

St George's Lower School Newsletter – November 2017

Harvest:

Thank you for your contributions to our Harvest. Each small act of kindness enabled us to send a generous amount of food, clothing and toiletries to both the Smethwick and Quinton/Oldbury Foodbanks. The volunteers at the foodbanks depend upon the generosity of schools like ours, and have asked us to extend their thanks and praise for a wonderful Harvest assembly. Over £50 was also raised through the cake sale, which has been passed on to the Smethwick Foodbank so they can purchase 'treats' for needy children. Well done everyone!

Poppies:

Poppies are on sale in school, and we are asking for donations of at least 50p per poppy. We are expecting all children to wear a poppy on 10th November, when we hold our annual Remembrance Assembly for students.

Children in Need:

We are again supporting Children in Need on Friday 17th November. We will be going for the ultimate 'dress down Friday' for a donation of £1. Children will be able to wear their home clothes, pyjamas or onesies for the day. We hope that everyone is able to join in with this occasion and raise money for Pudsey!

Language of the Month:

This half term we are focusing on French.

Photos:

The school photographer is in school on Wednesday 8th November. Pupils in Reception Class should wear their uniform and a blazer; pupils from Year 1 – Year 6 should wear their winter uniform: shirt/blouse, tie, jumper/cardigan and blazer. There will be an opportunity for both individual and sibling portraits for pupils across the school. Please make sure you fill in the correct information on the form we will be sending home in the next few days, as it will help us to coordinate the smooth running of what can be a frantic event!

Word Mania:

Well done to all of our pupils who have been logging on and practising for the Word Mania competition. The results for the practice round are fantastic:

Year 1 are 4th in the West and East Midlands, 37th in the World;
Year 2 are 3rd in the West and East Midlands, 37th in the World;
Year 3 are 6th in the West and East Midlands, 46th in the World;
Year 4 are 10th in the West and East Midlands, 114th in the World;
Year 5 are 3rd in the West and East Midlands, 39th in the World;
Year 6 are 9th in the East and West Midlands, 74th in the World.

Well done to ...

Junior in Year 1 for playing the most games (47), and Tasia for getting the most points (580).
Pranav in Year 2 for playing the most games (99), and getting the highest score (1337).
Asher in Year 3 for playing the most games (42), and getting the highest score (1744).
Izaan in Year 4 for playing the most games (40), and Daniel for getting the highest score (523).
Toby in Year 5 for playing the most games (69), and getting the highest score (2312).
Lucca in Year 6 for playing the most games (87), and getting the highest score (1660).

Please encourage your child to keep playing; the competition starts on November 6th and we are hopeful that the international champion attends our setting!



Parentpay – our new online payment system:

We are moving towards becoming a 'cashless office'; therefore we are pleased to announce that we will shortly be accepting payments online for items such as dinner money, snack, milk, aftercare, clubs, school trips, swimming and PE kits. Using a secure website called ParentPay you will be able to pay online using your credit or debit card. ParentPay will be our preferred method of making payments to school, and as of January cash payments will no longer be accepted to pay for any sundries to the school fees.

Anti-Bullying Week:

This year Anti-Bullying Week runs from the 13th – 17th November. The theme for Anti-Bullying Week has been announced by the Anti-Bullying Alliance and will promote difference and equality in schools with the tag-line 'All Different, All Equal'. The idea is to help children and young people celebrate what makes them and others unique, and help them understand why it's important that every child feels included in school and is able to be themselves without fear of bullying. Your child will participate in a range of activities during PSHE and assembly times.

Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board:

The Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) has launched a public awareness campaign 'Keeping Children Safe is Everybody's Business'. The aim is to raise community awareness of what to do if you are worried about a child and most importantly to encourage members of the public to call Birmingham City Council's Children's Advice & Support Service to report their concerns, so action can be taken to safeguard and protect the child.

They have produced a brief information video which can support you with what to do if you are concerned about a child, and can be accessed through this hyperlink: [Keeping Children Safe is Everyone's Business](#)

CCTV:

We now have CCTV cameras operating in the car park and at the front of the building. The introduction of CCTV will enable us to monitor the school buildings in order to provide a safe and secure environment for pupils, staff and visitors, and to prevent the loss or damage to school property and vehicles on the car park. In the unlikely event that you or your vehicle is involved in an incident at the front of the school, you can be assured that it will be caught on camera and you will be able to access the images by putting in a request through the Lower School office.

Snow White:

We have arranged a visit to the Palace Theatre in Redditch for pupils in Years 2 to 6 during the afternoon of Thursday 14th December 2017. We hope to see all pupils attending this trip – it is a wonderful opportunity to participate in the great British Panto experience! Forms and further information are to follow.

Tamworth Snowdome:

Pupils in Reception and Year 1 will be visiting the Tamworth Snowdome on Tuesday 12th December 2017. This is a whole day trip, and the children will have the opportunity to sledge, play with snow and find Father Christmas! Again, forms and further information are to follow.

Christmas Cards:

The Christmas Post Box will be open from Friday 1st December. Children can post their cards on arrival to school, and student volunteers will sort and deliver the cards on a daily basis. If you would like a class list please contact Mrs Dodd, Mrs Nash or Mrs Mortiboy in Reception.

Winter clothing:

As the weather is changing, please make sure to send your child in with wellies, a hat, gloves and a scarf. All these items should be clearly named. A winter coat should be worn during break times; please make sure this is a plain navy or black design as per uniform expectations.

Aftercare Session Cancellations:

We would like to remind parents that refunds for cancelled sessions will not be issued unless at least 24 hours' notice is given to the school. The club operates a credit system for cancellations which are redeemed off the next booking fees.

Dates For Diary – November 2017

Friday 3 rd November	Year 3 trip to Sarehole Mill
Wednesday 8 th November	School Photographs
Monday 13 th November	Anti-bullying week 'All Different, All Equal'
Monday 13 th November	Year 6 Entrance Exams for Year 7
Tuesday 14 th November	Year 6 Entrance Exams for Year 7
Thursday 16 th November	Year 2 trip to Odeon Cinema, Broad Street
Friday 17 th November	Reception – 'Children In Need' spotty trail
Friday 17 th November	Dress Down Friday for 'Children In Need'
Wednesday 22 nd November	Reception to Year 4 Flu Vaccines
Monday 27 th November	Years 5 & 6 Athletics Competition, Nechells

Dates For Diary – December 2017

Wednesday 6 th December	Choir to St Josephs Care Home
Thursday 7 th December	KS1 Christmas Performance 2.00pm
Friday 8 th December	KS1 Christmas Performance 9.00am
Monday 11 th December	Church Service 2.00pm – St Georges Church
Tuesday 12 th December	KS2 Christmas Performance 2.00pm
Tuesday 12 th December	Reception & Year 1 trip to Snowdome
Wednesday 13 th December	Christmas Party!
Thursday 14 th December	Year 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 trip to see Snow White Pantomime
Friday 15 th December	Academic Awards Assembly 10.45am
Friday 15 th December	School Closes for Christmas 12.00 noon

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What are the benefits to parents and pupils?

- ParentPay is easy-to-use and will offer you the freedom to make online payments whenever and wherever you like, 24/7 –
- the technology used is of the highest internet security available ensuring that your money will reach school safely – offering you peace of mind
- payments can be made by credit/debit card or also through PayPoint
- full payment histories and statements are available to you securely online at anytime
- your children won't have to worry about losing money at school
- Parents can choose to be alerted when their balances are low via email and/or SMS text –

What are the benefits to our school?

The more parents that use ParentPay, the greater the benefit is to our school. You can help us reduce workloads for all staff, creating more time to lend to educational support and the smooth running of the school. Using ParentPay also ensures that all financial transactions are safe and secure - helping us to remove costs associated with us having to manage cash securely on the school premises

How to get started with ParentPay...

We will shortly be sending you your account activation username and password, once you receive these:

- Visit www.parentpay.com
- Enter your Activation username and password in the Account Login section of the homepage. NB. These are for one-time use only, you will choose your own username and password for future access during the activation process
- Provide all the necessary information and choose your new username and password for your account - registering your email address will enable us to send you receipts and reminders
- Once activation is complete you can go straight to Items for payment, select which item(s) you want to add to your basket and proceed to complete your payment

If you have any questions, please contact the school Finance Office.

For more information please click here. Link to https://www.parentpay.com/PR1/Info/PP_Parents.aspx