



St George's
School Edgbaston

St George's Lower School Newsletter – October 2017

It was wonderful to welcome both old and new pupils into St. George's this September. The children have begun the new Academic Year looking very smart in their new school uniform. It costs you as parents a lot of money to make them look good, so please make sure your child's clothes are clearly labelled. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Please remember that pupils can wear their Summer Uniform until we break up for Half Term on Wednesday 18th October. Winter uniform must be worn thereafter until the start of the Summer Term. Uniform lists are on the website, but can also be obtained from the Lower School office.

We would like to remind parents that all pupils are expected to follow the uniform expectations, including those for coats and bags. Coats should be either black or navy blue (no motifs), and bags should be our standard school issue. We are seeing a number of variations to the expectations – please do not be offended if your child's class teacher speaks to you regarding expectations and deviations!

Well done Reception!

Our new pupils in Reception class have settled in brilliantly! They are already very much part of the school, and it is lovely getting to know each and every one of them. Miss Tandy and Mrs McSharry would like to thank their parents for being supportive with activities that have been sent home; apparently you have all been very good at bringing things back in. Keep up the good work!

School Councillors

School Councillors are voted for by their peers as the best person to represent the views of their class. They will also be the class Rights Respecting School representatives, and will form an important part of the RRS Steering Group.

This year's School Councillors are:

Year 1: Tasia

Year 2: Zane

Year 3: Temidayo

Year 4: Harry

Year 5: Toby

Year 6: Raisah

Our Reception class are still settling in and getting to know each other. They will vote for their School Councillor next half term.

House Captains

Pupils in Year 6 delivered some superb House Captain Campaign speeches to the staff and pupils in their Houses. It was a tough decision, but the pupils elected into the roles of House Captain and Vice-Captain are:

Diamond – Luca (HC) and Amelia (VC)

Emerald – Josh (HC) and Wud (VC)

Ruby – Aayush (HC) and Tumi (VC)

Sapphire – Ben (HC) and Raisah (VC)

Macmillan Bake Off and Cake Sale:

Thank you to everyone who supported our Bake Off and Cake sale. We raised £250.76 for this worthy cause. We had great fun with the staff 'Bake Off', with Miss Kaur, Mrs McSharry and Miss Rashid winning 1st, 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

Reception Class and Key Stage 1 Phonics Workshop

You should have received a letter inviting you to a Phonic Workshop on Friday 13th October at 2pm. If you have not yet replied to the letter and would like to join us, please let us know as soon as possible. We hope that you can attend, but unfortunately cannot accommodate smaller siblings.

School bags

To avoid confusion, and to help your child independently identify their bags, please could you add a key ring or something that will help your child locate their belongings quickly.

Water bottles

We encourage pupils to drink water regularly throughout the day. Please ensure any water bottles brought into school are clearly labelled with your child's name. Pupils can refill their bottles throughout the day, but for hygiene reasons, should bring them home each evening to be washed.

Attendance and Punctuality

School starts at 8.40am. Please be aware that being just ten minutes late per day equates to nearly an hour's lost learning every week; which in turn mounts up to missing more than a week's education over an academic year!

The Government has set an attendance expectation of 95%, and all schools are accountable for their attendance figures. Schools can only authorise absences that are not illness related in 'exceptional circumstances'. As a school we do not include cheaper travel in this remit! Parents are advised that we will not be able to authorise holidays during term time.

Wordery Competition:

Wordmania is an international word building competition that we have entered for Years 1 – 6. All children have had a user name and password sent home, and should now be going on the programme as regularly as possible; at the moment the children can be practising their word building skills before the competition begins in earnest on November 6th. Well done to our Year 5 pupils who are currently top of the leader board in the West Midlands for 'practice and participation'!

Nessy Reading and Spelling Programme:

If you have signed up to this, please remember to encourage your child to use this independently at home. If you require a reminder of the log on details, please contact your child's class teacher.

Inhalers and Epi-Pens:

Should your child require medication in school e.g. Epi-pens or Inhalers, please ensure that this medication is in date, clearly labelled and delivered to school as soon as possible. We require you to provide us with two devices – one for the classroom medication box, and one for the emergency grab bag. Our School Nurse Mrs Jones regularly checks the medication we store in school, but relies on partnership with parents to ensure required medication is on site.

Parking:

We have again had several complaints from our neighbours in ROSPA with regards to parents parking across their driveway. We are informed that when their staff have asked the owners of the vehicles to move, they have been met with rudeness and what equates to verbal abuse. Whilst they have stated that they are going to inform the police and take pictures of the cars in question, it would be better for all if parents could simply not park across the driveway. We would ask all of you to employ common sense and consideration when parking.

Language of the Month:

Our 'Language of the Month' programme celebrates the diverse range of languages we now have in Lower School. If the language of the month is spoken by a child or children in a specific class, we will try and celebrate this in class as much as possible. There is growing recognition that we need to encourage children for whom English is an additional language not to lose their 'mother tongue', and at the same time respect their culture and language. 'Language of the Month' simply involves choosing a language that is spoken by one or more of our children, and celebrating it for a set period through class assemblies, games, videos etc. There will be a designated space in each classroom to display words and pictures related to the chosen language, as well as a whole school display board to support the 'Language of the Month.' We feel that not only will this allow children to demonstrate the language skills they bring with them; it will broaden the horizons of our monolingual English speakers. So far we have celebrated languages including Arabic, Danish, Spanish and Cantonese. This half term we are focusing on Portuguese.

Harvest Festival:

Our annual Harvest Festival will be held in the Lower School Hall at 2pm on Wednesday 18th October. Our School Council have decided that they would like to extend the help we give to other children, so this year we will be collecting for the Foodbank, which does some sterling work with families who find themselves in difficult circumstances. All donations of food will be very gratefully received.

Christmas Dates

Christmas is always a busy time in Lower School! With this in mind, we have produced a list of dates in December to help you organise your diaries. More details to follow!

Thursday 7th December: Reception & KS1 Performance (pm)

Friday 8th December: Reception & KS1 Performance (am)

Monday 11th December: Christmas Lunch

Monday 11th December: Christmas Service St George's Church 2pm

Tuesday 12th December: Reception and Y1 to the Snowdome (all day)

Tuesday 12th December: KS2 production (pm)

Wednesday 13th December: Christmas Parties (pm)

Thursday 14th December: KS2 Pantomime, Redditch (pm)

Friday 15th December: School finishes for the term at 12.15pm. **No clubs or Aftercare.**

Dates for Diary in October:

Monday 2nd October: Reception, visit from Angie's Animal Antics 1.45 – 2.45pm

Thursday 5th October: Year 3 trip to Martineau Gardens

Monday 9th October: Gifted and Talented Film Day – some Year 5 children to KEHS

Monday 9th October: Years 5 & 6 Basketball Match 12 – 3pm in Nechells

Tuesday 10th October: Years 5 & 6 Football Match 9.30 -12.30pm

Friday 13th October: KS1 Phonics Workshop

Monday 16th October: Years 3 & 4 Football Match AVFC 12.30 – 3.30pm

Tuesday 17th October: Year 2 trip to Fire Service

Wednesday 18th October: Harvest Festival 2.00pm. **School breaks up for half term.**

Tuesday 31st October: School reopens.

Dates for Diary in November:

Friday 3rd November: Year 3 trip to Sarehole Mill

Thursday 16th November: Year 2 trip to Odeon Cinema, Broad Street

Friday 17th November: Reception – 'Children In Need' spotty trail

Wednesday 22nd November: Reception – Year 4 Flu Vaccines

Monday 27th November: Years 5 & 6 Athletics Competition

