2:30pm-3:15pm in the school music room (Entrance via Gordon Rd Gate at 2:25pm)
 Due to popular demand, we are also offering a brand new session every Thursday 9am-9:45am (Entrance via Gordon Rd Gate at 8:55am)
 Please book your place on www.happity.co.uk

For more information see www.st-georges.enfield.sch.uk (Parents' information)
 Sessions cost £7 (£5 for second child) Discount available for block bookings
 Sessions are appropriate for confident walkers -3 year olds
 Bookings are now open for this term. We look forward to welcoming you and your little ones soon!



Mass

Term started, as is customary for us, with a special Mass led by Fr Daniel. Mass was held for our key stage 2 children, followed by a special version for our younger children. We are very grateful to Fr Daniel for providing these opportunities for our children and for all the support he gives us throughout the year.

The Mass did contain a sad moment when we were told that it coincided with Fr Patrick's moving day, as he is taking up his new role as precentor at Westminster Cathedral. This is a high profile and busy role for which we offer him our prayers for success and fulfilment.

A special thank you to our wonderful readers and altar servers who set a great example with their contribution at the beginning of the school year.



School Attendance

As you may be aware, absence has been an increasing problem for schools since the 2020 Pandemic, and as a result, the government has issued new guidance entitled 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance'. In response, our local authority has introduced a number of practical measures which it expects schools to employ, such as more rigorous monitoring of absence, stricter controls of which absences can be authorised, and increased use of fines.

I am grateful to our parents at St George's, as our attendance is better than most. It has, however, been steadily decreasing, and we need to ensure that we work hard to improve it once again. Regular attendance at school gives the children the best access to learning and improves their life chances. We are also well supported by our Education Welfare Officer, a person we expect to see much more of in the near future.

At St George's, we have taken a pragmatic view of requests for absence, and we have tried to be realistic in what we authorise. We are, however, going to need to refine our approach. On a day-to-day basis, please ensure that pupils attend school regularly and punctually. Do not request leave of absence for a holiday during term time, and trips to see family for special occasions may not be authorised so readily. It is important, however, that children who are ill do not attend school, and please follow guidance for particular illnesses where relevant. Broadly, it is only medical conditions that are acceptable reasons for absence.

I know that the vast majority of parents of St George's are very supportive of school attendance, and that is reflected in our attendance rates. I will keep you updated of our attendance rates and invite you, should you have any further questions on this matter, to discuss them with me when you see me at the beginning or end of the school day.