

Lower School Newsletter, Autumn Term 1.1 2018

It was wonderful to welcome both old and new pupils into St. George's this September. The children have begun the new Academic Year looking very smart in their new school uniform. It costs you as parents a lot of money to make them look good, so please make sure your child's clothes are clearly labelled. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Winter uniform must be worn from November 5th until the start of the Summer Term. Uniform lists are on the website, but can also be obtained from the Lower School office. We would like to remind parents that all pupils are expected to follow the uniform expectations, including those for coats and bags. Coats should be either black or navy blue (no motifs), and bags should be our standard school issue. We are seeing a number of variations to the expectations – please do not be offended if your child's class teacher speaks to you regarding expectations and deviations!

Well done Reception!

Our new pupils in Reception class have settled in brilliantly! They are already very much part of the school, and it is a pleasure to get to know each and every one of them. Miss Tandy and Mrs McSharry would like to thank their parents for being supportive with activities that have been sent home; apparently you have all been very good at bringing things back in. Keep up the good work!

School Councillors

School Councillors are voted for by their peers as the best person to represent the views of their class. They will also be the class Rights Respecting School representatives, and will form an important part of the RRS Steering Group. This year's School Councillors are:

Reception: Max
Year 1: Mohsin
Year 2: Amaar
Year 3: James
Year 4: Coral
Year 5: Antonio
Year 6: Toby

House Captains

Pupils in Year 6 delivered some superb House Captain Campaign speeches to the staff and pupils in their Houses. It was a tough decision, but the pupils elected into the roles of House Captain and Vice-Captain are:

Diamond – Shaan (HC) and Poppy (VC)
Emerald – Zach (HC) and Alesha (VC)
Ruby – Alaina (HC) and Gyaan (VC)
Sapphire – Billy (HC) and Lauren (VC)

Food Committee:

We take our food very seriously in St George's! Our Food Committee works closely with our Kitchen Team to ensure we offer delicious, balanced nutritious meals that cater for all appetites; the work they do represents pupil voice and shapes the menus we offer. This year's Food Reps are:

Year 6 – Lauren
Year 5 – Elina
Year 4 – Lex
Year 3 – Holly
Year 2 – Samar
Year 1 – Bradley
Rec – Eli



Jumpers for Nakuru:

Thank you to everyone who donated their child's school jumper to the children who attend the Ronaken Project Kenya. We are delighted to report that the jumpers have arrived via the volunteers for Inspire Africa, and have been very gratefully received by the children from this Kenyan slum area where most of the families have no money to purchase clothes, never mind a uniform.



We are sure you will agree that these photos are the best feedback we can have on the difference your act of kindness has made.

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 the Quinton Foodbank. The volunteers at the foodbank depend upon the generosity of schools like ours, and have asked us to extend their thanks and praise for a wonderful Harvest assembly. We also raised over £50 was also raised through our Harvest Collection which will go to the Little Sisters of the Poor to help support the vital work they do with their elderly residents. Well done everyone!

Macmillan Bake Off and Cake Sale:

Thank you to everyone who supported our Bake Off and Cake sale. We raised £278.22 for this worthy cause. We also had great fun with the staff 'Bake Off', with Mr Notice, Mr Wernick and Miss Love 1st, 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

Rights Respecting Parent Workshop (new parents):

Thank you to all parents that attended the recent Rights Respecting Workshop. It was fantastic to meet you and spend time with you and your children. We hope the workshop was informative and that you will support us in our journey to becoming a Rights Respecting Silver school. If you require any further information about the award please contact Mrs Sparks: sparks1@sgse.co.uk who will be delighted to answer your questions.

Under 11s Football Match Reports:

Team: Shekuwe (GK), David, Mikey, Rayyan, Lauren, Shaan, Zack, Billy

U11s v Chase Grammar School:

Won 5-0: Goals from Billy (3), Zack, Shaan

We had an excellent start to the season with debuts for Lauren, Mikey, Rayyan and Shekuwe. SGSE withstood some early pressure, but eased into a four goal lead by the start of the second half - which ended with the opposition playing all nine of their players against our eight players!

U11s v Regents Park

Won 8-1: Goals from Zack (4), Billy (3) plus an Own Goal

Coming up against a school that we'd never beaten before, SGSE took the lead thanks to an Own Goal by Regents Park; by half time we were 4-0 up thanks to some very well worked goals. Second half saw Zack complete his hatrick and unselfishly pass to Billy when he was through on goal himself. A very good start to the season!

Phonic workshop:

Thank you to our parents from Reception, Years 1 and 2 that attended our Phonics Workshop. Staff were delighted that parents joined in and got busy with their learning too; we hear that they were very good at using their 'robot arms' to sound out words and putting 'sound buttons' onto words! The children really enjoyed doing classroom activities with their parents and having the opportunity to show off the fantastic learning that they do in school; pupils from Reception loved singing all the Jolly Phonics songs and children in Year 1 enjoyed making phonic spinners to help learn their di-graphs and tri-graphs.

Thank you for the very positive feedback from those who attended; more workshops will be announced soon.

Trips and Visitors:

As always the pupils of St George's have had a very busy half term:

Reception class had lots of fun meeting Angie's Animals for their pet workshop; the children loved watching the big rabbit hop around the class circle, and we saw some fabulous reactions when the children were introduced to animals that many of them have not seen before - from the spiky hedgehog to the fluffy chinchilla! Everybody got the chance to feed the 'skinny pig' some broccoli and watch the hedgehog eat insects – however only 2 children were brave enough to hold the bearded dragon!

Year 1 enjoyed a visit to the Black Country Museum as part of their Toys topic; the children reported that their highlight was the old fashioned sweet shop, where they were thrilled to hear about how sweets were made in the past – especially that sweets were dyed red with beetles' blood! Everyone got to ride on a bus powered by electricity, and were delighted by a horse and carriage passing them in the street. They all made the staff and school proud, as people who worked there repeatedly commented on how lovely they were!

Year 2 welcomed our School Nurse (Mrs Jones) into the classroom for a discussion about how nursing has changed over the years. As part of their People Who Help Us topic, Year 2 were learning about the work of Florence Nightingale. The children absolutely loved hearing about nursing nowadays and being able to ask a 'real life' nurse about the profession. Mrs Jones was very impressed with the questions the children asked and the mature answers they were able to provide her with.

Year 3 went to the Martineau Gardens to learn about the local community as part of their topic Houses now and Then. They explored the gardens and described the area using their senses. The work they generated was used in their narrative writing over the last few weeks to develop their descriptive settings.

As part of their 'Food, Glorious Food' topic, Year 4 visited Warley Woods and the Botanical Gardens to look at habitats, discover which plants grow in the local area and to find out what animals eat. The children enjoyed both trips, and as a result will be making an outdoor learning garden next half term to encourage and protect organisms on the school grounds.

Year 4 were also joined by fire fighters from Ladywood Fire Station to learn about how to keep safe in the event of a fire, and how to prevent fires in the home. The children enjoyed taking part in the quiz challenges, learning the 'stop, drop and roll' and exploring the inside of a fire engine! As follow up work, the children will be taught the school address and their home address so that they are confident to make an emergency call if ever required.

Pupils from Years 5 and 6 recently attended the KEHS Film workshop. We are delighted to announce they came 2nd in the 'Oscars' awards! Mr Hewer firmly believes we would have come first, but as we were the winners last year, they couldn't give it to the same school two years running!

Word Mania:

We are participating in Word Mania competition again this year; the first round start date has been extended to 4th November, so please encourage your children use their logins over the holidays and keep practising.

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 9th November, when we hold our annual Remembrance Assembly.

Remembrance Day Commemoration:

We would like to invite you to join our Remembrance Day Commemoration Gallery on Friday 9th November. You will have the opportunity to 'plant' a poppy with your child and view the artwork, poetry, diary extracts and historical work created by the children to observe the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day. The children will make poppies in school, and together we will create a field of poppies. Please join your child in the Lower School hall during the allocated drop in session:

- Reception 9 - 9.30
- Y1 and Y2 9.30 - 10
- Y3 and Y4 10 - 10.30
- Y5 and Y6 10.30 - 11

If you have children in different year groups please feel free to choose whichever session(s) suits you best. If you also have children in Upper School and are attending the Church service, again please select the appropriate drop in session for you. A letter will be sent home on November 5th where you can let us know your preferred time to help us with the organisation in what should be a very moving event.

Children in Need:

We will be supporting Children in Need by hosting a 'mufti' day on Friday 16th November. The theme for this year is 'do your thing' so we are leaving it entirely up to the children to interpret this themselves – they can wear fancy dress, home clothes, onesies or surprise us with a fabulous idea of their own! If your child would like to participate in this fund raiser we are requesting a minimum donation of £1; please make sure you send in any money in a named envelope for the attention of your child's class teacher.

Anti-Bullying Week:

This year Anti-Bullying Week runs from the 12th – 16th 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 'Choose Respect'. The idea has been developed following a consultation with children, teachers and members of the Anti-Bullying Alliance, where it emerged that a top priority was showing that bullying is a behaviour choice, and that children and young people can set a positive example by opting to respect each other at school, in their homes and communities, and online.

Your child will participate in a range of activities during PSHE and assembly times to help them to understand:

The definition of respect

That bullying is a behaviour choice

That we can respectfully disagree with each other i.e. we don't have to be best friends or always agree with each other but we do have to respect each other

That we all need to choose to respect each other both face to face and online

UNICEFs OutRight Campaign 2018:

We are delighted that our school is taking part in OutRight 2018 and speaking out about children's rights. OutRight is a campaign for children, by children, that helps promote and protect children's rights in the UK and around the world. This year, the theme is air pollution. Air pollution poses a direct threat to children's rights to health, to survive and to thrive in a clean and safe environment, as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This year, to speak out and share their views on children's health and air pollution, the children will create half term holiday homework, which will be shared during parent workshops on 21st, 22nd and 23rd November. A letter has been sent home already, and further copies can be found on our website.

Holiday Club:

Mr Notice's holiday club, Edge Kids Camp is running in Lower School for children aged 5 upwards from 29th October - 2nd November. Edge Kids Camp is an inclusive holiday camp with a very flexible timetable where the children are given a choice in the activities they do. They offer wide range of sports and arts and crafts. For more information and to book one of the limited spaces please go to <http://www.edgekidscamp.co.uk>.