

Thursday 21st October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that the first half-term of the 2021 – 2022 school year is nearly over. **Today is the last day of school for the children until Monday 1st November.**

Tomorrow, parent/teacher meetings take place:

We are very much looking forward to seeing you all tomorrow for parent/teacher meetings.

We are excited to share news about how your child has settled into their new class, the progress they have made over the last seven weeks and information about the things they need to practise.

Appointment slips were handed out to the parents/carers who collected children on Tuesday. However, if you need to check the time of your appointment please phone the office on 01527 62263.

Parent/teacher meetings will take place in your child(ren)'s classrooms. Please enter the school site via the gate on Stevenson Avenue and follow the one way system to reach your child(ren)'s classrooms. The weather forecast for Friday is for dry weather so, if you are early for your appointment please wait outside the classroom door – thank you.

Application for Reception and Middle School and places for September 2022:

If your child is at our Nursery or was born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 you need to apply for a school place by 15th January 2022. If your child is in Year 4, you need to apply for a middle school place. This also needs to be done by 15th January 2022. Applications for first and middle school places are made using the online system, which can be accessed here: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Vouchers for children entitled to benefits related Free School Meals:

The parents of all children entitled to free school meals will receive (via email) a £15 voucher (per child) for October half-term. You should have received your voucher yesterday. If you have not yet received your voucher or have any problems accessing it, please phone or email the school office.

Benefits related Free school meals:

If you think your child may be entitled to benefits related Free School Meals, please apply online [here](#).

Would you like some help with online applications?

On Friday 22nd October computers with internet access will be available in the school hall and staff will be on hand if you would like any help applying for a first or middle school place or for Free School Meals. Please come to the main school office and a member of the team will be happy to help.

Executive Headteacher: Nicki Wright Headteacher: Marie Bradbury Deputy Headteacher: Adam Rivett

St George's C of E First School, Stevenson Avenue, Redditch, Worcestershire B98 8LU

Tel: 01527 62263

Email: office@sgf.endeavourschools.org Website: www.stgeorges.worcs.sch.uk

The future direction of the school:

In June 2021 we asked for your views about what is important about the work we do at St. George's. This was so we could use your opinions to shape our plans for the future of our school. In your responses you told us that the following things were important to you and strengths of the school:

- St. George's being such a welcoming and friendly place to everyone
- Communication between school and parents
- Helping your child(ren) become more confident
- Helping your child(ren) communicate (speaking, reading and writing) in English
- Helping your child(ren) achieve academic success in reading, writing and maths

We are delighted with the positive feedback we received and we have used your ideas to help shape our new vision statement:

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

The feeling of the little and big people in our community feeling happy and confident is really important to us – in order to learn, we all need to feel happy and safe.

We will carry on with our mantra:

“Let your light shine” (from Matthew 5:16)

This means that we treasure and value every single one of our children and believe that they 'light up the world' by being who they are. We also want all our children to feel proud of who they are and everything they achieve.

In your responses to our survey you asked us to think about some things we could improve on. We have listened to your ideas and here's what we are planning to do:

Changes suggested

What we are doing:

A broader curriculum
– more science, art
etc.

Over the last two years, periods of school closure have disrupted children's learning. Developing our children's basic skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing and maths are vitally important in order for them to access all the areas of the curriculum. We are providing opportunities for our children to learn new things in the broader curriculum by using their basic skills.

More outdoor
learning
opportunities

As a result of your suggestion, over the summer we have had a number of outdoor installations. Within the EYFS courtyard we have had a climbing frame, water wall and tunnel installed. In the outdoor play areas for years 1, 2, 3 and 4 we have had a tunnel, climbing wall and cross-curricular orienteering course put in too. Staff have had additional training about promoting outdoor learning too.

Changes suggested

Before and after
school clubs

More fish on the
lunchtime menu

More help for parents
about how reading
and maths are
taught

What we are doing:

In September we ran a survey to find out how many people were interested in Breakfast Club provision. We only had two responses, so running Breakfast Club provision at the current time is not feasible.

However, we are delighted to say that after-school clubs run by outside coaches will begin running again in the week beginning 1st November 2021. If your child has been allocated a place they will bring a slip home.

The Endeavour Schools Trust catering team are in the process of reviewing their menu and hope to bring more fish to the menu for January 2022!

We are absolutely delighted that you are keen to find out more about how you can support your child(ren) more with these key areas. We are in the process of planning how we can provide this information in a COVID safe way e.g. making videos to share with you, holding workshops etc.

Christmas card competition:

Today we are launching our Christmas Card competition. Further details accompany this letter.

I would like to close this newsletter by sincerely thanking ALL of you for your support with the safety measures we have in place. As a result of you following all the measures we have in place, as a school, we have been very fortunate so far this year and I very much hope this remains the case as we approach the winter months. Please find enclosed a letter from Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Children's First with some information about protecting children from COVID and other winter infections.

I hope you all have an enjoyable half-term and enjoy lots of family time. I, and the rest of the St. George's team look forward to welcoming the children back to school at 8.45am on Monday 1st November.

Kind regards,



Marie Bradbury

Headteacher

Executive Headteacher: Nicki Wright Headteacher: Marie Bradbury Deputy Headteacher: Adam Rivett

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