



# NEWSLETTER – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**“Grow in Faith, Have Faith in Growing”**

**Trust, Respect, Faith, Forgiveness, Aspiration, Determination, Curiosity**

## **Dear Parents and Carers,**

I hope that you have all had a relaxing and fun summer holiday! It's been wonderful to see how quickly the children have settled back into school life, especially as some of our pupils have been away from St George's since late March. I have really enjoyed visiting each class to see how the children have settled back into school life and exactly what the children have been learning. In each classroom, I have been met with well behaved, enthusiastic children who are happy and keen to learn! Everyone seems to be really enjoying their new classes, timetables and routines. What a great start! We will continue to be really vigilant at picking up on those pupils who might be finding it harder to readjust to school life so that we can quickly put in place any additional support they may need.

Our new Foundation Stage 2 children have also been incredible! They are the most confident and calm bunch of new starters that we have ever seen! It's like they have always been here! A big welcome to the children and their families. We hope that you will all be very happy here. I would also like to extend a big welcome to Pedro, Ricardo, Alexandra and James who have joined us from other schools.

As part of the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust, St George's has been working closely with Trust colleagues in order to make all of the necessary preparations for September, so that we are ready to welcome back all of our pupils. The Trust has ensured that we have everything we need to ensure that the transition from partial opening to full opening is as seamless as possible. Together, we want our pupils to return to school feeling happy, safe, secure, and hopefully excited, and our CEO, Sean McClafferty, has asked me to pass on his thanks to you for everything you have done to support your child/children over the past few months. I would like to thank you all for bearing with us as we continually improve our systems to make them the safest they can be.

## **Amazing achievements!**

Reflecting back on the last academic year, I wanted to share a real achievement with you all. Our Key Stage 2 results were the highest they have ever been, with 84% of our pupils achieving the combined expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths. This is 19% above the national average and a 17% increase on our results last year. This is testament to the skill of our teaching and support staff and also to the efforts of our incredibly hardworking children. Well done everyone for persevering in challenging circumstances!

## **Executive Headship**

For this academic year only, the Trust has asked me to spend one day a week working as Executive Headteacher at St Elizabeth's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Belper. I have been asked to support the school and its Senior Leadership Team as it moves forward onto the next stage of its journey. I will be with them each Wednesday for this year only. My very capable Senior Leadership Team will be on hand to 'steer the ship' on a Wednesday, under the excellent leadership of Miss Lewis.

## **Keeping in touch**

Although we are unable to have parents inside the school building, we will be using our class email system to allow for good communication between parents and teachers. Class email addresses are as follows:

**class(INSET NUMBER)@stgeorges.derby.sch.uk**

**For example:**

**[class7@stgeorges.derby.sch.uk](mailto:class7@stgeorges.derby.sch.uk)**

We will endeavour to answer all emails as quickly as possible, but this has to be balanced with the teachers' first commitment to teaching their class. Emails will be responded to within 48 hours within the working week i.e. any emails received over the weekend will be responded to by the end of Tuesday.



**Start of Year Mass – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September – Pre-recorded video link will be available from 9am**

Our RE and Music team have prepared a beautiful Start of Year Mass, to be celebrated on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 9am. For social distancing reasons, this Mass has been pre-recorded so that you can attend virtually too. Children will participate in the Mass in their bubbles and KS2 children will have the opportunity to receive communion. Please do watch along with us - it would be great to have your 'virtual' support! The link will be on our website, social media and will be emailed out to parent email addresses at 9am.

**Jeans for Genes Day – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

Every year, we support 'Jeans for Genes' day. It is a charity which supports children and families with genetic conditions. This is a charity close to my heart and it would be lovely if we could all wear jeans to school (as part of non-uniform) in return for the donation of £1 to this worthy cause. The children can wear a top of their own choosing to go with their jeans 😊

**Virtual Class Assemblies**

In order to maintain the integrity of our bubbles, we cannot yet have parents inside the school building to attend our class assemblies. So that you can still enjoy these events, when it is your child's class assembly, we will send you a link to watch the assembly online. This is of course dependent on the consent of the other parents in your child's class (allowing their child/ren to be filmed). We will never post these acts of worship to our website or on social media. An online consent letter seeking filming permission will be emailed to you on Monday. I would be grateful if you could fill this in online as a matter of urgency.

**Meet the Teacher Evening – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

We will be hosting a virtual 'Meet the teacher' evening. Two videos will be sent out to parent emails on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September during the morning. The first video will be the Senior Leadership Team giving updates for the year ahead and the second will be from the class teachers (for your child/ren), letting you know about the learning for the term ahead and the general classroom routines. There will be a zoom hangout available between the times of 5pm and 5.30pm with your child/ren's class teacher/s so that you can ask any questions. If you would rather discuss something on a 1-1 basis, you may request a call back by emailing the class teacher.

**For parents of pupils with additional needs...**

Class teachers will call you on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September between 3.30-4.30pm to catch up on anything we can do to further support your child. The call will come from a withheld number. If you will not be available during this time, please email the class teacher and a more suitable time will be arranged.

**Whole School Photographs – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September**

The children will be having their photographs taken on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Due to maintaining the integrity of our bubbles and the complex logistics that the system requires, we will be able to offer only individual photographs this year and solely to pupils currently at St. George's. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

**Start and End of the School Day - Collection with Staggered Timings and Locations – Updates**

From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, collection times and points will be changing to allow for further social distancing and quick handover of pupils. You can watch a video here if you wish to see the collection points:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvcv3Fi0XJrg>

Otherwise, the arrangements will run as follows:

	Collection Time	Collection Point
Classes 1 and 2	3.05	Please wait outside the double gate close to the colourful gate.
Classes 3, 4, 5,	3.10	Class zone marked on the Car Park (enter through the pedestrian gate please)
Class 6	3.05	Class zone marked on the KS1 playground
Class 7, 8 and 9	3.10	Class zone marked on the KS1 playground
Class 10, 11, 12	3.20	Class zone marked on the KS1 playground

All parents of children from Classes 6-12 will need to enter the KS1 playground by the single bus gate (next to the blue notice board – the video will show which one) at their allotted time and wait on the playground in their zones. Markings on the playground will show which zone to wait in. Once their child has been handed over, they should exit via main gate. This is a one way system. Please note the change of collection times detailed above.



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**St Ralph Sherwin**  
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## Covid-19 related pupil absence A quick reference guide for parents

What to do if...	Action Needed	Return to school when...
...my child has Covid-19 symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not come to school</li> <li>- Contact school to inform us</li> <li>- Self-isolate the whole household</li> <li>- Get a test</li> <li>- Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	...the test comes back negative
...my child tests positive for Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not come to school</li> <li>- Contact school to inform us</li> <li>- Agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 10 days</li> <li>- Self-isolate the whole household</li> </ul>	...they feel better. They can return after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of taste/smell. These symptoms can last for several weeks
...my child tests negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contact the school to inform us</li> <li>- Discuss when your child can come back (same day/next day)</li> </ul>	...the test comes back negative
...my child is ill with symptoms not linked to Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not come to school</li> <li>- Contact the school to inform us.</li> <li>- Ring on each day of illness</li> </ul>	...after 48 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. As per attendance policy.
...someone in my household has Covid-19 symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not come to school</li> <li>- Contact school to inform us</li> <li>- Self-isolate the whole household</li> <li>- Household member to get a test</li> <li>- Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	...the test comes back negative
...someone in my household tests positive for Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not come to school</li> <li>- Contact school to inform us</li> <li>- Agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 14 days</li> <li>- Self-isolate the whole household</li> </ul>	...the child has completed 14 days of isolation.
...NHS test and trace has identified my child as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not come to school</li> <li>- Contact school to inform us</li> <li>- Agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 14 days</li> </ul>	.....the child has completed 14 days of isolation.
...we/my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as a period of quarantine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not take unauthorised leave in term time.</li> <li>- Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 14 days from return date</li> <li>- Self-isolate the whole household</li> </ul>	...the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed.
...we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not come to school</li> <li>- Contact school to inform us</li> <li>- Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again.</li> </ul>	...school inform you that restrictions have been lifted and you child can return to school again.
...my child's bubble is closed due to a Covid-19 outbreak in school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not come to school</li> <li>- At home support your child with remote education provided by school</li> <li>- Your child will need to isolate for 14 days.</li> </ul>	...school inform you that the bubble will be reopened.



### **New Learning Ahead**

In preparation for transition in July, we emailed you a 'Curriculum Newsletter' detailing your children's learning for the term and their classroom routines e.g. PE days etc. Should these have 'gone astray', these newsletters will also appear in the 'Curriculum' section of our website later this week.

### **Education Sunday**

This Sunday, we will celebrate Education Sunday – one of the oldest days of special prayer in England and Wales! Nearly 200 years ago, the Catholic Church in this country was a mainly poor and immigrant community and education was seen as the best way of sharing faith and improving people's lives. The Catholic Church made the education of the poor their top priority and so they started raising money to fund the national network of schools which we enjoy today. Today the Catholic Church is the largest provider of secondary schools and second-largest provider of primary schools in the whole country!

### **Dinner Money: 7<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020**

Dinner money for this half term will be £77 or £11 per week. This should be paid online via Parentmail. We don't mind children having school meals only on certain days e.g. every Friday, but these must be paid for in full at the beginning of the half term. Children in years FS2, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a free school meal, as do children in receipt of the Pupil Premium grant. Thank you.

### **Year 6 Trip to 'The Briars': Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021**

A letter will be going out early next week to all Year 6 pupils with regards to our provisional booking of our annual residential trip to 'The Briars'. This residential trip will be subject to the most current government guidance and is provisional at this stage.

### **Whole School Trip to the Pantomime at Derby Arena - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Cancelled**

In the light of COVID-19, Derby Arena will no longer be hosting this year's pantomime. We have other plans in the pipeline for a fun 'second to last day' of term... Watch this space!

### **Lego Request**

As part of our continued provision within school to support the social, emotional and mental health of our pupils, we are developing our ability to 'talk'. By using Lego, the children will be encouraged to talk about their feelings and we will be able to work together to develop further opportunities for enhancing well-being within our school community. Therefore, we are asking for any donations of Lego you may be able to donate to school, no matter how large or small. Please bring them into the school office or hand them to Mrs Holmes on the KS1 playground.

### **Junk Modelling Items Plea for Foundation Stage 2**

If you have any unwanted 'junk modelling' materials e.g. boxes, punnets, kitchen roll tubes, please speak to Mrs. Bennett in Class 1. Thank you!

### **Harvest – A note from Mrs Holmes and Mrs Bennett**

Once again, our Harvest festival celebrations are drawing near. As we always do in the first term of school, the Charity sub-committee of our Chaplaincy Team work towards their initial fundraising project. We begin locally with the aim of supporting those closest to us before we look to support our wider community overseas.

A letter will be distributed this week to inform you all of this year's priority needs for both the Padley Centre and The Hope Centre - two very worthwhile charities in Derby City Centre who support our homeless. This letter can also be found on the Chaplaincy Team page on our website. Please do raid your cupboards for any items that will be of help to this year's campaign. We excelled ourselves last year and this resulted in a very large amount of supplies being donated by the children themselves.

Of course, we need to be mindful of current restrictions and additional precautions in relation to gathering items from home. With this in mind, we will be limiting our Harvest collection to one week only during the week commencing Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September. Could we please ask that donations arrive in a sealed bag (a knot tied in a carrier will be fine) so that we can quarantine them in our classrooms before sending them to the charities' headquarters.



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Unfortunately, we are unable to personally deliver the items to the Hope Centre in town this year but have arranged for these items to be dropped off.

Many thanks, Mrs Holmes and Mrs Bennett.

### **Uniform**

Thank you to you all for sending the children into school so smartly dressed in their Winter uniform. We wear our Winter uniform from September until Easter. For girls, this consists of a white blouse, tartan skirt, grey trousers, royal blue tie, a royal blue cardigan, white, black or grey socks or tights and black shoes. For boys, this consists of a royal blue v-neck jumper, a royal blue tie, a white shirt, grey trousers, grey, black and white socks and black shoes.

All items of uniform should be clearly labelled. Children do need to come to school in full school uniform without exception. Uniform can be purchased from 'Uniform Direct' on Babington Lane. Uniform can also be obtained via their website at [www.uniform-direct.com](http://www.uniform-direct.com). Uniform is no longer sold in school.

### **Breakfast Club/After School Club**

Breakfast Club hours are from 7.30am – 8.30am, at a cost of £3 per morning. After school club is charged at £7 per session and runs from 3.15pm – 5pm. There is also a shortened stay option of £3 per session with pick up by 4.15pm. This is the 'no snack' option as snack is provided after 4.15pm. Any late pickups will incur a fine.

If you would like a place for your child in either Breakfast Club or After School Club, please book online via ParentMail. If you have any difficulties with this, please contact the office on 01332 766815 or [admin@stgeorges.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stgeorges.derby.sch.uk).

### **Prospective Parents Open Day**

We shall be holding a virtual open day for prospective parents on Friday 2nd October. An online tour, videos of our school in action and an MS teams hangout will be available on the day for any questions. Do tell your friends! Flyers and more information will follow shortly.

### **Applying for place in FS2 for September 2021**

Parents wishing to apply for a place in FS2 starting in September 2021, can make their application from 9th November 2020 onwards. The National Closing Date is the 15th January 2021. To make an application you can: [apply online](#) via the Derby City Council Admissions website - it's quick and easy and lets you track the progress of your application:

- Apply by phone on 01332 642730 - this takes around 5 minutes.
- Apply using a paper form - telephone 01332 642730 to ask Derby City Council to send you one.
- If you make your application online, you will be able to access your decision on 16th April 2021 – National Offer Day.
- If you apply by phone or on a paper form your offer letter will be posted on 16th April 2021, second class.



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## Calendar of Events – 2020/2021

Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September: INSET All day	INSET	School Closed
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	All pupils return to school to begin the Advent term FS2 in for mornings only for the first week	All pupils
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> September: 9am	Beginning of Year Mass	A pre-recorded video will be available on our website and will be emailed out to parents.
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> September: 8:50am	Class 12 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of all Class 12 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> September: All day	Jeans for Genes Day – Non Uniform Day in exchange for £1	All pupils
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September: 5-5.30pm	Meet and Greet Evening – Come and meet your child's teacher!	For more information, please see the relevant section of this newsletter.
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> September: 8:50am	Class 11 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 11 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September: 8.30am	School photographs for all pupils	For more information, please see the relevant section of this newsletter.
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> October: 8:50am	Class 10 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 10 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October: 4-5pm and 5-6pm	Prospective Parents Open Day for entry into Foundation Stage 2021	Parents who are thinking of sending their child to St. George's in September 2021.
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> October: 8:50am	Class 9 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 9 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October: 8:50am	Class 8 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 8 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October: 8:50am	Class 5 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 5 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October: 9am	All Saints Mass	A pre-recorded video will be available on our website and will be emailed out to parents.
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Advent Half Term	School Closed
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November: 8am	Termly Learning Conference Booking Goes Live!	All parents will be able to book their parents' evening slot from 8am – Letter regarding log in process to follow just before Autumn half term. These will be virtual or telephone appointments only.
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> November: 8:50am	Class 6 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 6 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> November: 3:30-6pm for KS1 and 3:30pm-7:30pm for KS2.	Termly Learning Conferences	These will be virtual or telephone appointments only.
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November: 3:30-5.30pm for KS1 and 3:30pm - 6pm for KS2.	Termly Learning Conferences	These will be virtual or telephone appointments only.
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November: 10.30am	Remembrance Day Liturgy	Subject to consent, parents of pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> November 8:50am	Class 1 and 2 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 1 and 2 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> November: All day	Non uniform day in support of Children in Need in exchange for £1 donation	All pupils
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> November 8:50am	Class 7 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 7 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 8:50am	Class 4 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 4 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.



Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> November: All day	Non uniform day in support of NDCYS (Briars team) in exchange for £1 donation	All pupils
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December: 9am	Advent Liturgy for Year 1-6 pupils	Subject to consent, parents of pupils in Y1-Y6 will be emailed a link to watch the advent liturgy online.
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 8:50am	Class 3 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 3 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December: INSET All day</b>	<b>INSET</b>	<b>School Closed</b>
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December: 9am-11am	Foundation Stage Christmas Crafts Morning	We will be in touch to say whether parents are able to join us for this event as per the latest guidelines.
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December: 2-3pm	Foundation Stage Christmas Sing-a-long	It is highly likely that this will be a virtual event and will be subject to whether the latest guidance allows singing indoors in large groups.
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December: 2:15pm	Key Stage 1 Nativity	
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December: 2:15pm	Key Stage 1 Nativity	
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December: 6pm-7pm	Carol Service at St. George's Church	
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December: All day	Christmas Jumper Day (wear with jeans) in exchange for £1 donation for our Parish	All pupils
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December: 9am	End of term Christmas Mass	We will be in touch to say whether parents are able to join us for these events as per the latest guidelines / If not, you will be able to join us online for this.
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December: Lunchtime	Christmas lunch for pupils and staff	More information will follow in November on ordering a lunch for your child if they are ordinarily sandwiches.
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December: 2-3pm	Carols around the Tree	It is highly likely that this will be a virtual event and will be subject to whether the latest guidance allows for singing indoors in large groups.
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January (Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December are INSET days)</b>	<b>Christmas Holidays</b>	<b>School Closed</b>
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>	<b>All pupils return for the start of the Lent term</b>	<b>All pupils</b>
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February: All day	INSET	School Closed
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Lent Half term	School Closed
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holidays	School Closed
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	All pupils return for the start of the Pentecost term	All pupils
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May: All day	May Bank Holiday	School Closed
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Key Stage 2 SATs Week	All Year 6 pupils
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Key Stage 1 SATs Week	All year 2 pupils
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Pentecost Half term	School Closed
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2021 – Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September (Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September is an INSET day)	Summer Holidays	School Closed
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2021: All Day	Return to school for the start of Advent term FS2 pupils to be in for mornings only for the first week	All pupils



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