



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

School Newsletter 11

Summer Term 2023

Thursday 6 July

Headteacher: Mr P O'Rourke
Deputy Heads: Mrs C McGivern
Mrs S Hukowski
Assistant Head: Mrs L Byfield
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	CM
RW	Azaria, Joanna
1A	George, Ruth
1DS	Ugonna, Roisin
1W	Florence, Jacob
2B	Ruby, Lily
2K	Aleeyah, Sofia
2NS	Adrian, Josh
3A	Oliver, Fred
3F	Fiona, Joe
3S	Ourania, Rowan
4GC	Georgina, Sienna
4OS	Patrick, Martina
4P	CM
5B	Timon, Nida
5M	Olivia, Juliette, Skye, Zach
5S	Bilyana, Adam
6K	Harry, Samuel
6M	Hugh
6OT	Ri'sher, Orla, Jacob

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Next Week in School

Friday 7 July

Teacher Training Day - school closed

Monday 10 July

Happy School Bag Collection

Tuesday 11 July

Year 4 Book Look

Year 6 perform Matilda 2pm, 6.30pm

Wednesday 12 July

Year 2 to Natural History Museum, Tring

Full Governors meeting

Year 6 perform Matilda 6.30pm

Thursday 13 July

Year 1 Songsack performance 2.50pm

It is always very rewarding when members of the public see our children out on school visits and praise them for their courtesy and behaviour. That is precisely what happened when year 5 were returning from church last week. A member of the public took the time to call the school to pass on their compliments. Well done, year 5! The school's faith life is really thriving at the moment, although there are still two opportunities for the children to attend Mass. The Year 6 Leavers Mass which takes place on Thursday 20 July for year 6 children and their families (please note the chance of time to 10am) and our end of term Mass for the children. We thank Fr Daniel and Fr Timothy for all they have done for our school this year. It will, of course, be Fr Timothy's last chance to be with us as he leaves for his parish in Watford over the summer. We wish him the very best of luck.

Helping Hands Coffee Morning

The Helping Hands team are holding their last coffee morning of the school year on Friday 14th July in the morning, after the school drop off. As well as being a great opportunity to have a cup of coffee/tea and speak to others parents and carers, you can find out about the great work that the Helping Hands team do to further enrich the lives of the children in school. There will also be an opportunity to buy pre-loved uniform for £1 per item.

Incident

Thank you for your positive response to the incident that occurred on Tuesday before school. All information that we receive we will keep, share or log as appropriate, including passing anything relevant to the police. I am full of praise for the two boys who came straight into school and alerted their teacher straight away, allowing us to contact parents and alert the police without delay.

"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."

(John 15:11)

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.



Book Look

Each year we invite parents to come into school to spend some time with their children looking through their school books together. This quality time allows parents to see how the children have been doing in their classwork, see for themselves the children's strengths or any areas for development. This will allow parents the chance to support their children's learning in an even more informed way as they begin to prepare for moving up a year group in September. The remaining Book Look sessions are:

Tuesday 11 July*

4GC - 2pm, 4OS - 2:30pm, 4P - 3pm

We look forward to welcoming year 4 parents on Tuesday. You must **register your attendance in advance** via the school website (Parents' Information > Parent Forms') before Monday 10th at midday. Please do not turn up on the day as your child and their books will not be there for you!

School Reports

These will once again be distributed electronically on the following dates:

Monday 10 July	Reception
Tuesday 11 July	Years 3 & 5
Wednesday 12 July	Years 1 & 2
Thursday 13 July	Year 4
Friday 14 July	Year 6

We ask the children to complete their own report - a personal reflection on their year at school. It is an interesting and very important official document. On the above dates, the children will also bring paper copies of these home.

Disney Day

Each summer term we try to pick an imaginative topic for our children to study in their classes, often reflecting wider events or issues. This year, it is '100 Years of Disney.' This offers us a wealth of material from lovable stories to more challenging themes. We have designated Tuesday 18 July 'Disney Day' at school. Children are invited to wear their own clothes that reflect a Disney theme or topic. They can even dress up as a Disney character if they wish. However, as always, the last thing that we want is for parents to go to unnecessary expense as this is purely meant to be a fun day to round off enjoyable topic.

Upcoming Dates

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

July

Fri 7th	School closed - teacher training day
Mon 10th	Reports to parents this week Happy School Bag collection
Tues 11th	Year 6 perform Matilda 2pm, 6:30pm Year 4 Book Look (pm)
Weds 12th	Year 6 perform Matilda 6:30pm Year 2 to Natural History Museum, Tring Full Governor Meeting
Thurs 13th	Year 5 Music festival at school with St Andrew's Year 1 Song Sack performance 2:50pm
Fri 14th	Summer Reading Challenge assembly
Mon 17th	Debating Club to the Houses of Parliament
Tues 18th	Disney Day
Weds 19th	Post-report parents consultations Choir singing in playground at home time
Thurs 20th	Leaver's Mass 10am
Fri 21st	School Mass School closes for the summer break 2pm

September

Tues 5th	Term begins
Thurs 14th	Year 6 Secondary Transfer meeting 6pm

Leavers Mass

Our Leavers Mass is a very special occasion and this year takes place at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St George Church at 10am on Thursday 20 July. Parents and families are welcome to join the children at this service.

Congratulations Julian

I was absolutely delighted to receive a message from Julian's mum (4P) telling me about his fantastic achievement. He has won the national Thank You Teacher Day baking competition organised by Teaching Awards Trust. The link below should take you to a special Twitter message recorded by Nadiya Begum that I have also retweeted on our school Twitter account. We, as well as his family, are really proud of his achievement, but also of his thoughtfulness. It means so much to Miss Packenham.



<https://twitter.com/begumnadiya/status/1676214445163397120?s=48&t=0KMvBENQ4Qfz8KiVy6MKXQ>

School Uniform

The official school uniform is now ready for ordering at Smiths Schoolwear. There have been some subtle changes to the uniform and one rather significant one. From September the school uniform will be exactly the same for years 1 to 6, although they will be resplendent with our new logo.

For nursery and reception, children will be required to wear navy jogging bottoms, a navy sweatshirt, red polo shirt and plimsolls. This will mean that our early years classes (nursery + reception) will have a common uniform and more appropriate to the play based learning that is the foundation of their curriculum.

Although we encourage parents to purchase uniform from our official suppliers, uniform can be purchased from other sources provided that the colours match.

<https://www.smithsschoolwear.co.uk/product-category/find-your-school/st-georges-primary-school-find-your-school/>

There is no need to purchase uniform with the new logo unnecessarily. Uniform bearing the old logo will be completely acceptable for the next school year as it is in the process of being phased out.

I would like to thank parents for their patience and understanding during this time as I know many wanted to get uniform orders sorted.

Logo

Due to a copyright issue with our logo, a change needed to be made. A working party was formed that consisted of children, and adults representing different aspects of the school community (staff, governors, parents, parish).

The children initially worked with a graphic designer who taught them about the purpose and power of logos. They looked at various well known designs from major companies as well as some logos used by schools. They thought about what was most important to them about our school and produced a wide range of design ideas. They decided that the logo needed to be simpler and easier to remember and recreate.

The adults from the working party joined them and discussed their design ideas, giving appropriate advice and guidance. By a process of elimination from some wonderful ideas, a new design was decided upon.

The completed design, though simpler, is full of symbolism:

The circle represents God's eternal love

The cross is at the heart of the design, just as faith is at the heart of our school

The cross is red, symbolising the courage of our patron saint

The light rays represent the children, through their actions, they are the light of the world

