



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

# School Newsletter

## Newsletter 8

Spring Term 2023  
Thursday 2 March

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

### This Week's Merits

*Each week, teachers nominate children in their class to receive a special merit. This could be in recognition for working hard, achieving something particular, being a good friend, or any number of reasons that show that they are living up to the school motto - 'In everything we do today, we are following Jesus and his way.' The following children have been chosen by their teachers (CM = Class Merit):*

Class	Name of children
RG	Niamh, Cinar, Ebony
RW	Scarlett, Oriah
1A	George, Leon
1DS	Noah, Ella
1W	Leo, Sophia S
2B	Zachary, Ben
2K	Etienne, Semi
2NS	Jaxon, Orla
3A	Logan, Leah
3F	Noah, Joe
3S	Oran, Carla
4GC	Ellen, Tristan R
4P	Daniel, Julian
4OS	Sebastian, Paolo
5B	Leo, Sarah
5M	Shane, Isla
5S	Olorunjeda, Franciska
6K	Emily, Oscar
6M	Connie, David
6OT	Sally, Isla

St. George's Catholic Primary School,  
Gordon Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 0QA  
Tel: 020 8363 3729  
e-mail: [office@st-georges.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-georges.enfield.sch.uk)  
web site: [www.st-georges.enfield.sch.uk](http://www.st-georges.enfield.sch.uk)  
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### Next Week in School

#### Friday 3 March

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

#### Tuesday 7 March

Football (girls) at Grammar School 3:45pm  
Governor committee meeting

#### Wednesday 8 March

Reception/ Year 6 Height and Weight checks  
Science workshops

#### Thursday 9 March

Science workshops

#### Friday 10 March

RG Stay & Play  
Year 5 reconciliation 1:30pm at church

Bishop John Sherrington visited our school yesterday morning. The day started with Mass for Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils and it was lovely. The choir led the singing beautifully and all others who played a part in the Mass, albeit altar servers, readers, those offering the gifts) did so perfectly. All children participated in the Mass beautifully. The singing and responses were crystal clear. Bishop John was very impressed. He spoke powerfully, on the feast of St David, about the role of being a bishop and drew many tangible links between him and St David that transcend the centuries. It was a privilege for us, and the governors who kindly joined us, to experience this occasion together.

Bishop John, after meeting and chatting with teachers, led a lovely liturgy for Years 3, 2, 1 and Reception. Once again, the governors who attended this service were impressed by the children's attentiveness. He later met our Liturgy Team and Green Team who spoke passionately about their responsibilities.

It was a really special morning. We should all be proud of how the children have portrayed our school. In the Bishop's words, with attentiveness, prayerfulness and respect.

### Science Show

As you are aware, the children will enjoy some special science workshops and presentations next week. We are asking for a small donation of £2 (Rec/Year 1) and £3 (years 3 to 6) in order to make these experiences possible. I thank those who have already contributed on ParentPay.

Our science leader, Mrs Fearnley, informs me that the workshops will be based on 'Adaptations' and 'The Green Earth.'

"Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do." (St David, feast 1st March)  
*gwnewch y pethau bychain*



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

- **Drive carefully** on the roads surrounding school
- **Park considerably** 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.



## 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.

At St George's we have traditionally invited the children to dress up as book characters every other year. This decision was based on feedback from families who found the requirement to find and fund costumes for all of their children stressful and expensive. This year we have had a small amount of correspondence stating that they feel that children are missing out by not dressing up.

World Book Day is an important day for us at St George's. We are passionate about the children developing a love of reading and activities have been chosen to enable this. Next year will be our 'dressing up' year, then following that we can review our strategy. The additional value that allowing the children to dress as a book character can then be weighed against the needs of those who find this difficult. It is imperative that if the strategy is changed, then creative solutions can be found that enable all to participate. The most important outcome is that which enables us to focus on reading, story and the joy of literature.

## The Great Debate

Mrs McGivern received this wonderful email from the organisers of the Enfield Town School Partnership Debating Competition.

*Dear Mrs McGivern,*

*Congratulations to you and both of your teams for a brilliant performance in The Great Debate semi-final yesterday! The judges thought the standard of debating was great and both St. George's teams were articulate, well-prepared and persuasive. We can't wait to welcome your winning team (2)\* [who argued against: 'This house believes digital technologies are making children's lives better'] for The Great Debate Final on Tuesday, March 21st 2023, at Chace Community School.*

*Next week I will send some additional information about the Final event, including the topics for the two debates in which each team will take part.*

I would like to congratulate our winning team on their achievement and wish them the best of luck in the final. I am immensely proud of both teams, and so impressed by their debating skills...blown away, in fact. You are great ambassadors for our school. I would also like to thank all of those who give up their time to take part in Mrs McGivern's debating club every Friday after school.

## Upcoming Dates

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

### 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 (10am, 2:15pm) Full Governor Meeting
Thurs 30th	Helping Hands Easter egg hunt
Fri 31st	Stations of the Cross School closes for Easter at 2pm

### April

Mon 17th	School reopens for the summer term
Mon 24th	St George's Day Mass and activities
Tues 25th	1W Easter Liturgy
Weds 26th	1A Easter Liturgy
Thurs 27th	1DS Easter Liturgy

## Hacked!

### Parent Consultations

Last week we offered parents the opportunity to submit their wish to have a face to face consultation with their child's class teacher. This was to be via a link on the school website.

As you are aware, we have a page on the website that contains all of our parent forms. Unfortunately, this, and other links to the school's email, have been compromised resulting in all of our inboxes being flooded with nonsense! I will be disabling all of the links today to hopefully alleviate the threat. This does mean, however, that we will need to ask parents to repeat their preferences. We will inform you when this is ready!

## 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.

## 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.



## Parent Governor

Very soon, the term of office of two of our parent governors will come to an end. This means that two parent governors need to be elected. If this is a role that you would consider and wish to find out more, please do not hesitate to talk to me when you see me in the playground or contact me via the office email so that a convenient time can be arranged if you wish to discuss it. It is a very important role that provides a significant way to contribute to the life and development of the school.



*Bishop John with our Liturgy Team in the Rosary Garden during his visit on Wednesday.*

## Science Success

We are very proud to announce that a group of children from St George's School that entered the Imperial College Science and Innovation competition have won the 4-11 age category.

A group of our year 6 pupils created a five minute film based on experiments they had undertaken in year 5 and 6 reflecting the United Nations goal of eliminating world hunger.

The judges reported that they were incredibly impressed with the teams entry and their proposals to achieve the goal of 'Zero hunger'. Some of their comments were:

*"I love the experiments."*

*"Brilliant idea to re-use plastic bottles. I wonder if this could be used in urban areas where people in tower blocks, flats and homes with no gardens could grow food?"*

*"Excellent investigation of the different parameters."*

*"Fantastic scientific language used."*

*"Great research about the use of plastic bottles in Africa. I didn't know this."*

*"This is a great example of Micro-propagation. People could grow their own crops in small spaces."*

*"Wow, the addition of composting at the end really completed the project. Well done!"*

We are awaiting a date for when a lecturer from Imperial College will be awarding the children their certificates but meanwhile take a look at the film we produced.

**[https://youtu.be/9tP\\_uY9Djeo](https://youtu.be/9tP_uY9Djeo)**