



St George's C of E Primary School

Learning for Life



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13th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

PTA Update

Thank you to everyone who attended last week's AGM; your support is very much appreciated. I am pleased to tell you that we have a new PTA Committee for the new academic year - details to follow next week!



Porridge and Pens



On Tuesday, we welcomed Mrs Weaver back to St George's for a special assembly. Mrs Weaver, who used to teach Music here at St George's, came to tell the children all about a local charity she works for called Porridge and Pens. The charity, based in Brightlingsea, supports disadvantaged children and families in the Kumasi region of Ghana. They have built a school (Brightlingsea Academy) and also run various projects to support young people into work. The children listened with great interest and were encouraged to think about how fortunate we are to live in the UK, with a free education system.

Mrs Weaver talked about lots of different fundraising ideas - we are now going to think about how we can support the Porridge and Pens charity here at St George's.

Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Harvest Festival this week. The children spoke and sang beautifully and it is always lovely to get together in our beautiful church. Thank you to Jenny Nicholls for welcoming us as always and to Phillip Young for the blessing. All your Harvest donations will be taken to the local foodbank - thank you for your generosity and support.



Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Keitch

Navigators News

Navigator Class has had one of its busier weeks (which is saying something,) with many projects either beginning or at the point of completion.

Navigators have done a wonderful job presenting the Harvest Service at St George's Church, both for reading their lines so well and also for leading the younger children in the singing of the songs.

The Year 5/6 St George's girls' football team did themselves proud at this week's tournament. They won a game, and Sienna A scored a hat trick!



Special mention must go to Rosie , Aimee and Hollie S this week for finally getting the ball rolling with the painting of Navigators' library shelves. There is still much to do, including adding decorative designs on each of the shelves, but the girls have worked hard to paint a smooth new coat onto the first set (and only got a little messy in the process).

Plenty more of this to come!

Excitingly, eight Navigators pupils had the opportunity to take part in Nicky Nightingale's Coastal Schools workshop, and explore the flora and fauna of the local Essex coastline. The children had a great time, and some seashells were brought back to Navigators Class! We are hoping to see a lot more where they came from.



Tesco 'Stronger Starts' Blue token scheme

Don't forget to spread the word - please vote for St George's!!

Stronger **TESCO**
Starts  Every little helps

Staffing Update



Welcome to Mrs Spurgin (known as Mrs Pip to the children) who has joined our Learning Support team.

Mrs Pip works alongside one of our SEND pupils in Key Stage Two and is enjoying getting to know the children and staff at St George's.

Girls' Football Tournament

On Tuesday, our Girls' Football team took part in a tournament at The Colne School in Brightlingsea. They were accompanied by Mr Clarke, their coach, and Ms Mitchell, one of our MDAs.

The girls looked very smart in their St George's football kits and thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon. They represented St George's admirably, demonstrating good sportsmanship and a positive attitude throughout.

The team finished second in their group. Well done, girls! And thank you very much to Mr Clarke for giving his time to coach the team and to both Mr Clarke and Ms Mitchell for accompanying the girls to the tournament.



Well done, boys!

Harry, Zak, Oliver, Alexander, Theo and Blake (Pathfinders) have started their first season playing league games for their football team. They have been training hard and the hard work has paid off with a win at the weekend. Well done boys, keep up the good work!



Karate Success!

Well done to Eliza (Pathfinders), Holly (Adventurers) and Saul (Navigators) who have all successfully achieved their red belt in karate! They demonstrated perseverance, discipline and strength throughout their training, resulting in them successfully achieving their red belts. This means they have completed all the junior belts and now move onto the adult belts!

Congratulations all, what a fantastic achievement!



Coastal School

Our Forest School leader, Nicky Nightingale, is currently undertaking training to become a Coastal School leader. As part of her course, she is running a pilot group with children in Navigators class. This week, they made their first visit to the Coastal School site in Harwich, accompanied by John Jackdaw. They were aptly renamed Nicky Narwhal and John Jellyfish for the benefit of Coastal Schools!



The weather was glorious and, even at high tide, we still had some beach to explore. After a briefing of how to keep safe while out on a public beach, the children set to work on a range of activities from pebble art to building lagoons and sea defences. We learnt how the earth and moon cause high and low tides each day and found pebbles to represent this.



I.D. sheets were used to identify different shells. We even found out the name of a new insect; the European Firebug which lives on the rocks. A passer by told us that shark teeth have been found, and even a Megalodon tooth dating back over 3 million years, on the stretch of beach we were exploring. This led to some fantastic beach combing and other interesting finds. Unfortunately, no shark teeth were found this time but no doubt this will be a popular activity over the coming weeks.



Online Safety



Parental Controls for games including Fortnite

Epic Games (which includes Fortnite, Fall Guys and Rocket League) provide some really useful features for parents to manage their child's gaming experience. This includes 'cabined accounts' which are accounts where the child is under 13 and certain restrictions are applied by default, e.g. talking to other players. You can find further details and instructions from Internet Matters [HERE](#).

WhatsApp

WhatsApp has an age restriction of 16+; however, we are aware that it is a popular messaging app among Upper KS2 children. Over the last year or so WhatsApp have introduced new features. [This guide](#) from Internet Matters helps parents to ensure the most appropriate settings are applied for their child.

Livestreaming

Child Net has a useful guide to livestreaming for parents which can be found [here](#). Livestreaming is increasingly popular with younger children; they may be watching content even if they are not broadcasting it themselves.

Both the above links, and the associated downloads, have been added to the [E Safety page](#) of our school website. You can find lots of useful information and guidance on this page.

Forest School 'Nightingale' Awards

Annabel and Millie B - For being engaged and curious for a long time, exploring owl pellets with John Jackdaw and finding lots of different bones and animal skulls.

Crewe - For working creatively with ropes and bungee cords, tying ropes to connect trees and using them as strings to make music.

Alexander, Jacob, Theo, Darcy L and Oliver - For excellent teamwork and sharing of ideas to create a fairy garden in the forest.

Eva - For working safely with a palm drill to make holes and connect conkers for various crafts including a necklace, bracelet and a caterpillar.

Dates for your Diary

You may wish to make a note of the dates below.

Further information will be sent out to you in due course.

Week Beginning Monday 16th October	Book Fair in Hall every day after school
Monday 16th (Tuesday 17th for Explorers only) and Thursday 19th	Parent Consultations - please make sure you have made an appointment
Week Beginning Monday 23rd October	Half Term
Monday 30th October	Non Pupil Day
Friday 10th November	Individual and sibling photographs
Monday 13th November	Flu Immunisations
Friday 17th November	Children in Need Day - details to follow
Friday 1st December	PTA Christmas Fair
Wednesday 6th December	KS1 (Y1 and 2) Nativity performance (afternoon - details to follow)
Thursday 7th December	KS1 (Y1 and 2) Nativity performance (evening -details to follow)
Wednesday 13th December	Reception Christmas Singalong (details to follow)
Friday 15th December 2pm	Carol Service at St George's Church
Wednesday 20th December	Last day of term
Thursday 4th and Friday 5th January 2024	Non Pupil Days
Monday 8th January	First day of term for children

Office Hours

Please note, the School Office is staffed until 4.00pm. Emails sent after this time will not be seen until the following morning.

If you need to contact the school after 4.00pm, please phone 01206 230305 and we will do our best to answer your call.





★ **Our Stars of the Week this week are:**

★ **Explorers**

★ Elsie - for having an excellent attitude towards school

★ Velvet - for always being happy and ready to learn



★

★ **Pathfinders**

★ Darcy T - for fantastic focus and effort in all your learning tasks

★ Fifi - for always trying your best to challenge yourself



★

★ **Adventurers**

★ Lilly J - for looking out for others and always being kind

★ Jude - for fantastic writing and great focus in all your learning sessions



★

★ **Navigators**

★ Sienna - for being a great team player and an excellent sports person

★ Hugo - for showing positivity, determination and personal growth



★

★ **Lunchtime Awards go to:**

★

★ **Explorers**

★ Ava - for playing nicely with others and for being helpful at tidy up time

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★ **Pathfinders**

★ Eliza - for always being polite and being a good friend

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★ **Adventurers**

★ Harriet - for being really helpful at break and lunch time and working well with your friend

★

★ **Navigators**

★ Amelia - for reminding others of the school rules and being sensible

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★ **Reader of the Week Awards go to:**

★ **Explorers**

★ Rosie - for excellent home reading

★

★ **Pathfinders**

★ Lavender - for working really hard on your fluency

★

★ **Adventurers**

★ Luca - for excellent reading and being a role model

★

★ **Navigators**

★ Isabella - for describing your reading with care and enthusiasm

★

