



# St George's C of E Primary School

## Learning for Life



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2nd December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

**DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US FOR THE PTA CHRISTMAS MARKET TONIGHT 4.30-7.30PM!!**

### **Advent**

This week marks the beginning of Advent and on Monday we lit the first candle on our Advent wreath.

The first candle represents Hope and in Collective Worship the children thought about their hopes for the future. I was very impressed with the thoughtful, compassionate suggestions made by the children, such as

*"I hope that my family have a lovely Christmas"*

*"I hope that everyone will be kind to each other"*

*"I hope that the war in Ukraine will end"*

*"I hope people take better care of our environment"*



Over the coming weeks, we will light the remaining candles on the wreath, representing Peace, Joy, Love and the Light of Christ.

### **Parent Survey Results**

On Tuesday, you received a hard copy of the results of our annual parent survey. Thank you very much to all who responded to the survey. It gives us really valuable information about your thoughts and perceptions and we are very pleased with the overwhelmingly positive picture it paints. Please remember that we are always here to listen and support; if you have any questions, concerns, observations or suggestions, we are keen to hear them and work with you to address them.

Please find an electronic copy of the results attached to the email version of this newsletter.

### **St George's Church Christmas Eve Service: 4.00pm December 24th**

On Christmas Eve, St George's Church will be holding a very special service. This will be a "live nativity" in the churchyard, telling the Christmas story. Children are invited to come in costume as one of the characters in the Nativity story. Needed are angels, shepherds, wise men (or women!) or animals from the stable. I do hope some of you will be able to join this lovely service.

### **Reminder: Tendring Police Giving Tree Appeal**

Thanks to those who have already donated Christmas gifts for the Tendring Police Giving Tree Appeal. Gifts should be donated, unwrapped, via the school office by **Friday 9th December**.

### **Reminder: Colchester Zoo Rocks competition**

The deadline to return entry forms to the school office is **Friday 9th December**.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Keitch

### Staffing Update



I am delighted to introduce you to Miss Brookles, who has recently joined the St George's team.

Miss Brookles has taken on the role of Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) and is working across the school, teaching the classes during teachers' release time. She also leads our after school wraparound club on a Monday and Wednesday.

Miss Brookles is an experienced Learning Support Assistant and has made a great start to her time at St George's. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming her to our school.

### Parent Pay - important information, please read

As you know, we adopted ParentPay in September to enable online payments for school meals, trips and wraparound care. Thanks to those who have successfully signed up to the platform.

**I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the principle behind ParentPay as we have several accounts running into considerable arrears.**

ParentPay enables you to add funds to your account. The school office then draws down money from your account to pay for meals/trips/wraparound. These items are added to your account by the school office. Trips are added in advance; school meals and wraparound are added once they have been used/taken.

It is parents' responsibility to ensure that accounts are topped up. Please avoid running your account into arrears. You will be sent a fortnightly alert if your account is in arrears and we would appreciate you rectifying the matter as soon as possible.

If an account remains in arrears, the school office will contact you to inform you that your child will be unable to take a school meal/attend wraparound until the balance is paid.

We recommend that you log in to your account on a weekly basis and add funds when necessary to cover the cost of the services you have used. Ideally your account should always have a positive balance which can be used by the school office to pay for the services as you use them.

Thank you for your cooperation as we all get used to using the new system. It is great to be able to pay online but we must ensure that these payments are made in a timely manner.

### Lost Property

The Lost Property bin is overflowing once again!

Please come and take a look if you are missing any items of clothing at home.

Please note, if there is a name label on any item, we will always reunite it with its owner. All items in the Lost Property bin are unnamed.

Please do your utmost to remember to label your child's clothing and other personal belongings.

**LOST AND FOUND**

## 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.**

Friday 2nd December  
4.30-7.30pm

PTA Christmas Market

Wednesday 7th December  
2.00pm and 6.00pm

KS1 (Y1 and 2) Nativity performances - see letter for further details

Thursday 8th December

Adventurers Trip to Flatford Mill

Wednesday 14th December

Whole School Trip to the pantomime

Thursday 15th December 2.15pm

Reception Christmas Sing-Along

Friday 16th December 2pm

Carol Service at St George's Church

Monday 19th December

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner

Tuesday 20th December

Last day of term

Thursday 5th January

First day of Spring term

## Forest School 'Nightingale' Awards

Taylor - for being a great role model to others when using tools; explaining and modelling how to hold and use them safely.

Millie A - for being creative, making a bird's nest, feeding and water area.

Melody - for persevering and not giving up when lighting your mini fire.

Year 3 - for a fantastic session this week with lots of engagement; gardening and cutting back the buddleia, lighting mini fires and being creative in the mud kitchen.

Nixon - for persevering and not giving up when lighting your mini fire and going on to light the main fire for the group. Well done!

Violet - for persevering and not giving up when lighting your mini fire. Well done!



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

★ **Explorers**

- ★ Chloe C C - for great participation in the Nativity play
- ★ Noah - for playing nicely in the classroom with your friends



★ **Pathfinders**

- ★ Oliver - for fantastic Maths work and enthusiasm
- ★ Eliza - for practising the nativity at home and learning the Makaton signs



★ **Adventurers**

- ★ Millie A - for excellent determination in all of your classwork and completing extra learning outside school too
- ★ Maddie - for working brilliantly in Maths and English sessions and being confident to support others



★ **Navigators**

- ★ Freddie - for showing effort, organisation and responsibility in Navigators class
- ★ Isyla - for fantastic effort and creativity, especially with your shadow art



★ **Lunchtime Awards go to:**

★ **Explorers**

- ★ Archie - for helping to put the equipment away and for eating all your lunch

★ **Pathfinders**

- ★ Oscar - for sitting nicely and always being polite

★ **Adventurers**

- ★ Isabella - for always playing nicely with your friends

★ **Navigators**

- ★ Ellie - for excellent lining up at the end of lunch



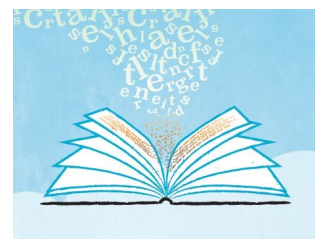
★ **Reader of the Week Awards go to:**

★ **Explorers**

- ★ Jonathan - for practising and learning your new sounds well

★ **Pathfinders**

- ★ Ivy - for reading every day at home



★ **Adventurers**

- ★ Luca - for excellent focus on reading in class and in one-to-one reading sessions

★ **Navigators**

- ★ Fred - for brilliant effort and persistence with your reading comprehension

