



A short guide for 2022 – 2023

We are very much hoping that the next school year will be more settled for everyone in our school community. To help the year get off to a great start we have put together this handy guide with reminders for daily and weekly routines and expectations and some updates on expectations about school attendance. We hope you find it useful!

Start of the school year:

For children in Reception, Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 school will begin on Wednesday 7th September 2022. For children in Nursery school will begin on Thursday 8th September.

Times of the school day:

Children should be dropped off at the pedestrian gate on Stevenson Avenue from 8.35am. For children in Nursery, the day begins at 8.35am. For children in Reception, Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 the school day begins at 8.45am. **All children should be in their classrooms ready to start learning by 8.45am.**

Parking on Stevenson Avenue:

We enjoy good relationships with our neighbours on Stevenson Avenue, we therefore ask you to park considerately at drop off and collection times. Our local Community Police Support Officer does visit regularly and will advise parents if they have parked in an unsafe way. Please do not stop on the yellow KEEP CLEAR box outside the front gate.

One way system:

There is a one-way system around the school site. Children and parents enter via the pedestrian gate on Stevenson Avenue and leave the premises via the pedestrian gate on Temple Close.

Attendance:

From September the Government is bringing in new guidelines to improve school attendance. The first week of the new term is critical in settling children into their new routines and understanding what is expected of them in their new year group. Research has shown that attending the first week of school is a strong indicator that a child will go on to attend school regularly throughout the term. Therefore, we will take a very dim view if holidays are taken and stop a child being in school at the start of the new term.

School plays a key role in children's development, and frequent absence from school prevents children achieving the highest standards. They can fall behind in key skills which are so important in younger children's education. Their school performance and understanding may suffer leading them to lose confidence in their abilities.

Poor attendance can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships which are a vital part of growing up. This may lead to them being unable to maintain friendships and become isolated and reluctant to attend school. Children value being in school with their teachers and their friends. Setting good attendance patterns from an early age will also help your child later in life.

To further improve school attendance, fixed penalty notices may be imposed on parents whose children are **consistently late** or have **unauthorised absences**.

In the 2021 – 2022, school year, as a school we have taken an understanding approach to holiday requests due to many family holidays being cancelled and the uncertainty around COVID. **However, from September things must change, and we will be unable to grant holiday absences and fines will be issued.**

If it is necessary to take your child(ren) on holiday during term time, requests **must** be made in advance on a 'Leave of absence in term time' form, which is available on request from the Office. The head

teacher will consider every request but as head teachers should only grant leave of absence in **exceptional circumstances** it is highly unlikely a leave of absence will be authorised.

School Uniform:

From September we will be taking a stricter stance on children wearing the correct school uniform. Our uniform consists of:



A red sweatshirt or cardigan A white polo shirt



Grey trousers, skirt, dress, or shorts.

In the summer, children may wear a red, checked dress.

Both boys and girls need to wear sensible black school shoes, such as these:

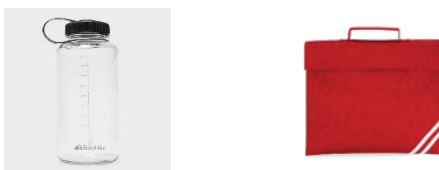


or

There is no requirement for children to wear sweatshirts, cardigans, or polo shirts with the school logo on so these items are easily obtainable from our local supermarkets. Alternatively, there is a Redditch Uniform Exchange group on Facebook, and on Saturday 20th August between 10.00am and 12.00pm there is a school uniform bank in the Kingfisher Centre. If you wish to purchase new items with the school logo on, they are available from the website of Orchard Clothing.

If any girls wish to wear hijabs, we ask that they are plain black, red or white without any embellishments such as diamantes

Each day, children also need to bring their water bottle and book bag:



Children do not need to bring any other items to school on a regular basis. Please do not let your child bring toys to school because if they get lost it causes the child distress.

Children who wear earrings, should only wear stud or simple hoop type earrings. During PE lessons children wear tape over their earrings to prevent any injuries. Children should not wear any other jewellery to school.

Reading Books and Reading Diaries

In September we will be changing the way we teach phonics and are launching a new reading scheme with brand new reading books. Children who are still learning to read using phonics will be bringing home a new book to read and a book to share together. We will give you more information in September on when these books will be coming home, when they must be returned and how to complete your child's Reading Diary.

School dinners:

School dinners for all pupils should be ordered and paid for via ParentPay by 11pm on a Thursday night for the following week.

Packed lunches:

If your child brings a packed lunch to school please ensure it contains a balanced range of healthy items e.g. a sandwich/wrap/pitta bread, some fruit, a yoghurt, carrot/cucumber sticks. It is ok to include one 'treat' item such as a biscuit or small cake.

PE Kit:

P.E. kits consist of a white 'T' shirt, black or red shorts and pumps/trainers for indoor activities.



For outdoor activities the children can wear a white 'T' shirt, red jumper or sweatshirt, red or black tracksuit bottoms/joggers and trainers.



Funding for school uniform for children entitled to benefits related Free School Meals:

If your child is entitled to benefits related Free School Meals we are funding up to £25 per child towards the cost of new uniform. To access this funding, please bring the receipts for uniform into the school office where a member of the team will explain the process. If you purchase uniform over the summer holiday, you can bring the receipts to school in September.

Pre-loved uniform:

If you have any old items of St. George's uniform that are in good condition and are no longer required, we would be very grateful for them. Please drop them into the school office at drop off or collection time.

Behaviour:

This is our vision for children's behaviour at St. George's:



Children who consistently show that they are demonstrating these values, are really trying hard to improve their behaviour linked to these values or that their behaviour in relation to these values has really improved will receive a 'Golden Ticket'. All members of staff, including Lunchtime Supervisors can reward children with Golden Tickets. The children then collect and look after their tickets in special boxes and this ties in with them being responsible.

Here are some examples of the behaviours we are particularly looking for to award Golden Tickets:

- **Using good manners e.g. saying please and thank you;**
- **Showing a caring and kind attitude to others;**
- **Demonstrating all 4 listening rules: Looking at person who is talking, listening to all the words, sitting still and staying quiet;**
- **Taking care and pride in the presentation of their work;**
- **Holding doors open for others;**
- **Organising themselves well e.g. having all the right equipment or resources in school each day, wearing ALL the correct uniform, completing homework and home/school activities on time;**
- **Being at school on time every day – 2 tickets for the week rewarded on a Friday.**

Each week, on a Friday afternoon, the St. George's shop will be open. At the St. George's Shop children can use their Golden Tickets to 'buy' items such as special pencils, notebooks, tennis/footballs or skipping ropes. There are just too many lovely items for the children to choose from.

If a child persistently disrupts the learning of others or engage in more serious misbehaviour the parent(s) of the child will be informed by either the class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Fantastic Friday Assembly:

At 9.00am each Friday we have our 'Fantastic Friday' assembly where we celebrate the achievements and behaviour of our children. From September we will invite parents of the children nominated to receive certificates to these assemblies. Via the Parent Portal App, you will receive notification on a Thursday afternoon that your child has been nominated for an award and therefore you are invited to join us. We realise that for some of you who have other commitments, this will be short notice, however we will still celebrate your child's achievements in school in a way that makes them feel special.

Thank you for taking the time to read this guide. We look forward to receiving your support with your child(ren) attending school on time every day, wearing the correct uniform and with the right equipment and behaving in accordance with our vision for behaviour. By working in partnership, we will achieve our vision for our school:

St. George's is a
community of
happy, confident
learners who
shine.

"Let your light
shine"
Matthew 5: 16

