



St Georges Church School and Nursery

NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 1 2024

Dear families,

I have been reminded this week particularly that we must cherish every opportunity and moment that we are given as our time is finite. Take time this half term to notice, breathe and connect in whatever brings you joy. I have really become aware this autumn of how vibrant the leaves have been - I am unsure if it is always as beautiful as this year but I am definitely enjoying nature's splendours this autumn and I hope you are too.

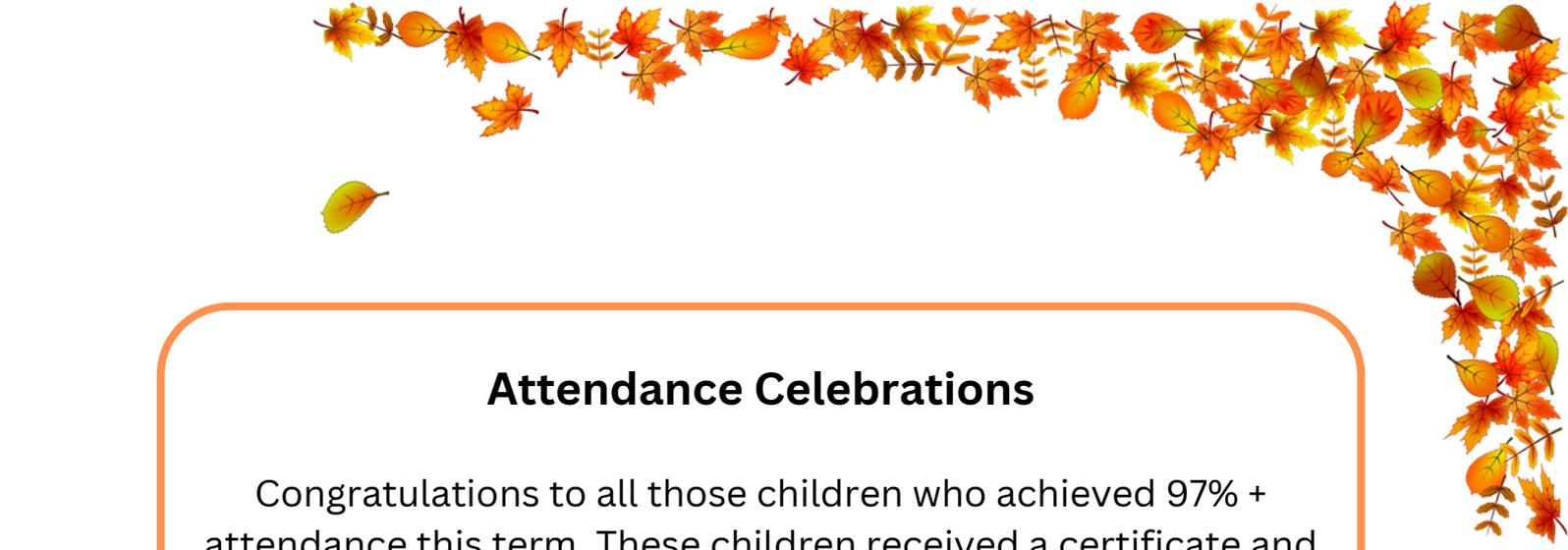
There has been so much wonderful learning happening this term as you will read below. There have been lots of highlights for me:

- The children all had a fantastic start to the term with their outward bounds trips with Mendip Activity Centre. These opportunities are so important to help children to feel challenged and to learn the vital skills of collaboration, problem solving and resilience.
- The wonderful Harvest Festival had such a warm community feel - thank you for your generous donations. The children's oracy during their class contributions were amazing. The Year 6 children, Kai, Adela & Cody, who accompanied me to Weston Food Bank were model St Georges Citizens and demonstrated exceptional maturity both on the trip and then in delivering a worship that they wrote collaboratively together.
- Year 6 and then 5 set a brilliant example of family worship, reminding us about our school vision and term one values of community & friendship.
- The PTFA have been in full swing (as usual) and have managed to put on such a successful Bake Off - the standard was staggering - thank you to everyone for baking and buying! I want to take this opportunity to say an additional sincere thanks to all the members of the PTFA for your commitment and time - you are all making such a difference to enhancing the educational provision of our children.

My half term is going to include pumpkin picking, dog walking, hot chocolates and family time. I very much look forward to welcoming you back after half term for the season of Christmas!

Warmest wishes,
Jo Thorn

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Attendance Celebrations

Congratulations to all those children who achieved 97% + attendance this term. These children received a certificate and will be entered into a raffle for a WHSmith voucher.

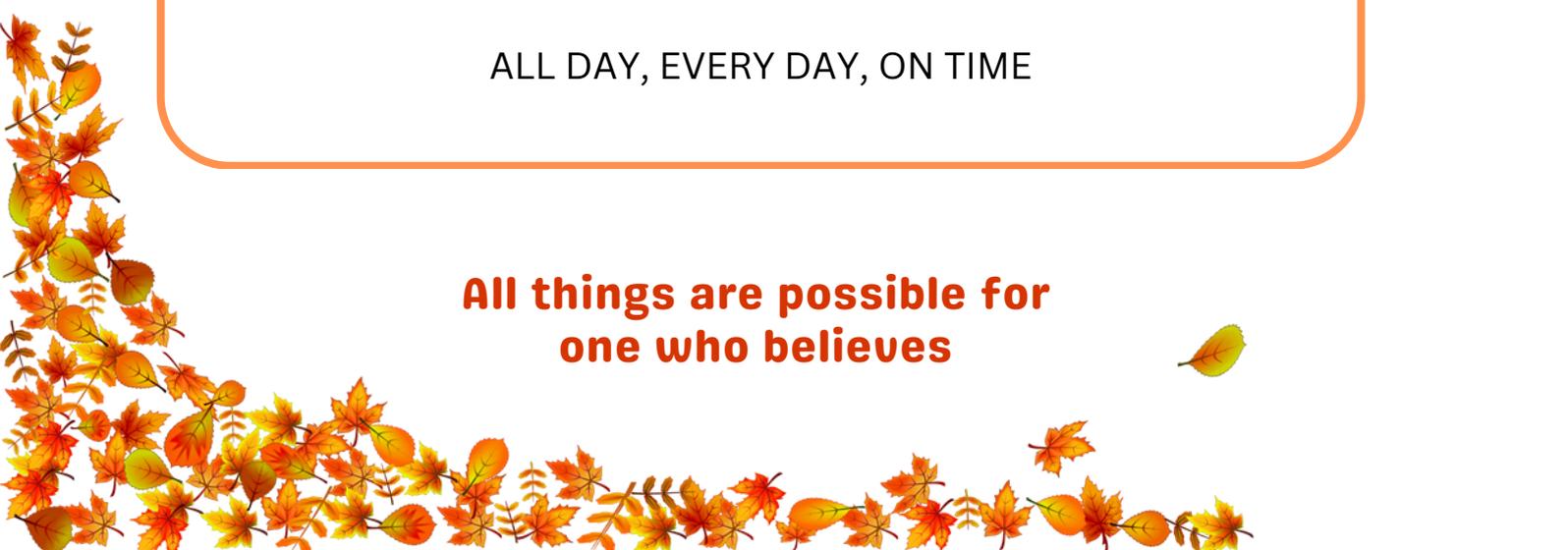
It has been a very long term and I know there are children who have come to school not always feeling 100%. We talked in worship about ways to look after ourselves by eating & sleeping well and maintaining good hygiene, so that we are doing our best to keep the germs at bay!

Congratulations to Year 2 who had the best attendance this term of 96.81% - they will receive a £30 Amazon voucher to buy something for the class.

Congratulations to Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 for filling their star jars - to get a star the class needs to have 100% for a day! When a class gets 20 stars they will get a class reward... I wonder who will be the first!

Each class has a Mr Potato Head, which has been great fun! Classes get an additional body part when they have class attendance of over 97%. Well done Y3 who have got 2 body parts so far!

ALL DAY, EVERY DAY, ON TIME



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WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO...?



In Nursery, we have been very 'busy bees' over the last few weeks getting to know each other, investigating our learning environments and exploring the seasonal changes within our natural world first hand. The children have also been showing great enthusiasm for our new fruit of the week, which provides opportunities for the children to become familiar with and try a wider variety of healthy tastes and textures with their peers. So far, this term, we have sampled watermelon, pineapple, aubergine, mango and pumpkin. The children are becoming extremely confident in handling and cutting the different fruits.

Reception - Willow Class have had an amazing start to life in Reception! Throughout the term we have been busy making friends and learning the routines of school. We have been adventurous explorers, getting to know our new environment, both within the reception classroom and around the school. The children have delighted in uncovering the magic of reading whilst learning their first set of phonic sounds. On top of all of this we have made a Willow Class farm, been on a bear hunt, made leaf crowns in forest school, created a gratitude pumpkin and performed our Harvest poem to the whole school. It's been a big term for us, creating treasured memories and making friendships that will last for years to come.



Year 1 - Pine class have settled into year one learning really well. They have enjoyed learning all about the Little Red Hen. The children learnt the story and actions and can now recite it together. They have had fun describing the characters and settings in the story and learnt that describing words are called 'adjectives'. In science we have learnt all about materials, including man-made and natural materials as well as exploring simple properties like bendy and stretchy materials. Our history has been great fun, we have looked at childhood and special memories. The best bit was looking at baby photos of each other and guessing who each baby photo was.

Year 2 - Beech class have had a super start to the school year. In English, we have been focusing on the story of The Three Little Pigs - we learnt the story, with actions, which we loved performing to Year 1, as well as writing our own retellings of the story.

We have also just been writing a new story, from our own imaginations. These have included 'The Three Little Axolotls', 'The Three Little Capybaras' and 'The Three Little Cheetahs' to name but a few.

Another highlight of this term, for us, has been our new PSHE curriculum. In Year 2 we have been focussing on keeping safe by learning how to tie our own shoelaces - we practised very hard and some of us are now experts!



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Year 3 - Juniper class has loved exploring the past focusing on the stone age this term. We have learnt about how they lived, their settlements and how this progressed throughout this period in history. We have enjoyed learning about how this has affected our lives today, we even became archaeologists and evaluated our own artefacts.

Year 4 have been busy with a broad range of learning as we have started to all settle into the new school year. Highlights so far this term have included starting to learn more about the Anglo Saxon and Jute tribes who settled in England after the Romans left, delving deeply into George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl for our guided reading and looking into ecosystems, food chains and food webs.

We've also been exploring the story of Noah and the Ark and considering how Noah and other Christians follow and make promises to God. This week we have undertaken an egg-tastic experiment which relates to tooth decay and have been learning to sing Mamma Mia in music.



Year 5 - As scientist in Cedar class this term, we have been learning about our solar system and our planets place in it. Many of our mnemonic devices for remembering the order of the planets from the sun made use of Mum for Mars but not all were terribly flattering (My Very E___ Mum...)! The excellent Brian Cox program "Solar system" is available to watch on catch up and on BBC i-player if you are looking for some educational viewing over the half term to help embed and extend your child's learning.

Also, any inspired amateur astronomers can look out for the change to the next new moon which falls on the 1st of November during half term (waning down before and waxing back up after).

We will be finishing off our topic this week with some space themed poetry that we would love to bring home and share with you.

Year 6 - Birch class have had a jam-packed term! We have led our family worship, visited Life Skills in Bristol, and made a great start leading our Crew sessions.

During our induction weeks, we explored our role in the school and wider communities, and how to be role-models for others.

We have also been busy learning about our text of the term, 'Holes', and have created descriptive fiction pieces and letters around this.

We have also started our History unit on Benin, studying African Kingdoms and the art and culture within them.

We're sure next term will be just as busy and enjoyable as this one!



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Christmas Cards



The School Fundraising project is a great way for you to show off your child's artist skills whilst raising money for the school. Your child's designs were sent home (please check their bags if you haven't seen them!) They make wonderful cards, gift tags and many other items. Orders can be placed on the website directly until **Tuesday 5th November**. Orders will then be delivered to school ready for Christmas preparations!

After School Provision

Following the change to after school provision this year, we are wanting to gain a better understanding of our families' needs. Please complete the form, using the link or QR code, to give your feedback. Thank you.

<https://forms.office.com/e/F1tGWsjMj4>



Can you help?

We are very lucky to have some wonderful outdoor spaces for the children to continue their learning in Forest School. As we're sure you can appreciate, this needs some work to maintain. We are wondering if there are any parents/carers/friends who would be willing to volunteer some time occasionally to form a grounds/gardening voluntary maintenance team. If you would be interested, please let the office know. Thank you.

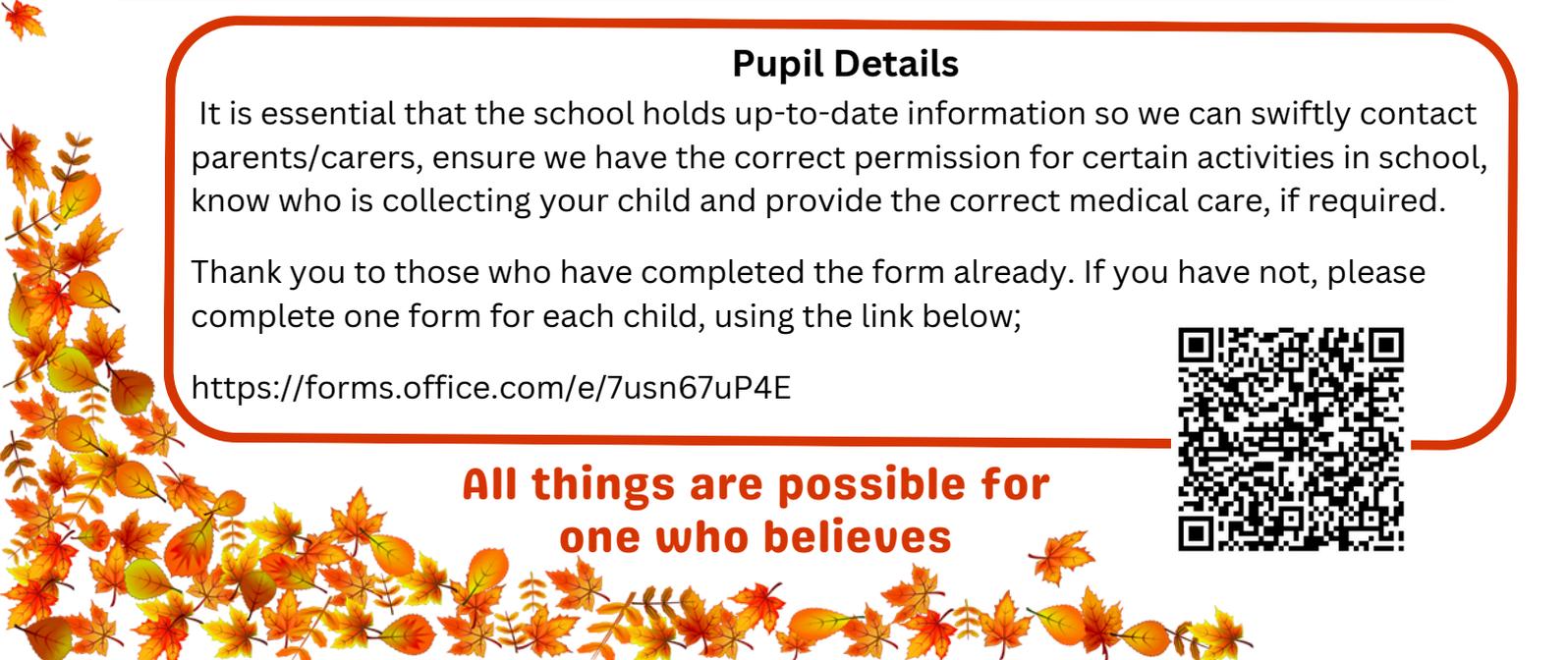
We are also looking for volunteers to help with the upkeep of the library. We love the fact the children enjoy spending time in there and choosing their books, but with this can come a little disorganisation! If you have an hour or so to spare on a regular basis, we would be very grateful for your support. Thank you.

Pupil Details

It is essential that the school holds up-to-date information so we can swiftly contact parents/carers, ensure we have the correct permission for certain activities in school, know who is collecting your child and provide the correct medical care, if required.

Thank you to those who have completed the form already. If you have not, please complete one form for each child, using the link below;

<https://forms.office.com/e/7usn67uP4E>



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Upcoming Dates for School

(Details of events will be sent in due course)

- **Monday 4th November** - First day of Term 2
- **Thursday 7th November** - Remembrance worship (families welcome)
- **Tuesday 5th November** - No Y6 swimming
- **Tuesday 19th November** - Y6's last swimming lesson
- **Friday 15th November** - Children in Need
- **Thursday 21st November** - Year 4 family worship
- **Tuesday 26th November** - Y5 start swimming lessons
- **Wednesday 4th December** - PTFA discos (in the evening)
- **Friday 13th December** - Christmas Jumper Day
(Save the Children charity)
- **Friday 20th December** - Last day of Term 2

Christmas event dates will be confirmed next term

Upcoming dates for Nursery can be found on Tapestry



At St Georges, we know that supporting children to have **good mental health** is paramount to supporting them to be the **very best version of themselves**. Please take a look on our **school website** for more information on ways in which we can support your children in school.

Additionally, help and support can be found through the support lines below:

Childline - call 0800 1111. freephone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Young Minds Parents Helpline, freephone on 0808 802 5544 (9.30am-4pm, Monday-Friday, UK)

Samaritans - call 116 123, freephone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Text based service - text the word 'shout' to 85258. This is a free and confidential messaging service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



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