

St. George's Primary School

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Dear Parents

Welcome back after the summer break. I have waited until I could finalise dates you may wish to arrange in your diary.

This academic year we have welcomed three Reception classes. The decision was not made lightly, but followed a vast number of parents who felt home schooling was a possible alternative if their children could not come to St George's.

We have also admitted children from other schools, counties and admissions. Again, may I offer a warm welcome to St George's and I look forward to meeting you throughout the year at the various events held within the school.

I would like to convey my personal thanks for the various cards, emails and gifts received by parents and children at the end of last term. These were all appreciated at the end of a busy yet successful year. Our academic end of year results surpassed all expectations.

I would like to remind parents to look at the St George's website for all information. In addition, the children who receive the 'Ammonite Award' at the end of each week, celebrate their achievement with me at Squash and Biscuits on Friday afternoon. Each child chooses a reading book to keep and a photograph of this weekly event can be found on the website.

If you are unsure if you are entitled to the benefits of Free School Meals/Uniform Grant and Pupil Premium please see Mrs Mintern, the Finance Officer.

All money transactions are made through the 'School Money' online facility, and again, if you need advice on this, please see Mrs Mintern.

The majority of school trips and residentials are subsidised by the School Enrichment Budget, and we have been able to continue this. With school budgets steadily decreasing, we cannot promise this in years to come, but compared with many schools, our school trips are vastly reduced in expense.

Without the minimal contributions from parents, we would be unable to run the curricular trips.

Attendance is a very important part of school life, may I urge all parents to ensure that your child/children attend school every day. Despite my understanding of holidays during term time due to cheaper deals etc, I cannot sanction any requests unless the absence is for EXCEPTIONAL reasons. I have to comply to the Local Authority Procedures, and parents taking a child out of school for over 5 days will receive a fine from Dorset County Council.

Research has shown that every day lost in education has a detrimental effect on a child's progress but thankfully, the parents of St George's have improved the overall % of attendance over the last four years. Thank you for your effort and help in assuring the very best education for your child.

School safety is paramount at St George's and may I remind parents not to drive in the school gates or park on the yellow highway markings outside the gates at any time.

Despite the fact this area of school safety has improved dramatically, I must urge you not to park or collect your child by using the Health Centre's car park. Their frustration over this has led to police intervention and strict guidelines and for our new parents, please note that this concern must be adhered to – for the sake of our younger pupils and the patients who attend the GP practice.

I apologise if this newsletter is outlining a list of necessary guidance but this is primarily for new parents and children.

St George's has an Open Day Policy and if you do require to see me or a teacher, please see my PA – Mrs Hughes, who will make the necessary appointments for you.

Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 20 th September	Atlantic Open Evening
Monday 24 th September	After School Clubs start
Tuesday 25 th September	Year 6 Charmouth Visit
Thursday 27 th September	Year 5 Residential Trip Meeting – Large Hall
Thursday 27 th September	Wey Valley Open Evening
Thursday 4 th October	Budmouth Open Evening
Thursday 11 th October	All Saints Open Evening
Monday 15 th October	Parent's Evening
Wednesday 17 th October	Parent's Evening
Friday 19 th October	Harvest Festival
Monday 22nd – Friday 26th October	Half Term
Monday 29 th October	INSET DAY
Wednesday 31st October	Closing Date for Secondary School applications
Friday 9 th November	KS2 Remembrance Service All Saints Church
Friday 16 th November	Games Day/Children In Need
Friday 30 th November	After School Clubs End
Wednesday 5 th December	Christingle
Friday 21st December	School Finishes 2.30 pm
Tuesday 15th January	Closing Date for Primary School applications

Please note that some dates are still being finalised and as soon as we can update the relevant information, I will notify you.

Christmas events are very popular and these will be given in due course.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Luxon
Headteacher

