



# St George's School News



**GetReading!**  
BECOME A STRONG READER

Dear Parents,

This term we will be running reading comprehension workshops for parents. This is an opportunity for you to see how the teacher teaches this skill appropriate to your child's age. You will see your child at work in school and learn more about how you can support at home with this essential and required life skill.

Research about reading shows that by developing their positive reading habits, good comprehension skills, and good knowledge of vocabulary, can provide children with the skills required to support their understanding of the texts they read.

Reading comprehension is the ability to read text, process it and understand its meaning. It relies on two, interconnected abilities: word reading (being able to decode the symbols on the page) and language comprehension (being able to understand the meaning of the words and sentences).

Some children may have poor reading comprehension because their word reading is slow or inaccurate. Other children can develop good word reading skills, but experience reading comprehension problems because of less-developed language skills.

#### **Reading for Pleasure:**

The amount of leisure time children spend reading or being read to, is a powerful predictor of comprehension skills. Reading to young children and helping them to develop positive attitudes to reading, can develop a habit that will enable them to develop literacy-related skills and to acquire knowledge throughout their lifetime.

#### **Key factors associated with good comprehension:**

Understanding grammar.

Understanding vocabulary and new words.

Actively constructing meaning. Does your child self-correct when reading aloud? Good comprehenders are sensitive to how well they have understood something – they monitor their understanding and notice when something in the text does not make sense.

When you are reading with your child, check and monitor how well they use these key factors. We look forward to seeing you at school and we are here to support you and your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs D. Monaghan

Headteacher





Black History Month Competition

During October we celebrate Black History Month and invited all the children to create a poster celebrating their Black History Hero. We want to say a special well done to all those who entered this competition and created such beautiful posters.

Congratulations to:

KS1:

3rd: Tymon (2M1)

2nd: Charbel (1N)

1st: Charlotte (2MI)

KS2:

3rd: Sarah (5Z)

2nd: Blaine (4C)

1st: Olivia (5R)



**Anti-Bullying Day**

On **Wednesday 27th November 2024**, we are asking pupils to wear odd socks to celebrate the individuality and uniqueness of every person.

Pupils will take part in activities throughout the day to support anti-bullying.



**ODD SOCKS DAY**

**Christmas Jumpers**

We would be most grateful if you could donate any unwanted Christmas jumpers.

All donations must be in before the sale which is on

**Wednesday 20th November 2024.**

**Christmas jumpers can we worn on**

**Friday 29th November 2024** for The Christmas Fair and

**Wednesday 11th December 2024** for the Christmas lunch.



**Eco Champions**

We are delighted to achieve this award

Thank you for contributing.

**Uniform sale**

The uniform sale raised **£460.20** for our school Care Fund.

Please speak to the school in confidence if you require support with uniform.



Thank you to all involved.



**CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU**

Roast Turkey with Christmas Sausage, Stuffing, Yorkshire pudding and Gravy

Or

Roasted Root Vegetable and Sage Wellington with Gravy

Roast Potatoes  
Sliced Carrots  
Peas







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Grinch Cupcake





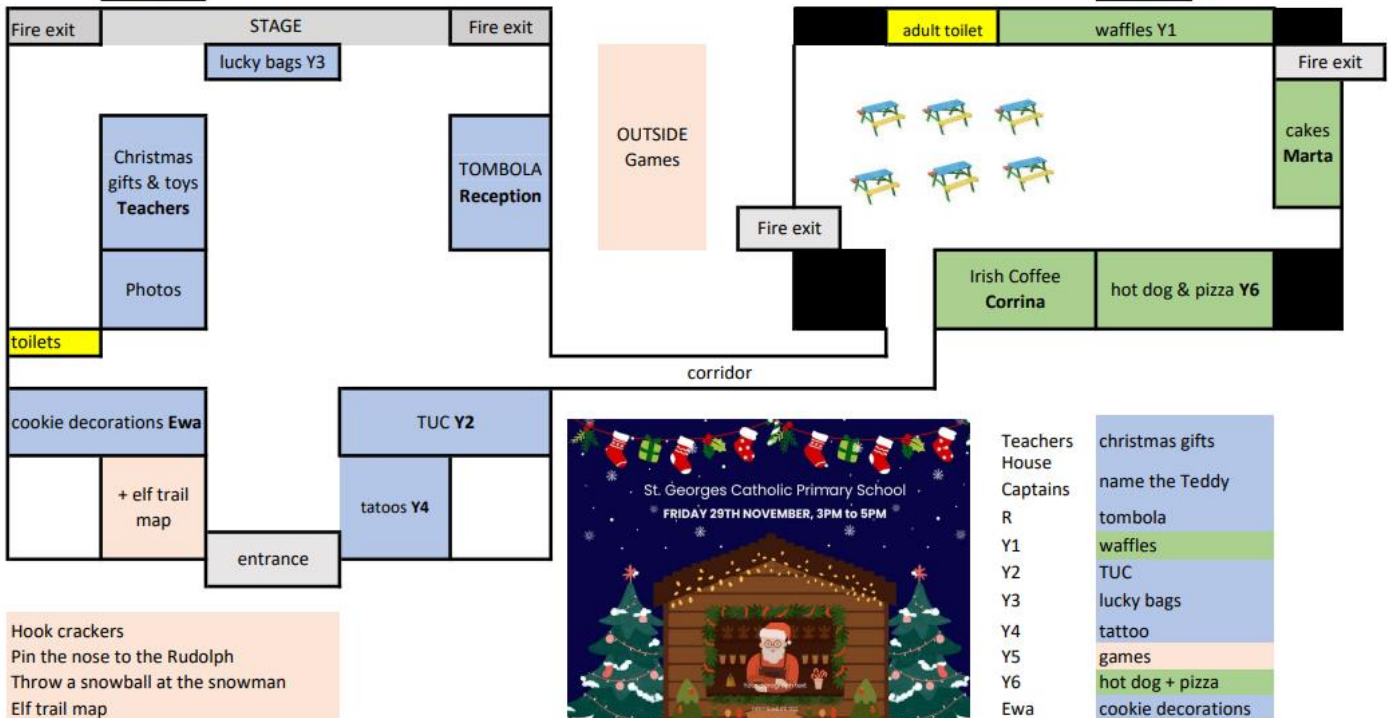
PSA NEWS AND EVENTS

PSA Christmas Fair 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

-  **Christmas Jumper Day** Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November
-  **Christmas Fair Tombola** Alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks can be handed to the School Office please from now on for the attention of the PSA.
-  **Christmas Cake Donations** Cakes to be donated to the Christmas Cake stall can be brought in on the day of the fair.
-  **Christmas Prize Donations** The PSA would like to ask for donations of **new small toys or books (not used)** as these will be used as prizes for children's games.
-  **Raffle Tickets** Raffle tickets either sold or unsold to be returned please.
-  **Christmas Fair Raffle** Thank you so much to all who have kindly donated prizes below for our **Christmas Fair Raffle** - your support is greatly appreciated.
- Replacement Freezer** The PSA freezer needs replacing. If you have a good quality second-hand freezer you can donate to the school the PSA would be most grateful. Alternatively, if you wish to buy the PSA a chest freezer please speak with the PSA Chairs: **Kasia** (07743 776739) or **Ania** (07533 956905).

Kenny Hall

Small Hall



CHRISTMAS FAIR

- Teachers House
  - Captains
  - R
  - Y1
  - Y2
  - Y3
  - Y4
  - Y5
  - Y6
  - Ewa
  - Marta
  - Corrina
- christmas gifts
  - name the Teddy
  - tombola
  - waffles
  - TUC
  - lucky bags
  - tattoo
  - games
  - hot dog + pizza
  - cookie decorations
  - cakes
  - Irish Coffee



Attendance

We are very proud to say, we are in the top ten in Harrow Council for schools attendance with **96%**. We would like to congratulate all pupils and parents on such a wonderful achievement.


At St George's, we have been looking through the attendance records of all children whose attendance falls below our expectation. We do appreciate that children may have been away from school through sickness/family circumstances. Let's continue to work together to keep our figures in the top ten of schools. Therefore it is essential if it has been highlighted to you, that your child's attendance percentage is low, that you do try and improve your child's attendance where possible.

The DfE have introduced a new national framework, which will mean all Local Authorities have the same rules in place when considering a fine for holidays during term time or persistent absences. Along with this, we must also provide accurate information when reporting absences. Therefore when parents/guardians report a child's absence we must have **full name, class and a full reason** for your child's absence. Alternatively, if the absence is for an appointment, proof of the appointment is required. We now cannot accept "feeling unwell/is sick" as a response, this will be marked as unauthorised if a full answer isn't recorded.

There is now a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence, within a rolling 10 school week period. The fine for school absences across the country will be £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days, per parent, per child. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence. The DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance. Please continue to fill out the school leave request forms and continue to provide as much information about the request as possible, when needing to take your child out of school for exceptional circumstances. Requests will then be considered on each individual basis by Mrs Monaghan.

See guidance below from Harrow council.

Should I Keep My Child off School?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Minor coughs &amp; cold</li> <li>✓ Sore throat</li> <li>✓ Conjunctivitis</li> <li>✓ Respiratory infections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ear infection</li> <li>✓ Cold sores</li> <li>✓ Tonsillitis</li> <li>✓ Head lice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Whooping cough</li> <li>✗ High temperature</li> <li>✗ Chickenpox</li> <li>✗ Diarrhoea &amp; vomiting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Covid</li> <li>✗ Flu</li> <li>✗ Scarlet fever</li> <li>✗ Measles</li> </ul>
<p><b>GO TO SCHOOL</b></p>		<p><b>STAY AT HOME</b></p>	
			

## St George's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy

### Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance have changed Since September 2024

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices issued by DfE, the following changes will come into force for School Penalty Notice Fines.

#### National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

**Please note:** The DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.

#### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.



#### Second Offence (within 3 years)

Second Offence (within 3 years) The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.



#### Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case could be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in Criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court may show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

#### Per Parent\*, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent\*, for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines

#### \*Parent

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines "parent" as:

- All natural (biological) parents, whether they are married or not.
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person.
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

**Free Home Fire Safety Visits**

On Tuesday 5th November Years 2 and 5 had a visit from the London Fire brigade to talk about fire safety. They also provided us with some fire information you may like to implement at home, please see below. They are also offering **free home fire safety visits**. A fire can start in any room and the affects can be devastating, even a small fire in your home can lead to substantial damage and expensive repairs. The LFB want to stop fires from happening and that is why they offer **free home fire safety visits** to help keep you and your loved ones safe.


**What happens during a home fire safety visit ?**


Our firefighters or trained staff will visit you at home, at a time that suits you and carry out a risk assessment. They will give you advice based on your home and individual needs, this includes; information on how to **pre-vent** fires, the importance of smoke alarms to **detect** a fire and your **escape** plan in the event of a fire.

A visit can take up to 90 minutes or longer if needed and we will fit free smoke alarms if required.

Specialist alarms can be fitted for people who may have a delayed response to escape for example; strobe light and vibrating pad alarms for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

**How to book a Home Fire Safety Visit: Freephone: 0800 028 4428**

**Fire plan KS2** 



When the smoke alarm goes off, get out as quickly as you can.

Before you get out, feel the door with the back of your hand.


**IF THE DOOR IS HOT**  
Keep it closed and block the gap at the bottom to stop smoke coming in.

**IF THE DOOR IS COLD**  
Leave the room and shout "FIRE!" to alert others. Close all doors behind you.

Open the window. Shout "FIRE!" and call 999 if you can. Wait at the window.

Crawl under the smoke, don't breathe it in.

Get outside quickly and stay out! Call 999.



**Home fire safety checklist** 

**Homework for the grown-ups!**  
At school today, a child in your care learnt about home fire safety. Please use the checklist below to ensure you and your family stay safe. You should aim to have every 'Yes' box ticked.



Prevention	Yes	No
We know we should keep matches and lighters securely away from children.		
We never leave cooking unattended and always turn off the oven, grill or hob when we have finished. It is better for adults not to smoke, but if they do, it is safer to smoke outside and make sure cigarettes are put out properly.		
We know we must not overload electrical sockets.		
We switch off and unplug all electrical appliances at night, except for those that are meant to be left on like the fridge or freezer.		
We should not charge electrical devices including mobiles and computers overnight.		
We only use the charger that came with our device or a genuine replacement.		
We know not to leave lit candles or tea lights unattended, to put them in heat resistant holders and never place them near anything that could catch fire such as curtains or furniture.		
We close all doors at night to prevent fire and smoke spreading.		
Detection (alarms)	Yes	No
We have at least one smoke alarm fitted on every level of our home and in any room where a fire could start (except for the bathroom).		
We know that fitting multiple linked smoke alarms, that all activate together, is the best way to be alerted in the event of a fire.		
We should never remove batteries from the smoke alarms.		
We know to fit a heat alarm in the kitchen.		
We should test all our alarms once a month by pressing the button.		
Escape	Yes	No
We know and have practised our 'fire escape plan' (see overleaf).		
If our alarms go off, we shout 'FIRE' to alert others in the home.		
We know not to try and tackle the fire ourselves as many people are injured this way.		
We know where the keys for windows and doors are kept.		
We never go back into the building once we are safely outside.		
We call 999 and ask for the fire brigade, as soon as it is safe to do so -- remember 999 calls are FREE.		
If our escape route is blocked	Yes	No
We know to find a safe room with a window and phone if possible.		
We close the door and put bedding or any soft materials around the bottom of the door to block the smoke, then open the window and shout "HELP, FIRE".		
We are ready to give our address, including our postcode, describe where we are and the quickest way for the firefighters to reach us.		



# St George's School Dates



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### NOVEMBER

- Tues 19** God's Planet workshop (Whole School)
- Tues 19 12:30-3:30pm** Year 5 and 6 Home Football vs St John Fisher
- Wed 20** 9:30am Open morning for new parents 2025/2026
- Wed 20** C.S.I Road Safety Workshop (Year 5-6)
- Wed 20** Uniform and Christmas Jumper sale
- Thurs 21** St Celia's Day Prayer service
- Fri 22** Flu Vaccinations 2nd session Years 4,5 and 6
- Wed 27** Anti Bullying workshop (Whole School)
- Thurs 28** 9-9:50am Year 6 Reding Comprehension workshop for parents
- Fri 29** Santa Visit (Whole school)
- Fri 29** 3-5pm Christmas Fair

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### DECEMBER

- Wed 04** Girls' Football
- Wed 04** 9:00-9:50am Year 3 Comprehension workshop for Parents
- Wed 04** 3-4:30pm Book Sale in ICT Suite
- Thurs 05** 9:00-9:50am Year 1 Comprehension workshop for Parents
- Thurs 05** 3-4:30pm Book Sale in ICT Suite
- Fri 06** 9:00-9:50am Year 2 Comprehension workshop for Parents
- Fri 06** Wizard Theatre— Emperor's New clothes

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### DECEMBER CONTINUED

- Fri 06** 3-4:30pm Book Sale in ICT Suite
- Mon 09** Choir to St Johns School
- Tues 10** 9:00-9:50am Year 4 Comprehension workshop for Parents
- Tues 10** 9:00-9:50am Year 5 Comprehension workshop for Parents
- Wed 11** Christmas Dinner day
- Fri 13** 9:15am Year 2 Nativity for parents
- Mon 16** 9:15am Year 1 Nativity for parents
- Mon 16** 2:30pm Blessing of the Bambinelli-Baby Jesus from the crib
- Tues 17** 1:30pm Carol Service at St George's Church
- Wed 18** 9:15am Reception Nativity for parents
- Thurs 19** 2-3pm Nursery Nativity and party
- Fri 20** Bend the Rules
- Fri 20** Early finish

**1.10pm Reception**

**1.15pm Year 1 & Year 2**

**1:25pm Year 3 & Year 4**

**1:30pm Year 5 & Year 6**

**4:45pm After School Club**

**Christmas Holiday Monday 23rd –Monday 6th January 2025**

**Pupils to return Tuesday 7th January 2025**

## HEADTEACHER'S DROP IN SESSION—EVERY MONDAY AT 2.40PM

This is a time when the Headteacher is available if you want to discuss any matters.

Mrs Monaghan is also available at other times if you wish to make an appointment through the School Office.