



NEWSLETTER – Friday 23rd October 2020

“Grow in Faith, Have Faith in Growing”

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for all your support and positivity over the past 7 weeks. We have never before begun a school term in such challenging circumstances and it has been great to see the whole school community working together to make sure the children have a happy and safe start to the school year.

We will soon be hosting a really important opportunity for families to share their children's learning through our online Termly Learning Conferences. A 'termly learning conference' is St. George's way of holding 'Parents' evenings'. The main difference for us is that it is a dialogue between the child, teacher and parents so that all are involved in understanding the successes achieved and the targets to be set for the next few months. These appointments will be 'video appointments' online so as to maintain social distancing. A letter and guide as to how to book onto this appointments went out to you via ParentMail last Friday. If you did not receive this, please do contact the office team.

We ended the half term today by thinking about what we can learn from the lives of Saints, during our All Saints Mass. As you may know, John Henry Newman was made a saint last year; the first saint from England in over 50 years. He was a very inspirational teacher and his legacy lives on through his writings. I'd like to share a couple of extracts from these with you as a thought for the new half term:

God has a plan for everyone: “God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.” — St. John Henry Newman

Perfection is overrated: “A person would do nothing if s/he waited until s/he could do it so well that no one could find fault.” — St. John Henry Newman

Finally, a huge congratulations to Rebecca Hume (Class 8's teacher and our Lower Key Stage 2 Assistant Head teacher) who will be getting married during half term. We wish her many years of happiness with Mr Lee Archer. We look forwards to welcoming back Mrs Archer to school after the holidays!

Book collection for school fires

Many of you will have seen the sad news in relation to the fires at two local Derby schools. In the previous newsletter, I explained that Ravensdale Infants and St Mary's have asked that we donate any spare reading books that we may have at home. We will be placing collection boxes outside our 3 gates at the end of each school day from Monday 2nd November for a two week period. If you wish to make a donation, then that would be greatly appreciated. Thanks in advance for your support. ☺

Termly Learning Conferences (Parents' Evenings)

As per the letter last week, appointment booking went live via 'School Cloud' on Wednesday 21st October at 8am. This was to allow more time for families (and staff!) to become familiar with the system. Our virtual termly learning conferences will take place on Monday 9th November and Wednesday 11th November (see calendar below for timings).

Non-Uniform Day in Support on 'Children in Need' Day – Friday 13th November

To raise much needed funds for 'Children in Need', children will be wearing non-uniform on Friday 13th November in exchange for a voluntary donation of £1. Children are able to wear Pudsey ears etc. if they so wish. It's a great cause!



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Maintaining Social Distancing at the end of the school day

Thank you for supporting our social distancing at the end of the day. This is now much improved. Let's make sure that we continue to:

- **Wait in zoned areas when it is your time slot to collect. Waiting in zoned areas in advance of your time slot causes unnecessary congestion on the playground and blocks the sight lines of staff**
- **Make sure that if you have collected your first child but have another later slot to collect other siblings, please exit the playground and come back in when it is the correct time slot for your next pick up. Again, this will reduce congestion further.**
- **Whilst waiting for classes to come out, please do not allow your children to run around the playground or mix more widely whilst waiting to pick up siblings. They need to stand next to you in the correct zoned area.**
- **Only wait in the allocated zoned areas (not at tables, benches, by fences etc) as this enables children to be dismissed without meeting children from other bubbles.**

E-Safety Information – Fortnite

Fortnite is an online video game where players compete to be the last person standing in a post-apocalyptic world. Players can build and demolish structures and collect weapons, supplies and armour to help them along the way. To play, the age recommendation is **12 and above** due to 'mild violence', although you don't have to provide your age when creating an account, so younger children can still log on easily.

What are the concerns?

You may have seen news reports or heard concerns raised about the:

- **Communication between players:** a chat function allows players to talk to each other either over a headset and microphone, or using messaging. Children could use it to speak to strangers, or it could put them at risk of cyberbullying.
- **In-app purchases:** Players can build up large bills on their parents' accounts by making in-app purchases of such items as outfits for your character and better-looking weapons (otherwise known as 'skins').
- **Addictive nature of the game:** anecdotal stories tell of children staying up all night to play, or falling asleep in lessons after playing for too long.

What safety options are available to parents?

Use the parental controls on the gaming device

Most devices allow you to **set time limits** on game play, **set age limits** for content, and **restrict in-app purchases**

Visit the website 'ask about games' for links to detailed instructions on the device your child uses – the site covers Playstation 3, Playstation 4, Xbox 360, Xbox One, Apple and Android phones, and Nintendo Switch

[Ask About Games - www.askaboutgames.com/advice/parental-controls](http://www.askaboutgames.com/advice/parental-controls)

The battles in Fortnite last around 20 minutes. When trying to limit your child's screen time, make the most of this natural stopping point. Set a limit in terms of matches rather than hours and minutes, or set time limits in 20 minute increments.

Turn off the voice chat feature

Speak to your child to make sure they know this feature exists, and encourage them to use the options below if they encounter someone who is offensive or inappropriate. You can disable the voice chat function in the game if you:

- Open the settings menu (the 3 lines on the right-hand-side of the screen), then choose the 'cog' icon.
- Select the 'audio' tab.
- You should be able to turn off 'voice chat' by tapping the arrows next to it.

You can also 'mute' individual players in the game by:

- Pausing the game.
- Hovering over the player you wish to mute.



Selecting the mute button (a loudspeaker icon).
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Make sure your child knows how to report inappropriate behaviour

You or your child can report players who make them uncomfortable using the in-game feedback tool (located in the main menu). You can also use the 'support' section of the Epic Games site (the makers of Fortnite). You're asked to select the platform you play the game on, the game mode you're playing, and then you can select 'report player'. You can provide more detail such as the player's name, and attach a screenshot. <http://support.tiktok.com/knowledge-base/report-inappropriate-content>

Parent Governor Vacancies x2

What are we looking for?

Our local governing body is made up of governors from all walks of life and many come to us through a variety of routes and with a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences, but they are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the school and are the link between the school and the community it serves.

We are currently looking for 2 new Parent Governors and would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

- An interest in the performance of the school.
- A desire to contribute to and represent the community.
- An open and enquiring mind
- The ability to look at issues objectively
- The confidence to ask questions and join in debate.
- A willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- The ability to work well with others
- Time to spare
- A child or children currently attending St George's school.

If you are interested, please complete the attached form with a brief description about yourself and why you would like to join the governing body, and return this to Miss D Brassington, Clerk to Governing Body at d.brassington@stgeorges.derby.sch.uk. Depending on the number of applications there may be an election process, which will be advised in due course.

Polite Request re: Smoking and Vaping

For the safety and well-being of pupils, we kindly ask that you please refrain from smoking and vaping outside of the school gates during drop off and collection times. Much appreciated.

Remote Learning

Last week, we emailed out to you log in information for pupils in relation to the 'Busy Things' and 'Century' online learning platforms. These are our remote learning platforms and will be used when/if children need to self-isolate or in the case of a bubble closure. The 'Busy Things' platform is intended for KS1 pupils and the 'Century' platform is for KS2 pupils. Both are really engaging, fun and provide comprehensive curriculum coverage; whilst allowing work to be submitted to the class teacher. Both platforms can also be used for additional home learning should you wish. Teachers have now also posted a fortnight's worth of work on the class pages, if you would rather access learning in another format. We are currently checking that all families can access online learning and so a survey has gone out to you via ParentMail to ascertain whether families have internet access and suitable devices. If you could complete the surveys as quickly as possible, this will then help us to help you.

Menu Update for Next Half Term

From after October half term, there will be a new daily tomato pasta option added onto our school meals menu. This should enable our pupils to have even more choice as there will now be daily meat, vegetarian, jacket potato, sandwich and pasta options. Please see <https://stgeorgescva.secure-primarysite.net/school-meals-menu/> for further details.



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Winter PE Kit

Outdoor PE will still take place during the colder months, but children are allowed to wear black plain jogging bottoms and a plain sweatshirt/zip up top in their house colour. They should also wear their house t-shirt underneath. Children will require trainers as well as pumps. Please do ensure all items are labelled.

Year 7 Admissions to St Benedict's For September 2021

A survey has gone out now via Parent Mail to all Year 5 parents requesting details of which school you are hoping your children to attend in Year 7. Mr Gritton (Headteacher at St Benedict's) is keen to be in touch with anyone who is undecided or who would like to know more about St Benedict's. There is space on the survey to indicate whether you would like a phone call from him. Please do complete the surveys by Friday 6th November

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.

Dates for your diary...

Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th October	Advent Half Term	School Closed
Thursday 5 th 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 th November: 3:30-6pm for KS1 and 3:30-7:30pm for KS2	Termly Learning Conferences	These will be virtual appointments delivered through the 'School Cloud' system.
Wednesday 11 th November: 3:30-5.30pm for KS1 and 3:30-6pm for KS2	Termly Learning Conferences	These will be virtual appointments delivered through the 'School Cloud' system.
Wednesday 11 th November	Remembrance Day Liturgy	Subject to consent, parents will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 12 th November: 8:50am	Class 1 and 2 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Classes 1 and 2 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Friday 13 th November: All Day	Non uniform in support of Children in Need in exchange for the donation of £1	All pupils
Thursday 19 th November: 8:50am	Class 7 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Classes 7 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 26 th November: 8:50am	Class 4 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Classes 4 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Friday 27 th November: All day	Non uniform day in support of NDCYS (Briars team) in exchange for £1 donation	All pupils
Wednesday 2 nd December: 9am	Advent Liturgy for Year 1-6 Pupils	Subject to consent, parents will be emailed a link to watch the liturgy online.
Thursday 3 rd December: 8:50am	Class 3 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 3 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Friday 4th December: INSET ALL DAY	INSET	SCHOOL CLOSED
Wednesday 9 th December: 9-11am	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 th 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 for singing indoors in large groups.
Tuesday 15 th December: 2:15pm	Key Stage 1 Nativity	
Wednesday 16 th December: 2:15pm	Key Stage 1 Nativity	
Wednesday 16 th December: 6pm-7pm	Carol Service at St. George's Church	
Friday 18 th December: All day	Christmas Jumper Day (wear with jeans) in exchange for £1 donation for our Parish	All pupils



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Friday 18 th 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 th 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.
Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January (Monday 21st December and Tuesday 22nd December are INSET days)	Christmas Holidays	School Closed
Monday 4th January 2021	All pupils return for the start of the Lent term	All pupils
Wednesday 6 th January at 9am	Epiphany Mass	A link to the Mass will be sent out on Tuesday 5 th January so that you can join us online
Thursday 7 th January: 8:50am	Class 11 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 11 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 14 th January: 8:50am	Class 5 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 5 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 21 st January: 8:50am	Class 6 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 6 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 28 th January: 8:50am	Class 12 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 12 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 4 th February: 8:50am	Class 7 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 7 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 11 th February: 8:50am	Class 9 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 9 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Friday 12th February: All day	INSET	School Closed
Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February	Lent Half term	School Closed
Monday 22 nd February: 8am	Termly Learning Conference booking goes live	More information to follow
Thursday 25 th February: 8:50am	Class 8 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 8 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 4 th March: 8:50am	Class 10 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 10 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 4 th March: All day	World Book Day	Dress up as your favourite book character in exchange for £1 donation towards restocking our reading shelves.
Monday 8 th March: 3:30-6pm for KS1 and 3:30-7:30pm for KS2	Termly Learning Conferences	These will be virtual appointments delivered through the 'School Cloud' system. More information to follow.
Wednesday 10 th March: 3:30-5.30pm for KS1 and 3:30-6pm for KS2	Termly Learning Conferences	These will be virtual appointments delivered through the 'School Cloud' system. More information to follow.
Thursday 11 th March: 8:50am	Class 3 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 3 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 18 th March: 8:50am	Class 4 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 4 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Tuesday 30 th April: 8:50am	Class 1 and Class 2 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of pupils in Classes 1 and 2 will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.





Thursday 1 st April: 9am	Easter Mass	A link to the Mass will be sent out on Wednesday 31 st March so that you can join us online
Thursday 1 st April: Time TBC	Colour run to raise money for Rainbows Hospice	More information to be shared closer to the time.
Friday 2nd April - Friday 16th April	Easter Holidays	School Closed
Monday 19th April	All pupils return for the start of the Pentecost term	All pupils
Monday 3rd May: All day	May Bank Holiday	School Closed
Monday 10 th May - Thursday 13 th May	Key Stage 2 SATs Week	All Year 6 pupils
Monday 17 th May - Friday 21 st May	Key Stage 1 SATs Week	All year 2 pupils
Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June	Pentecost Half term	School Closed
Monday 26th July 2021 - Thursday 2nd September (Friday 3rd September is an INSET day)	Summer Holidays	School Closed
Monday 6th 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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