



NEWSLETTER – Friday 9th October 2020

“Grow in Faith, Have Faith in Growing”

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

With two more weeks to go, we are nearly at the end of our first half term and what a half term it has been! We have loved being back together following such a long period of time away from school and everyone has adapted so well to the 'new normal'. My thanks go to our children, staff and parents for their resilience and determination.

School Fires

Many of you will have seen the sad news over the weekend in relation to the fires at two local Derby schools. I would like to pass on our thoughts and prayers to staff, pupils and parents at St Mary's Catholic Academy and Ravensdale Infant school, who have both lost significant parts of their buildings. We will do all we can to help and have been praying for them this week. I know that both communities will come through this stronger together. The schools have asked that we donate any spare reading books that we may have at home. Please don't send them into school just yet, as the schools do not have storage space at the moment. Instead, if you could gather them together in readiness and then we'll let you know when to bring them into school! Much appreciated! ☺

Sad news

On Monday of this week, Miss Lewis's mum, Patricia Lewis, passed away. She had been diagnosed with metastatic lung cancer nine months ago and had battled so hard. She was the strongest of warriors, both physically and mentally and together with her lovely husband, created a wonderful family of strong women. The Lewis family have been an integral part of our school community for a very long time and I know that you will join with me in sending our love, prayers and deepest condolences.

Harvest Thanks

In other news, over the past fortnight, we have celebrated the Harvest festival (with a little help from Class 10, Mrs Campbell and Mrs Fell!) Your generous donations have now been taken to the Hope Centre and the Padley Centre and they have asked us to pass on their thanks. They were really grateful as their donations have really taken a hit during the current pandemic.

Open Day

Last Friday, we held a really successful virtual open day. Mr Holmes worked so hard on creating a wonderful promotional video for the school which really captured the essence of what it means to be a pupil at St George's. If you haven't seen it yet, please do watch it:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Rcqxfrzlic&feature=emb_logo

Also, feel free to share it with anyone with pre-school age children. 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.

Mass for All Saints Day – Friday 23rd October 2020 at 9am

As All Saints day falls during half term, we shall be celebrating this special day a little earlier than usual with a virtual Mass on Friday 23rd October at 9am. It should be a wonderful celebration. You are all most welcome to join us online! We will email out the link to all parents beforehand and will share the link more widely on social media and via our _____



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website. The Mass can be watched at any time as it is a pre-recorded link; although pupils and staff will receive Holy Communion in school. We would be really grateful if you could fill in the following evaluation form after the Mass so that we can continually improve our provision for collective worship:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1D6bKqmLsOIKbeKxwez14ErozUE0XjPSmZSCvCcVtk9M/edit>

Maintaining Social Distancing at the end of the school day

We now need to tighten up a little more on maintaining the integrity of our bubbles as we leave the school site. For this reason, we must request the following:

- **Please only 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.**
- **To this end, 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.**
- **Finally, please 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.**

Termly Learning Conferences (Parents' Evenings)

We have decided to trial a new system for hosting our Termly Learning Conferences, called 'School Cloud'. This system will allow for online booking of appointments and video calls to be made from staff to parents. This should allow us to share work and have a face-to-face discussion in a secure way. More information will be sent out to families next week, detailing how to log on, book appointments and use the system. Appointment booking will now go live on Monday 2nd November to allow for more time 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).

Remembering our Mother, Mary

As many of you will know, October is the month in which we spend time thinking about the life of Mary. The Rosary is a meditative prayer that we say with Mary the Mother of God. In preparation for this special month, I'd like to share some great resources on praying the rosary. If you get the chance, please visit the following link:

www.tentenresources.co.uk/rosary-for-parents and use the password: **ROSARY** to access them.

E-Safety Information – TikTok (Video-sharing app)

This app is one which is well known to many pupils and on the surface, has a reputation for being unusually free of trolling and danger. But you may have seen news reports or heard concerns about some users harassing children for nude images and videos. TikTok allows users to upload and share short videos of themselves lip-syncing to songs or acting out comedy sketches and add special effects. They can gain followers ('fans') and browse other people's videos. Users cannot exchange images and videos via in-app messaging, but once they've made contact they often move on to another platform to trade, such as Snapchat.

You may have heard of the app by its previous name: Musical.ly. Everything that was on Musical.ly is now on TikTok. If your child previously had a Musical.ly account they will be able to access their content on TikTok. **The age recommendation is 13 and above.** However, you don't have to prove your age when creating an account, so younger children can still use it easily. It's most popular with under-16s.

Parents should look out for the following:

- User profiles which talk about 'trading' or swapping pictures/videos
- Use of emojis that are commonly considered to be sexually suggestive
- Hashtags, such as #tradefortrade, which clearly suggest the user is looking to trade illicit content
- The lyrical content of some songs – parents have raised concerns that it's not always age-appropriate

What safety options are available to parents?

- Control who can view your child's videos
- Set your child's account to 'private' so that your child can control who sees their videos or keep them completely private. Your child will be able to approve or deny people as 'fans', and will only be able to accept messages from followers.



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NOTTINGHAM

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Instructions for this are here:

[Setting up a private account, TikTok](#)

<http://support.tiktok.com/knowledge-base/setting-up-a-private-account>

Remember, accounts are set to 'public' by default. Public profiles can be viewed by anyone! Even with a private account, your child's profile information can be seen by all users. Make sure your child doesn't reveal personal information on their public profile. Make sure your child knows how to report inappropriate behaviour. Your child can use the app to report content that makes them feel uncomfortable, including accounts, videos, comments and chats; you can too. Instructions for this are here:

[Report inappropriate content, TikTok](#)

<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.

Remote Learning

Next week, letters will be emailed out to you with 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 are also posting a fortnight's worth of work on the class pages, if you would rather access learning in another format.

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-primariesite.net/school-meals-menu/> for further details.

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 form seeking filming permission has gone out to you via Parent Mail. Please keep an eye out for it and



complete it as soon as you are able. If you are not on Parent Mail, please contact the office as soon as possible.

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 via Parent Mail to all Year 6 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 16th October.

Applications close on 31st October 2020. St Benedict's have been oversubscribed for the last 5 years so apply now to avoid missing out. To apply visit <https://www.derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/school-admissions/secondary-school-admissions/apply-year-seven-secondary-school/>.

You must also complete the supplementary form with all applications. An online copy can be found on St Benedict's admissions page. These must be returned to Ruth Darby at rsdarby@saintben.derby.sch.uk together with a copy of a Baptism certificate, if you are of the Catholic faith, or any further evidence of faith/worship to support your application.

Year 6 Trip to 'The Briars': Monday 17th May – Friday 21st 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.

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...

Thursday 15 th 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 nd 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 rd October: 9am	All Saints Mass	A pre-recorded video will be available on our website and will be emailed out to parents.
Monday 26th October – Friday 30th 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. More information to follow.
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. More information to follow.
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.



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Dates for your diary...

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
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
Friday 12th February: All day	INSET	School Closed
Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February	Lent Half term	School Closed
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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