



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

School Newsletter Newsletter 7

Spring Term 2023
Thursday 23 February

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

Our School Houses

St Thérèse of Lisieux

Blue

St Oscar Romero

Red

St Francis of Assisi

Yellow

St Josephine Bakhita

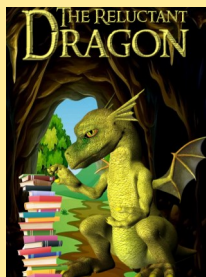
Green

World Book Day

World Book Day will be celebrated at St George's on **Friday 3 March** this year. The teachers, under the guidance of our literacy lead Mrs Smith, have prepared some really exciting activities for the children to enjoy, all aimed at fostering a love of literature and reading.

During the day, a performance of The Reluctant Dragon will be streamed to the classrooms courtesy of Image Theatre who are regular performers at our school.

The children will **not** be dressing up as book characters this year. We have tended to do this every other year. In addition to this, Express Yourself Day will be held at school again later in March, giving the children the chance to relieve themselves of their school uniforms and wear something that says something about them. More on that to come!



Parent Consultations

As you are now aware, we are offering a hybrid parent consultation this year where you can choose either an online or a face to face meeting with your child's teacher. In order to be able to facilitate this, we need to organise the face to face meetings first so we know how many seats to reserve for you. To allow us to do this, if you wish to have a face to face meeting, it is essential you state your intention on the form on the school website.


'parent information > parent forms'.

The deadline for this is **Thursday 2 March**.

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 @stgeorges_head

Next Week in School



Friday 24 February
Spirituality Day

Monday 27 February
Year 1 Maths Takeaway 2:45pm

Tuesday 28 February
Sibling photographs
Year 5 Maths Takeaway 2:45pm
Debating Team at ETSP semi-finals 4:30pm
Governor committee meeting

Wednesday 1 March
Visit of Bishop John Sherrington
Year 5 Maths challenge London Guildhall

Thursday 2 March
Potential strike day

Friday 3 March
Lent Appeal Assembly
Year 5 reconciliation 1:30pm at church

We extend a massive thank you to Fr Daniel and Fr Timothy who joined us yesterday to lead special Ash Wednesday liturgies for our staff and children. They very clearly outlined the significance of the holy day and I'm sure that many of your children would have arrived home last night full of new information to share.

Next week we are very excited to be welcoming Bishop John Sherrington into school. He will be leading Mass, a special liturgy and meeting many of our children throughout his visit.

Friday is Spirituality Day. Held at various times through the school year, we dedicate a day to the children's spiritual journey. There are lovely activities planned for the children to enjoy and engage with.

If all that does not make our children holy enough, year 5 also walk to our Church for reconciliation on Friday afternoon next week. That is following a special assembly lead by the Catholic Children's Society who will be launching their Lenten Appeal.

Strike Action

At this stage it is not possible to inform you of whether the school will remain open next Thursday, a day of strike action proposed by the National Education Union. Unions have advised teachers not to state their intentions of whether they will strike or not to headteachers, making it impossible to say how many staff will be at school. This means that at this present time, I cannot say whether there will be sufficient teachers to safely supervise the children. I hope to be able in a position to make a decision by Monday morning at the latest.

"As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst...He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you." (St Teresa of Calcutta).

For those of you who drive your children to school, please:

- **Drive carefully** on the roads surrounding school
- **Park considerately** to our neighbours
- Turn your **engine off**, not leave it running while parked
- Make every effort to walk all or some of the way to school if possible. It's healthy and good for the environment.



We have been contacted by the owners of private land near the school, space used for parking for three businesses. Despite being asked, certain parents are repeatedly parking on their land, mostly at pick-up time. We are always trying to keep positive relationships with our neighbours and repeated inconsiderate, and even illegal, parking only serves to increase tension.

The owners of the businesses have informed me that they will be forwarding the details of the cars parked on their land to Enfield parking enforcement who do visit the area around our school and regularly issue fines.

Science Show

Earlier in the term we informed parents that the children will be enjoying two exciting science days scheduled for Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th March. Such opportunities are only possible with the generous donations without which the school could simply not afford to organise them. Payments of £2 (Rec/Year 1), and £3 (Years 2-6) are invited on ParentPay.

All children will go to a "Science Show" on Wednesday and also on Wednesday every year 2 and year 3 class will have an engaging workshop. The theme of Wednesday's workshops will be Adaptations, based on how animals adapt through evolution and each pupil will take home an adaptation butterfly. On Thursday there will be additional workshops for years 4-6 based on the theme Green Earth where each pupil will make and take home their own solar powered oven.

I would like to thank Mrs Fearnley for organising these exciting days for the children.

Fabulous Freddie

Freddie Buck's success at golf has been reported in our newsletter previously, and we are always proud of our pupils when they achieve outside school, as well as within, and in whatever field.



Freddie came 2nd in the World Junior Golf Championships (boys 10yr old category) during the half term break last week. After a very early flight on Sunday, Freddie played 3 competitive rounds of 18 holes each on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. There were competitors from 36 different countries represented. Unfortunately Freddie was pipped to the post by a Portuguese player but was 24 shots clear of the 3rd place player. A good start to the season! Congratulations, Freddie!

WhatsApp

The school takes seriously its responsibility to inform and educate pupils about the safe use of the internet and social media. We can also support parents if they find they are experiencing difficulties with their child's use of such platforms. We cannot, however, police issues that arise or reprimand children for issues that emerge from private use of social media at home.

If a child feels threatened or bullied online, they can always report this to school staff who will always help.

Upcoming Dates

Advance warning of some key school dates. The school calendar is constantly updated on the school website, under the parents information section.

February

Thurs 23rd Year 2 Maths Takeaway 2:45pm
Fri 24th Spirituality Day
Mon 27th Year 1 Maths Takeaway 2:45pm
Tues 28th Governor Committee 6pm
Year 5 maths takeaway
Debating semi-finals @ Prince of Wales

March

Weds 1st Bishop John visitation to school
Year 5 maths challenge London Guildhall
Fri 3rd CCS Lent Appeal assembly
Reconciliation (Year 5) at Church 1:30pm
Tues 7th Football (girls) at Grammar School 4pm
Governor committee meeting
Weds 8th Rec/Yr 6 Height & Weight checks
Mother Nature Science
Thurs 9th Mother Nature Science
Fri 10th RG Stay & Play
Year 4 reconciliation at Church
Tues 14th Junior Apprentice at Civic Centre
Football (boys) at Grammar School
Year 5 RSE meeting 4pm (online)
Fri 17th RW Stay & Play
Year 6 reconciliation at Church
Mon 20th Parent Consultations
Tues 21st Parent Consultations
Governor Committee meeting
Fri 24th Express Yourself Day
Mon 27th Feast of St Oscar Romero*
Weds 29th Year 3 Easter Productions
Full Governor Meeting
Thurs 30th Helping Hands Easter egg hunt
Fri 31st Stations of the Cross
School closes for Easter at 2pm

Heartstopper

A range of books called 'Heartstopper' have recently become very popular. The books explore the romantic relationship between two high school children and are presented in a 'graphic' format. It is easy to see why these books have become popular, unfortunately, they are aimed at teenagers so the content is not suitable for primary school playgrounds. Whilst the books deal with important issues, they are designated for the 12-14 year old age bracket, so I would ask parents not to allow your children to bring these books into school.

Our Relationships and Sex Education programme 'Life to the Full' covers these issues in a controlled and age-appropriate way so that the issues such as those explored in the books can be understood fully at the appropriate time.

I hope that the parents who choose to have these books at home enjoy sharing them with their children and discussing the issues around growing up that are presented within.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank both Mrs Kyriacou and Mrs McInnes for leading an informative RSE meeting yesterday for our year 6 parents. I have uploaded the PowerPoint that they used onto the school website:

'parent information > parent meetings'

We really appreciate the time that parents took to attend our online meeting, and hope you're the information helpful. A session for Year 5 parents has been organised for 4pm on Tuesday 14 March.

Times Tables Rock Stars

Congratulations to class 4G who came within the top 200 out of 17,417 classes taking part in the NSPCC TTRockStars Competition.

They were 186th with 1,109 average correct points.

The top 5 classes for total correct answers were:

1st 4G with 11,091 correct answers.

2nd 3F with 9,867 correct answers.

3rd 3A with 5,590 correct answers.

4th 3S with 2,109 correct answers.

5th 5B with 1,634 correct answers.

A special 'congratulations' to all the year 2 classes who took part in their first competition and scored over 2,700 correct answers between them! A great start.

Our top 10 players from St George's were:

1. Mirabelle (4G) 2. Petra (4G) 3. Hesse (4G) 4. Theo (5B) 5. Ethan (3A) 6. Fiona (3F) 7. Harrison (3A) 8. Jensia (6OT) 9. Oscar (3F) and 10. Calista (4G)

A fantastic team effort by everyone who took part.

The top 3 most valuable players from each class will receive a certificate.

Congratulations to everyone who has been working hard to improve their rapid recall of multiplication and division facts using TTRockStars.

The following children have had the biggest increase in coins earned over the last 7 days.

Year 2: Dominic S, Rosie C and Jude T.

Year 3: Carissa S, Zuzanna B and Fred M.

Year 4: Petra T, Brea C and Tiana P

Year 5: Niamh O, Ameila D and Adam D.

Year 6: Matthew J, Alanna A and Alfie D.

To play TTRockStars, ask your class teacher for the username and password. The game can be accessed via our Children's Zone on our school website.



Free 1-minute maths app from WhiteRose.

Designed for use both in class and at home, the WhiteRose 1-minute maths app helps children build greater number confidence and fluency. It's all about targeted practice in engaging, one-minute chunks!

What's the app about? The app is aimed at Key Stage 1 pupils (ie. age 5-6 years). Individual one-minute tasks focus on adding and subtracting – and on 'Subitising', the skill of instantly recognising the number of items in a group without counting. Multiplication and division topics are also now available!

How do we use it? Your child can choose any topic they want to try. They then answer a unique series of questions (so it's a different set of questions every time). If they're struggling with a question, a 'Hint' button will give a helpful clue by showing the question in a different but familiar way.

When the one minute's up, they'll see a feedback screen telling them how they've done.



Photographs

We were surprised when our photographers only took individual photographs of the children this week. Like many parents, we were expecting the usual sibling photograph option. There was patently some miscommunication somewhere along the line. We have contacted Vancols and I am impressed with their speedy reply. Please see this, along with ordering instructions, below.

Vancols Photographers are pleased to confirm that the individual School Photographs are ready to view using the QR code on your proof card.

If you have already scanned the QR code on the Proof and registered you will receive an auto email notification.

If by chance you have not received your Proof or it has been lost you can call Vancols Parent Line on 01206 273711, for individual photographs you will need the pupil's admission

number from the school database.

The school photographers will be back on **Tuesday 28 February** to take **sibling** photos. If you would prefer to purchase a sibling photo instead of an individual photo please do not order the individual one as Vancols are unable to accept returns.

Regards

Vancols Photographers

Ouch

We would like to remind parents that if your child is returning to school following an injury such as break or fracture, then the child must first be accompanied into school so that a risk assessment can be carried out. This means that the school can most effectively care for your child whilst they are back with us.