

**St George's
Primary School**
Family Newsletter



May 15th 2017

School Strap-Line

We have been thinking of a simple way to communicate our key messages at the moment. Staff have adopted the strapline:

St Georges Primary School - promoting 'resilience, respect and results'.

We think this is easy to remember and focuses on our current key aims to improve and develop a positive ethos throughout St George's. 'Results' relates to our need to be more ambitious with improved exam results but also positive outcomes in sports and other areas of achievement.

Closure Reminder

A reminder that Wirral Council have informed the school that we must close so that the general election can take place on Thursday 8th June. Governors and I have apologised to our families for the disruption that this will cause.

Dragon Club will be open on this day to support families. Mr Sprung the centre manager can be contacted about availability. Address is dragonclub@stgeorges.wirral.sch.uk.

Going Paperless



Over the next 5 months we are trying to move as much as possible towards paperless communication with families. This will be a phased change. We believe that this will improve communication and also save the school a huge amount of money. We spend thousands of pounds printing letters and forms every year. Parents tell us that they often don't receive them.

Steps to move forwards will include:

1. Using our **School Pupil Tracker (SPTO)** to allow parents to:
 - Access their child's annual reports
 - Track their progress every term and see how they are doing at school
 - Review their child's attendance every term.

From September you will also be able to:

- Track how your child is behaving in school.
- Access any individual records if your child has Special Education Needs Support.

To get this started we will be publishing your child's annual report online this year. We will be sending home login details and passwords after half term. **Reports will be published on Friday 14th July.**

2. From September we will also be launching our **new and improved website** that parents will be able to use. Children will also have access on the website for safe blogging, mail and accessing curriculum resources. The new website will also allow us to share letters, newsletters and let you book parents' evening appointments online.

From September, we will aim to stop sending letters home and send them directly to your e-mail account or smart-phone. Printed letters will be available from the school office.

Thank-You!

You may remember that one of our past students, Will Allen, sadly passed away. Will's parents have donated £1000 towards the school. Mrs Skarratts-Jackson and the school council have decided that they are going to use that fund to improve reading libraries across the school. Each donated book will have a sticker inside reminding the children of Will. We hope to have the books in class libraries for September.

St George's Primary School - 'Improving resilience, respect and results'

Sporting News

Summer Term is a busy time of year for sports events at St George's:

- Well done to **the year 4 cricket team** who took part in the Diamond League event on Wednesday. All the children enjoyed the games and behaved impeccably. Aaron 4D and Eliza 4C were the star batters for our team with Eliza picking up a special prize for longest hit of the day.
- Today we have our **year 5 football team** competing in Corgi Cup versus St Joseph's and our **Year 5-6 Cricket team** participating in the Wallasey School's Kwik Cricket competition.
- We also have our **year 6 football team** competing in the Houlihan Cup against Liscard Primary on Tuesday
- We are also participating in the **Under 11s Wallasey Primary School's Swimming Gala** this week.

Good luck to everybody involved. Watch our website for news and photographs. As well as busy sports events we also have a fabulous range of sports and fitness clubs and classes taking place across the school. Special thanks to Laura Burton who has been working with all the staff and children in year 1 and year 2 on introductory Yoga sessions. Everybody felt very relaxed afterwards!

2017 Sports Days

Below are the dates for this year's Sports Days. We are going to get the children to compete in classes this year. The events will be fun but competitive races and athletic events. We will end the events with a parents' race – so pack your trainers!



	AM Session 9.30-11.00 am	PM Session 1.30 – 3.00pm
Monday 17th July	Year 5	Year 2
Tuesday 18th July	Year 6	Year 1
Wednesday 19th July	Year 4	Year 3
Thursday 20th July	Foundation 2	
Friday 21st July	Possible Catch Up Days	

Bottles of water will be provided for each child. Fingers crossed for good weather. Further details will be sent home in late June.

Welcome!

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our two new Assistant Head teachers who will join our staff team from September. They are:

- Miss Gemma Bailey for Years 5 and 6
- Mrs Maria Chambers for Years 3 and 4

Both candidates excelled at interview. We are looking forward to inducting them over the next few months.

Next week we also welcome Mike Hodgson to our school. Mike is our new site manager.

Outstanding Teachers Graduation

We are developing a learning community amongst the staff at St George's. We are pleased to announce that our first four teachers have completed the Outstanding Teachers Programme.

They are:

- Craig Kearney
- Jenny Harris
- Katie Ford
- Katie Palmi



They are planning to look at how they can disseminate the programme across the school. We look forward to promoting 11 more graduates in the Autumn Term.

Governor News

Governors have been heavily involved in school during the last five months attending training; visiting the school regularly; appointing staff and working with the senior staff on the school's development plan.

Governors are delighted with the improvements in the school in 2017 but also recognise how much more we need to do. Plans for next year are firmly focused on:

- Improving overall standards within the school. We are aiming higher.
- Ensuring that we spend Pupil Premium money well to increase the number of teachers and reduce class sizes for English and Mathematics
- Working with the head teacher and senior staff to improve the school environment and ensure that every penny is spent wisely and for the benefit of children.
- Ensuring that behaviour continues to improve. This remains a clear priority.

Governors are always keen to hear from parents and will attend parent forum meetings, if you would like to contact governors please email clerktogovernors@stgeorges.wirral.sch.uk Full details on the schools governors are available on the school's website.

Grammar School Entrance Examination (11+) Meeting Wednesday 24th May @ 5.00pm

Mr Cassidy is holding a meeting for parents to explain Wirral's new grammar school entrance examinations (introduced in 2016). A letter was sent home to all families in year 5 explaining the application process.

Upton Hall Application Deadline

Upton Hall School have asked us to remind parents that if they want their daughter to sit the Upton Hall Entrance Examination for a place in Year 7 in September 2018 the deadline for submission of application forms is Monday 10 July 2017. Application Forms should be completed online, using the link: <http://uptonhallnew.ng1.devwebsite.co.uk/form/?pid=7&form=19> or downloaded and sent directly to Mrs D Taylor, Data Manager, Upton Hall School FCJ, Upton, Wirral CH49 6LJ.

Details of the entrance exam will be sent to parents who have submitted an application towards the end of August.

Being Ready for Summer!

The start to the Summer Term has been blessed with good weather. We are expecting the weather to improve further over the next few months. The summer weather really improves the children's options for learning and play. We are asking your help with the following:

- Please provide your child with a sun hat or cap. It should be clearly labelled on the inside with your child's name, so it doesn't get lost or confused with other children's hats.
- During the hot weather we ask that you apply sun cream to your child (face, neck, shoulders, arms and legs) before coming to school. Children can also bring in their own bottle of sun cream lotion. Again we ask that these are clearly labelled.
- Please send your child into school with their own water bottle. We will ensure that they have access to this throughout the school day.
- Children can wear UV protective sun glasses. These should be sent into school in a labelled case.

In addition to this, the school will be ensuring that shaded areas are available during break-times, teaching children about sun safety and providing shaded play areas in the hot weather.

Summer Uniform Reminder

We insist on the correct uniform at St George's. We know that if our children look smart, they are often acting smart! Our summer uniform requirements are below:

St George's Primary School - 'Improving resilience, r



Summer

Foundation 2 and Infant Classes (Years 1 and 2) Lower Junior Classes (Years 3 and 4)

Boys wear black or grey trousers, white school polo shirts and blue sweatshirts or cardigans with sensible black shoes.

In the summer boys may choose to wear black or grey shorts with white school polo shirts and sensible black shoes.

Girls wear black or grey tunic dresses, skirt or trousers with white school polo shirts, blue sweatshirts or cardigans with sensible black shoes.

In summer, girls have the option to wear blue gingham dresses or black/grey skirts with white school polo shirts and sensible black shoes.

Upper Junior Classes (Years 5 and 6)

Our Year 5/6 pupils wear the same uniform or they can wear a white shirt and school tie with either; a blue sweatshirt or /cardigan.

In the summer boys may choose to wear black or grey shorts with our white school polo shirts and sensible black shoes.

In summer, girls have the option to wear blue gingham dresses or black/grey skirts with the school polo shirts with sensible black shoes.

Blue summer dresses are sold at ASDA, Tesco, Birkenhead Uniform Shop and other suppliers.

CBBC Stars

Two of our pupils are preparing to be TV stars over the next few months as they are being filmed for CBBC show The Dengineers. Ava, 4D and George, 2A will take part in the programme, which features different families whose children need extra space – a den – for a variety of reasons. Parts of the show have been filmed at Great Ormond Street Hospital and Claire House where the family have spent a lot of time due to George's health issues.

Dogs on School Premises

Can we remind parents that dogs are not allowed anywhere on school grounds and if you are bringing your dog to school at morning drop off or afternoon pick up please be mindful of other people. We have had complaints of dogs who are tied to the railings during these times jumping up at children and this can cause them great distress. Please ensure your dogs are tied to the side of any access or exit routes.

Parking and Safety

With the support of the road crossing patrol service; our community police service and the work of our ECO Council and parents, our school constantly works to promote the highest standards of road safety by our school.

However, our main problem continues to be parental/carer behaviour. We have parents who choose to park on zig-zag lines, block pavements, park illegally, block entrances to local residents and drive without due care near to our school. We are continuing to address this and asking the enforcement services to impose sanctions, including fines for parents.

Please don't park near to the school. Don't block the driveways of our local residents. Choose to walk to school or at least walk part of the journey and park away from the school premises. The simple message is that adults who ignore these requests are reckless and selfish.



Finger Spinners

The finger spinners craze has hit St George's. We are happy for the children to have these as playground toys as long as they are used safely. They cannot be used in classrooms. If children try and use them in classrooms they will be confiscated and placed at reception for parents to collect.

Scooters in School

We are really pleased to see our children using their scooters. It is a safe and healthy way to travel to school. Once children are on school premises they should come off their scooters and place them in the scooter racks. They cannot be used on the school playground before or after school. We had two accidents last week.

