

# St. George's Primary School

CLARENCE ROAD, PORTLAND

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26<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the Summer break.

Due to the year Groups sending out individual letters to parents, I have waived until I can finalise dates for you diary.

It was lovely to welcome all the new Reception parents and children to St George's.

In addition, we have new families of children from other schools that have joined our school since September. 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 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**

### **MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

IN ORDER FOR ME TO REINSTATE THE LOST DAY OF EDUCATION DUE TO MRS WRIGHT'S FUNERAL I HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO USE THE NOVEMBER INSET DAY AS A NORMAL SCHOOL DAY. THEREFORE THE SECOND HALF OF THIS TERM WILL COMMENCE ON MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019.

Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 5 Hook Court Residential Parents 3.30pm
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Wey Valley Open Evening 6pm
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	School closed
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	All Saints Open Evening 5pm
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6 Football Tournament at Redlands 9.15am-4pm
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6 Charmouth Visit
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	School photographs by Ashley Wood
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	School photographs by Ashley Wood
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Parents Evening. Letters to follow.
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Parents Evening. Letters to follow.
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Finish 3.15pm
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Friday 1 Nov	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>INSET DAY CANCELLED.</b> Start of term.
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 1 and 2 Diwali Dance – Parents welcome 2.45pm
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	KS2 Remembrance Service Church
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Games Day & Children in Need
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last Day of Term. Finish 2.30pm

**The dates for all Christmas activities and shows are still to be confirmed and you will be advised of these shortly.**