



St George's School News



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new year. The children are ready to learn and happy to see their teachers and friends. In this newsletter, I would like to share how we will be supporting your child in their faith journey and understanding of the Jubilee Year.

Enjoy the weekend,

Mrs d Monaghan

Headteacher

SPES NON CONFUNDIT. "Hope does not disappoint".

In his writing for the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis tells us that Hope is the central message of the Jubilee and that hope is born of love.

If you get a chance to read this document you will find the following words by Pope Francis, that we will be discussing with the children in our key themes, for this Jubilee year.

"The first sign of hope should be the desire for peace in our world".

"Signs of hope are also needed by those who are the very embodiment of hope, namely, the young. Sadly, they often have their dreams and aspirations frustrated. We must not disappoint them, for the future depends on their enthusiasm".

"Let us draw close to the young, for they are the joy and hope of the church, the world!".

Anchored in hope.

"We can be witnesses that each of us may be able to offer a smile, a small gesture of friendship, a kind look, a ready ear, a good deed, in the knowledge that, in the Spirit of Jesus, these can become, for those who receive them, rich seeds of hope".

"The image of the anchor is eloquent; it helps us to recognise the stability and security that is ours amid the troubled waters of this life, provided we entrust ourselves to the Lord Jesus".





“The Jubilee will thus be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God”.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

Every half term, Knowledge Organisers for Humanities and Science are uploaded onto the school website. You will find them under the ‘Curriculum’ section.

Knowledge Organisers set out the important, useful and powerful knowledge for a topic.

The visual layout supports pupils to learn key information in small chunks- revisiting this regularly strengthens long term memory and aids the quick retrieval of key facts to enhance learning. They also help children to build links between knowledge in the topic and other curriculum subjects.

Whilst Knowledge Organisers are used during lessons as a reference tool, we also ask that pupils spend time at home learning the key knowledge for their Humanities and Science topics. Please take some time to look at these with your children- perhaps learning a section each week and making it fun by turning it into a quiz or asking true or false questions!

Year 3: Geography

North America

I should already know:
 -> The 7 continents of the world.
 -> A continent is an area of land made up of lots of different countries.
 -> The difference between Human and Physical features of a place or country.

North America is the world's 3rd largest continent.

The north of the continent has a polar climate (very dry and very cold).
 In the middle of North America, the climate is temperate.
 A little further down, countries have an arid climate (hot and dry).
 The south of the continent has a tropical climate (hot and wet).

North America has many amazing physical features, including Niagara Falls, the Grand Canyon and the Rocky Mountains- the longest mountain range in North America.

There are also many famous Human landmarks in North America too, such as Chichen Itza, the Statue of Liberty and the CN tower.

23 countries that make up North America. The largest ones are:
 Canada, United States of America and Mexico.

Mount St Helens is a volcano in Washington State, USA. It used to be shaped like a cone but after it erupted in 1980, the top was blown off the volcano. Height: 2,649 metres.
 Recent eruptions 2004-2006

Key vocabulary:
human features: features of a place that are a result of human activity, such as shops, farms, homes and roads.
landscape: what you can see when you look across an area of land.
physical features: natural features of a place, such as mountains, rivers and seas.
state: an area of land with its own government. There are 50 states in the USA.

Year 1- Materials

plastic wood metal water glass rock

Key Vocabulary

Object: a thing that can be used. For example, a door, chair, car or house are all objects.
Materials: are what an object is made from.
Hard: if something is hard it is difficult to bend or break.
Soft: if something is soft it is easy to shape or bend.
Stretchy: can be pulled to make it longer or wider without breaking.
Shiny: reflects light easily.
Dull: does not reflect light.
Rough: if something is rough it feels and looks bumpy or uneven.

transparent	waterproof	opaque	stiff
soft	shiny	rough	absorbent
bendy	stretchy	hard	smooth
			dull

Parent workshops 2025– Hope Harrow

Vera Hart; info@hopeharrow.org.uk HOPE Harrow is a place for parents to gain support. HOPE recognises being a parent is tough and can sometimes be a real challenge. We just want to help make parenting that little bit easier, whilst helping parents create a harmonious, cooperative family unit where everyone feels valued.

For your information our courses and workshops are on the council adult education website www.learnharrow.ac.uk and email info@hopeharrow.org.uk is for enquiries from both professional and parents.

Lunch ordering

We have noticed that a considerable amount of children are arriving for hot lunches without pre-ordering.

Please ensure that you have ordered your child’s meals on the ‘Feeding Hungry Minds’ website in advance.

It is important that the kitchen have the correct numbers to prepare meals for the children each day. If meals are not pre-ordered, this puts the kitchen staff under unnecessary pressure so please be mindful of this.



Flu Vaccinations

Due to the recent increase in Influenza cases across the UK and a rise in inquiries from parents wishing to book their child for a flu vaccination, we have arranged additional community clinics throughout January. These clinics are intended to provide vaccinations for children who may have missed the opportunity during our initial school visits.

The clinics we have throughout January are:

Saturday 18th January at 9:45 am - 12:00 PM Location: Kenmore Park Community clinic HA3 9HZ

Saturday 25th January at 9:45 am - 12:00 PM Location: Kenmore Park Community clinic HA3 9HZ

Parents can book an appointment for their child through this link below. <https://nwl.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2024/book>

NHS Dentists.

Public Health has informed schools that there are NHS spaces available to children at the dentist – please ensure your child is registered and attends regular check-ups.



Office for Health Improvement & Disparities

National Child Measurement Programme

2024 summary of results for 146176 - St Georges Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy

These results combine data from 2019/20, 2021/22 and 2022/23 (where available) to give a sample large enough to produce reliable estimates of the proportion of children who are overweight or living with obesity for your school.

Nationally, schools achieve an average participation rate of 95% in Reception and 94% in Year 6. In your school **90 to 95% in Reception year** and **above 95% in Year 6** were measured. High participation rates (over 90%) ensure that the estimates of overweight or obesity in your school are reliable. Participation rates below 90% may result in unreliable estimates.

Proportion of Reception children in your school who were overweight or living with obesity
NCMP 2019/20, 2021/22, and 2022/23 combined



The proportion of Reception children who were overweight or living with obesity (16%) is statistically similar to the England proportion (22%). 19% of Reception children were overweight or living with obesity in Harrow local authority.

Proportion of Year 6 children in your school who were overweight or living with obesity
NCMP 2019/20, 2021/22, and 2022/23 combined



The proportion of Year 6 children who were overweight or living with obesity (30%) is statistically similar to the England proportion (34%). 38% of Year 6 children were overweight or living with obesity in Harrow local authority.

In any population of children of all ages, it would be expected that 10% would be overweight and a further 5% living with obesity. However current levels across England are far higher.

Due to rounding, figures for overweight and obesity in the text may not add up to exactly the same number shown in the chart

The National Child Measurement Programme

The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) is a national programme delivered across schools in England that records the height and weight of school children in Foundation/Reception year (children aged 4-5) and Year 6 (children aged 10-11). The UK Government uses the data collected by the NCMP to understand long-term trends in childhood obesity and to inform national and local initiatives. Please see the information pack to the left for more details.

Screen time



Reduce screen time for your child and consider not giving them a smart phone.

Has your child been fully vaccinated?

It is important that your child is vaccinated against Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Polio.



Attendance

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. 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.

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.

Should I Keep My Child off School?

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

Recording Absences if your Child is Unwell



Please call the school office 02084221272 and select option 1 on each morning of your child's absence.

Please state clearly your child's name, the child's class and the reason for the absence.



We now cannot accept “feeling unwell/ is sick” as a response, this will be marked as unauthorised if a full answer isn't recorded.

We will send a PING if there isn't a reason recorded for your child's absence.

Leave of Absence requests

When needing to take your child out of school for **exceptional circumstances**, please pick up a Leave of absence request from the school Office.

Please return this to the school office at least 3 weeks before the event date along with any additional information that supports your request, for example, flight confirmations or proof of events.

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. Requests will then be considered on each individual basis by Mrs Monaghan. See guidance on the next page from Harrow council and which Mrs Monaghan has to base her decision from.

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 circumstances

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.

KIDS EAT FREE

Available with our
Stripes Rewards App



*T&Cs apply. Offer available for Stripes Rewards members, with an adult main meal. Offer available for a limited time only. TGI Fridays' management reserves the right to withdraw the offer at any time. Visit www.tgifridays.co.uk for full terms and conditions

**ST. GEORGES CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

DANCE NIGHT

Valentine's Disco

FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

**6:30PM TO 8:00PM
VENUE: SCHOOL HALL**

£4 PER PERSON

**UV PARTY
WEAR WHITE OR NEON**

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

ENTRY IS LIMITED TO 250 PEOPLE. BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL PUPILS AND PARENTS OF ST. GEORGES SCHOOL. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE. WE WILL NEED A MINIMUM NUMBER OF PARENTS TO HELP WITH THIS EVENT TO ENSURE SAFETY. ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS PSA FUNDRAISING. REGISTERED CHARITY NO.: 1168122.



**ST GEORGE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY
TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026**

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Children return	Wednesday 3 September 2025
Half Term	Thursday 23rd October 2025 - Friday 31 October 2025
Children return	Monday 3 November 2025
Last day	Friday 19 December 2025

School closed for Staff training	Monday 1 September 2025 Tuesday 2 September 2025 Thursday 23 October 2025 Friday 24 October 2025
----------------------------------	---

SPRING TERM 2026

Children return	Monday 5 January 2026
Half Term	Monday 16 February 2026 - Friday 20 February 2026
Children return	Monday 23 February 2026
Last day	Friday 27 March 2026

SUMMER TERM 2026

Children return	Monday 13 April 2026
May Bank Holiday	Monday 4 May 2026
Half Term	Monday 25 May 2026 - Friday 29 May 2026
Children return	Tuesday 2 June 2026
Last day	Friday 17 July 2026

School closed for Staff training	Friday 1 May 2026 Monday 1 June 2026
----------------------------------	---

Please see term dates above for the next academic school year 2025-2026. . **Please note that there are some changes to the October half term 2025, as there are two inset days extending pupil holiday dates.** A downloadable version is available on the school website



St George's School Dates



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JANUARY

- Wed 22** 9-10am RL Workshop Phase 3
- Thurs 23** 9-10am RM Workshop Phase 3
- Mon 27** Year 6 Drug awareness Workshop- Wizard Theatre.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBURARY

- Mon 3** Children's Mental Health Week
- Tues 4** Know yourself, grow yourself workshop year 2 and 3
- Tues 4** 4:00pm Online Safety– Parents Session
- Wed 5** 9:00am Year 1 Maths Workshop
- Wed 5** Year 6 to London Zoo
- Thurs 6** Reception, Year 1 &2 Drama workshop SPLASH!
- Fri 7** PSA Valentines Disco
- Mon 10** St Bernadette's House Mass
- Tues 11** Safer Internet day
- Tues 11** 3:30pm Parents Evening
- Wed 12** Last Year 5 Swimming session
- Thurs 13** Author Gareth Jones workshops for all years
- Thurs 13** Parents Evening
- Half term Monday 17th February– Friday 21st February 2025**
- Mon 24** Pupils return to school
- Tues 25** 9-10am Reception Maths Parent workshop

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.