

St George's C of E Primary School

Learning for Life



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17th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will have seen from the recent parent communication from Lorna Sharp, Chair of Governors, we are very sorry to share that Mrs Keitch will not be in school at the start of the new term following the sad passing of her mother.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mrs Keitch and her family at this difficult time.

Break the Rules Day



On the last day of term, we held our annual 'Break the Rules Day' fundraiser. The children entered into it with enthusiasm and we loved seeing their colourful outfits and hair!

Thank you very much for supporting this initiative, which raises vital funds for our school. I am pleased to tell you that we raised a total of ?£265.

Special Thanks

A special thank you to Mrs Luckett, Toby and Jessica for giving up their time during the Easter holidays to tidy and replant the flower bed outside Navigators, and for continuing to maintain it since our return.

We would also like to thank Rory's mum, along with Alfie and Evie's mum, for their help in pruning the bushes at the front of the school—it is very much appreciated.

Important Online Safety Message

We have been made aware of a concerning online game and would like to make parents aware.

The game contains highly inappropriate content and appears to be accessed via websites that may disguise themselves as educational or harmless.

We ask that you remain vigilant with children's use of devices at home and continue to monitor their online activity closely.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping children safe online.

Parking Reminder

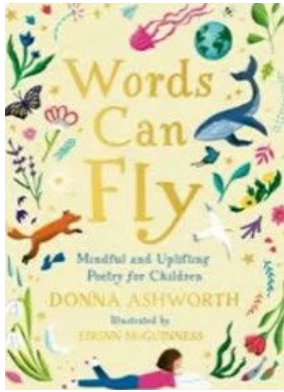
A gentle reminder to all parents about safe and considerate parking around the church car park, particularly during busy drop-off and pick-up times when congestion can build quickly.

Please ensure that you do not park in the school staff car park at any time. This area is reserved for staff use only. Parking here can also create additional congestion and reduce visibility, making the area less safe for everyone.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support in helping us keep our school site safe and running smoothly.

It has been a busy and positive week in school with children engaging well in their learning across all areas of the curriculum. We are proud of their enthusiasm, effort, and kindness shown towards one another. Thank you to our families for your continued support in helping us maintain high standards and a strong school community.

Mrs Elliott



Book Week



This week, our school has been celebrating reading and writing through our annual whole-school Book Week. This year, we were delighted to focus on the beautiful poetry collection *Words Can Fly* by Donna Ashworth, kindly gifted to us by Toby and Jessica Lockett—thank you!

We launched Book Week with a wonderful poetry circle sharing session, where every member of staff selected and shared a poem from the book that resonated with them. It was a truly special moment, as children listened to voices from across the school and showed great interest in the reasons behind each poem choice.

To continue our celebrations, we completed a whole-school poetry project. Children worked collaboratively in their sports colour groups to create poems inspired by the theme ‘What is Happy?’, with each teacher exploring a different emotion. The children thoroughly enjoyed working with friends from different classes and produced some beautiful and thoughtful pieces of poetry.

In Key Stage 1, children also took part in a poetry sharing session with their grown-ups. During this time, they proudly performed the poems they had learned and explored a variety of rhyming books, games, and activities together. It was lovely to see the children confidently sharing their learning and enjoying these special moments with their families.

Explorers

Across the week, we have listened to a range of rhyming stories and poems. The children have enjoyed lots of different rhyming activities and have worked hard to learn to recite their class poem ‘Love’. They have written a short simile poem, suggesting things that are similar to other things, as well as creating some love heart collages.

Pathfinders:

This week in Pathfinders, we have explored a new poem each day as part of our Book Week focus on *Words Can Fly* by Donna Ashworth.

We began the week with *How to Grow a Seed*, a poem about planting and nurturing growth. This led to thoughtful discussions about how our ideas can grow just like seeds. Inspired by this, the children composed and performed their own poems. We later planted our own seeds to grow too.

Our next focus was *Gratitude Goggles*, which encouraged the children to reflect on what gratitude means, how we can show it, and what we are grateful for. It was wonderful to see them making links to their *My Happy Mind* learning. The children also enjoyed creating and wearing their own “gratitude goggles”.

We then explored *Our Lights*, a beautiful poem celebrating individual strengths. Using this as inspiration, the children created their own shape poems to express what makes them special.

Finally, we looked at the title poem, *Words Can Fly*, which explores the impact our words can have on others. The children identified similes within the poem and created their own versions of “Words can fly...”. They wrote these on paper aeroplanes, flew them, and then picked up someone else’s to read a positive affirmation—this was a particular highlight and great fun for everyone!

Book Week

Adventurers

During our English lessons we have looked at creating our own poems based upon different emotions. We discussed different poetry techniques and devices including Similes, Alliteration and Onomatopoeia.

Our own poems were then written out in neat ready for display. We then moved onto learning and performing our class poem – 'Positive thinking'. The children worked very hard to learn the poem and some of them even managed to recite it without needing to look at the words.

On Monday afternoon we joined in with the rest of the school to look at different emotions and what they would look like if they were a colour, a place, a taste and a smell by working with the other children in our sports colour teams. It was great fun being able to move around school and be taught by all the teachers.

During our afternoon lessons during the rest of the week we worked alongside Navigators class to create a joint Key Stage 2 piece of Artwork. We discussed 4 emotions – Lonely, Proud, Calm and Excited. We then looked at a number of different examples of images and sketches which represent these emotions before creating our own. This Art work will then be put together in a big display.

Navigators

Navigators have had a tremendously creative Book Week with an investigation into 4 different emotive words: lonely, excited, proud and calm. The children have used songs, pictures and the poems of Donna Ashworth to write their own poems and sketch conceptions of 'lonely' and 'excited', each in their own unique way. Together with Adventurers Class, Navigators have created some fantastic posters to express the ideas and emotions we have delved into. Navigators have also focused on a specific poem about friendships, how they can sometimes fizzle out and how we can help to keep them strong and healthy. Friday morning's poetry performance stands as Navigator Class's expression of the importance of friendships lost and gained, as well as the personal growth that necessarily comes with an understanding of the value of true friendship.



NIGHTINGALE FOREST SCHOOL AWARDS

Alfie 'Apple' - For independent use of the Bit and Brace to cut a hole in your log disc medal, well done!

Ronnie 'Robin' - For your enthusiasm for shelter building!

Jessica and Deva - For your curiosity and love for nature – finding an unusual feather and wanting to find out which bird it came from.

Dates for your Diary

Please make a note of the dates below.

Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday Monday
w/b Mon 11th May	Year Six SATS
Mon 11th—Thurs 14th May	Summer Book Fair—3 for 2 on all books!
Thurs 21st May	Class photos
Friday 22nd May	Non Pupil day
Wed 3rd—Fri 5th June	Y5/6 Residential
Friday 26th June	Flower Festival at St George's Church: 'Hobbies in Bloom'. Details to follow. Parents will be invited to watch their children perform in church during the school day. After School: School/church joint Summer Fair
Tuesday 30th June pm	Sports Day—details to follow
Friday 17th July	Last day of term (Monday 20th July is a Non Pupil Day)
Friday 17th July 1.30pm	Year Six Leavers' Assembly
Tuesday 1st September	Non Pupil Day
Wednesday 2nd September	First day of Autumn Term

SWAN Course Support With Additional Needs

Parenting can be extremely challenging when you have a child with additional needs. This course gives you the opportunity to learn strategies for managing behavior and ways to deal with the stresses that you and your child may be facing. It also provides a non-judgmental space for you to meet others, to share ideas that work and for you to know you are not alone. This course will run for 10 weeks and each week we will discuss a different theme and provide free resources for you to try at home.

10 week course

Beginning Wednesday 22nd April

Wednesdays 9.30-11.30am

St George's Great Bromley

School Hall



Book your free place here



Book your free place here



SWAN (Support With Additional Needs)

This free 10-week course is designed for parents of children with additional needs. It supports parents to develop positive parenting strategies while gaining a greater understanding of their child's world and the challenges they may face.

Sessions include special time, developing social and emotional skills, effective praise, practical routines, coping with change, setting boundaries, natural and logical consequences, building resilience, keeping children safe, and looking after yourself as a parent.



Karen - Parent Services Manager



Hayley - Associate Facilitator.

10 week course begins
Wednesday 22nd April
2026
9.30am - 11.30am

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funded by



Child First Parenting Workshop

Just a gentle reminder that our next fully funded *Child First Parenting Workshop* will be starting next week, and we would really encourage parents to take advantage of this valuable opportunity.

Child First Trust
Parenting Workshop

This **8-week** course is offered to parents from all Child First Schools at NO COST
Venue: Braiswick Primary school,
Apprentice Dr, Colchester CO4 5SE
Start date: Monday 20th April, 1-2.30pm
for 8 weeks (excluding May Bank
Holiday and half term week)

8 sessions from
Monday 20th April 1-2.30pm

FREE
Open to All

www.childfirsttrust.com

A great chance to meet new people, share ideas and support each other.
For more information, or to book your place, please contact school or message
Amanda (07772 268691) Amanda@childfirsttrust.org.uk
or Jackie (07732 122688) Jackie@childfirsttrust.org.uk

20th April
1:00–2:30pm
Braiswick Primary School

This workshop offers practical strategies and support for parents and carers, helping to strengthen positive relationships and support children's emotional wellbeing at home. As it is fully funded, it is completely free to attend.

The 2026-27 **Term Dates** have now been agreed by Governors. Please find the academic year calendar attached to the email, including our five Non-Pupil days.