

St Georges Church School and Nursery



NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2 2024

Dear families,

I always enjoy this time of year, even though we all seem to be run down a little with colds and coughs and getting ready for the big day! But there is something very special about being with the children at Christmas. I'm sure EYFS and KS1 families will agree that the nativities were absolutely wonderful and I'd like to give a special well done to the nursery children who joined our live performances for the first time. The KS2 Carol Services were truly magical and I am sure you'll agree we should all be feeling very Christmassy now.

I would like to pause to reflect on our positive Ofsted inspection. This is the result of unwavering hard work and dedication of every single member of our staff and governing body. I was delighted that they recognised the warm, positive environment that we strive to create and the overwhelmingly positive feedback from many parents and families was noted by the inspection team. During the inspection, we were incredibly grateful for the support we received and it really felt like such an amazing community. The children were polite, courteous and an absolute credit to you all!

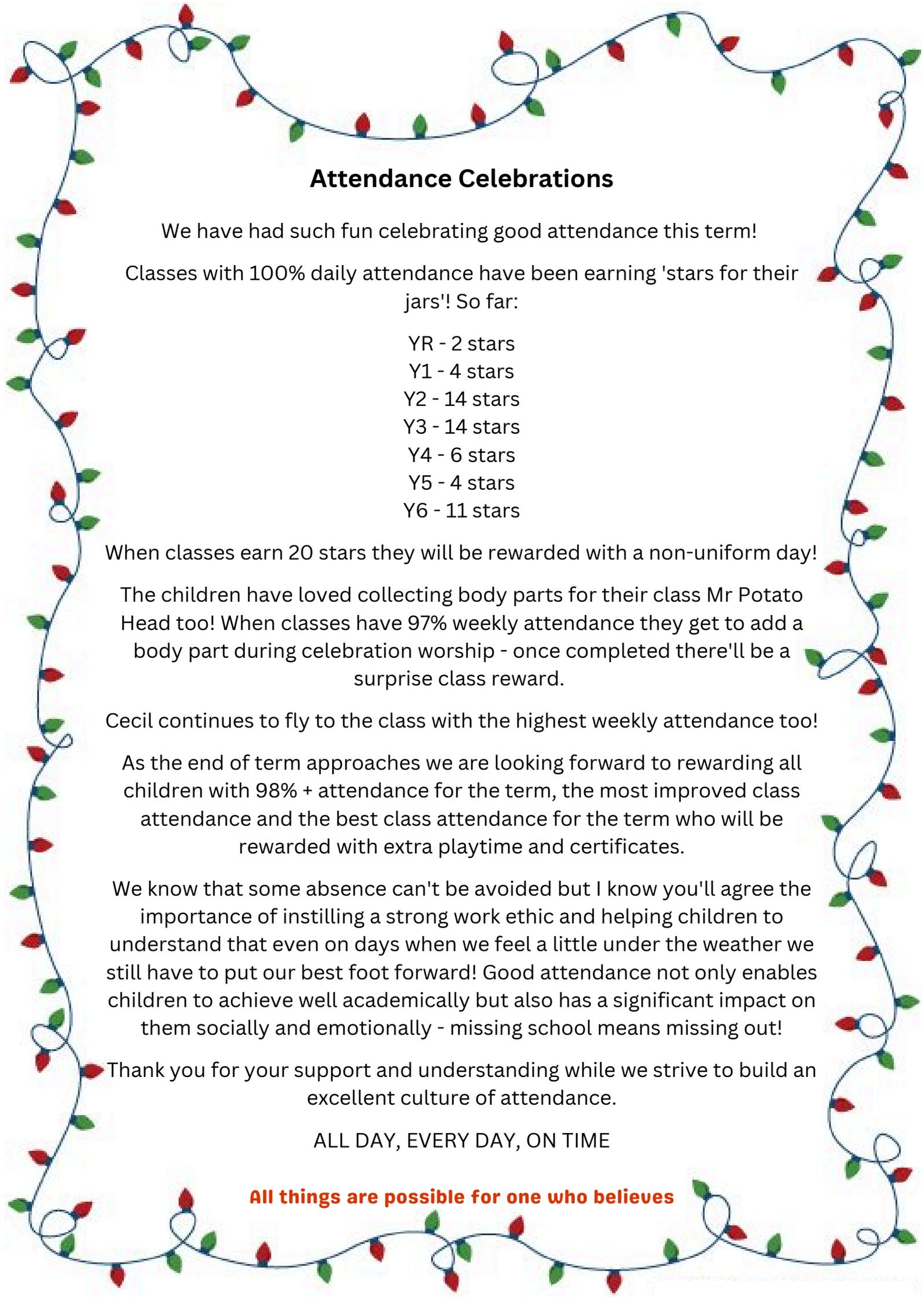
Lastly, I want to say a huge thanks to our PTFA who, once again, have worked relentlessly to raise additional money which will benefit our children greatly. They are a small team of dedicated parents and they make a huge difference but they need more help! Last year they raised £6K and this helped us buy a class set of iPads. This is a wonderful achievement and will make such a difference to the children's learning. We are now working with the PTFA on a new focus to enhance the children's overall school experience. If you would like to get involved please get in touch with Louisa Clark in the office.

Have a wonderful, joy-fill and peaceful festive break. I hope you manage to spend some quality time with family and friends. Please take a moment to cherish what we have around us and consider those who find this time of year challenging.

Warmest wishes,
Jo Thorn

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Attendance Celebrations

We have had such fun celebrating good attendance this term!

Classes with 100% daily attendance have been earning 'stars for their jars'! So far:

YR - 2 stars

Y1 - 4 stars

Y2 - 14 stars

Y3 - 14 stars

Y4 - 6 stars

Y5 - 4 stars

Y6 - 11 stars

When classes earn 20 stars they will be rewarded with a non-uniform day!

The children have loved collecting body parts for their class Mr Potato Head too! When classes have 97% weekly attendance they get to add a body part during celebration worship - once completed there'll be a surprise class reward.

Cecil continues to fly to the class with the highest weekly attendance too!

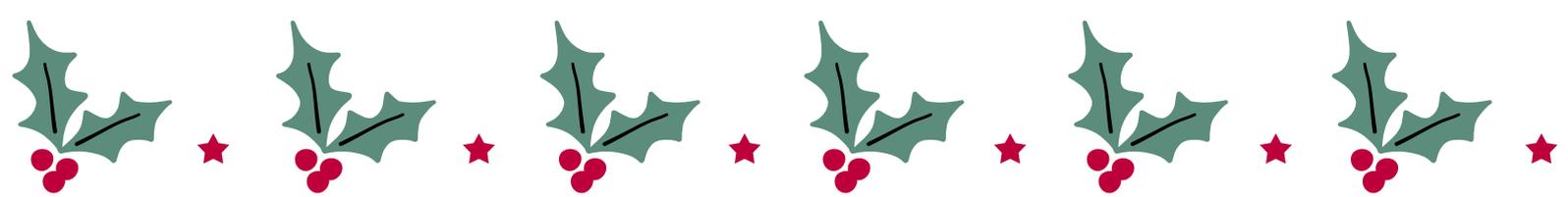
As the end of term approaches we are looking forward to rewarding all children with 98% + attendance for the term, the most improved class attendance and the best class attendance for the term who will be rewarded with extra playtime and certificates.

We know that some absence can't be avoided but I know you'll agree the importance of instilling a strong work ethic and helping children to understand that even on days when we feel a little under the weather we still have to put our best foot forward! Good attendance not only enables children to achieve well academically but also has a significant impact on them socially and emotionally - missing school means missing out!

Thank you for your support and understanding while we strive to build an excellent culture of attendance.

ALL DAY, EVERY DAY, ON TIME

All things are possible for one who believes



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO...?

In Nursery, we have been very busy bees this term learning about the different celebrations that happen during this time of year. We have focused on firework night, Remembrance day, Diwali and Christmas.



This term has been a very busy one and we have enjoyed preparing for our Christmas Nativity alongside Reception Class and we are excited to show our families what we have been up to.

The children have all been engaging with our focus stories each week and we have really enjoyed exploring new books as well as revisiting familiar ones.

Nursery children have also had fun exploring the hall in our weekly Monday PE sessions, with a focus on jumping and landing safely.

Reception - This term, Willow class have been focusing on celebrations! We have learnt all about firework night, Diwali, Remembrance day and Christmas. Diwali saw the children joining up with their Year 6 buddies to make beautiful diya pots out of clay, and we developed our understanding of fire safety when learning about firework night.

The children (and adults!) in Willow class have thrown themselves into the magic of Christmas with festive storytelling, crafts, role play and of course our very special Nativity, Whoops-a-Daisy Angel. We are so proud of each of our shining stars who have developed the confidence to stand on stage and sing loud and proud.

We know the last week of term will be just as joy-filled with Christmas Dinner, Christmas parties and possibly a visit from the man in red...



Year 1 - This term Pine class have had lots of fun exploring human senses. We drew around each other and labelled the body, then in another lesson we played games to test our sight, hearing, taste, touch and smell. It was great fun!



In history we learnt more about the 1950s and were fascinated about black and white television and sweets in jars!

Geography has been all about exploring maps. We looked at a world map and labelled oceans and continents. We then focused on the four countries that make up the United Kingdom and the capital cities.

All this as well as improving our writing and maths skills and rehearsing for our nativity has made for a busy and exciting term!

Year 2 - Beech Class have been learning how to write instructions this term. We started by being given all the ingredients to make Eton Mess and a recipe! Working in groups, we then made and tasted it. After practising different writing skills, we then wrote our own recipes to tell others' how to make Eton Mess too.

We have also been busy practising our Nativity, with Year 1 - learning our lines as well as lots of songs.





Year 3 - Juniper class have loved continuing our journey through time, exploring the Bronze and Iron Age and how invention played a vital role in the evolution of humans. Bell beaker pots have linked our learning through Art studying the artefact and learning and creating our own bell beaker pots.

At the beginning of term, we had a little visitor which helped us to understand our new guided reading book: esio Trot. The tortoise Raphael lived with Class 3 for a whole week and we learnt all about the species, sparking our imagination to write wonderfully detailed information texts.

Year 4 - Aspen class. It's been another busy term for Year 4! We have been delving into the science of sound and reinforcing this with music lessons which investigate how musical instruments produce sound. Our maths focus has moved onto timestables and we have been practising skills to help us write an explanation text on the digestive system.



Year 4 have also been keen historians as we have continued to delve into our Anglo-Saxon learning, understanding the struggles of the Britons and Anglo-Saxons as they battled for control and finding out more about Kings, Queens and storytelling. At the end of our unit, we welcomed a very knowledgeable visitor from the Sutton Hoo Ship Company, who gave some interesting insights into the amazing ship burial of an Anglo-Saxon King and how the charity is scheduled to launch their replica boat into a river in 2026.

Year 5 - Cedar class. This term has seen Year 5 being even more creative and hands on than usual. As designers and makers, we have really enjoyed exploring pneumatics and building some spectacular pneumatic devices. As artists and crafters, we have been kept busy with Christmas themed art and an excellent and creative trip to Worle Baptist Church for 'Experience Christmas'.



After writing our own version of the Firework-Maker's Daughter, we have been applying our improving writing skills to write our own fantasy story as well as writing a factual report on our very own fantasy creatures.

In science we have been exploring contact and non-contact forces such as air resistance and gravity. For any of us who pile on the pounds this Christmas, your child should be well placed to explain the difference between weight and mass (and advise you on the best place to weigh yourself after Christmas dinner!)

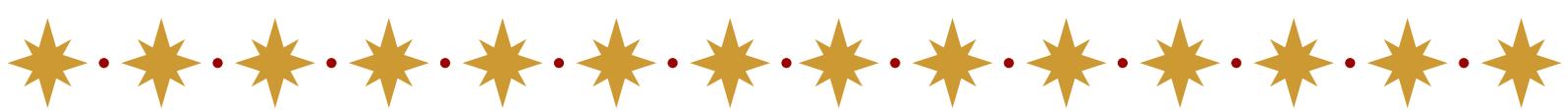
Year 6 - Birch Class. It's been another super-busy term in Year 6 and I would like to start by saying how enormously proud the children made me during assessment week. They were calm, focused, and generally brilliant! It's been great to see them wearing their hoodies with pride and being visible as our school role-models.

In class, we've been delving deeper into African geography and history, exploring the impact of the slave trade across the globe and in our own locality. Our art has linked to this unit with our focus on trailblazing artists and techniques.

In our English, we created breathtaking writing, based on the work of WW1 poets around Remembrance Day, and have also been exploring our thriller 'Wild Boy,' creating suspenseful and atmospheric writing.

We loved practicing our songs for our carol service and hope you enjoyed our show!





After School Provision

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback regarding after school provision. We strive to support families as well as possible and wrap around care is one element of that.

I am very pleased that our after school provision, through Future Stars, is now extended until 6pm each evening. Details have already been sent about this but please contact Future Stars should you require any further information or have any queries.

www.futurestarscoaching.co.uk * 01275 390902 * info@futurestarscoaching.co.uk

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>



Schools are legally obligated to provide certain information about your child/children to both the local authority and the Department for Education (DfE); details about this can be found in our Parent & Pupil Privacy Notice.

This year, an update to existing legislation (Education (Information about Individual Pupils) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024) means that we will now be obligated to provide additional information to the DfE, on a daily basis. This information will be your child's/children's identifiers, age, ethnicity, gender, and daily school attendance information, along with whether or not your child/children are eligible for free school meals, have special educational needs, have an EHCP, or is or have been a looked after child.

As this is a large amount of information to be provided on a daily basis, the DfE have provided a means by which the transfer can be sent automatically. This is by using a system called Wonde, which pulls the requested information from the school's existing computer systems, and sends it directly to the DfE. This system has been fully tested, and meets information security expectations.

For information about what the DfE will do with this data, please see their Privacy Notice at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66c5edf5e5e471d6d6b18e23/DfE_privacy_notice_for_school_attendance_data_collection_year_group_.pdf or ask the school office for a copy.

If you do not wish for the school to share your child's/children's data with the DfE using Wonde, please could you raise an Objection to Processing to the school office, for the school to consider your concerns. Please note, however, that this wouldn't prevent us from sharing the information with the DfE, as we are legally obligated to do so.

If you have any questions or concerns about the DfE's use of your child's/children's personal data in this manner, we recommend you address these directly with the DfE, or to the Information Commissioner's Office

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Upcoming Dates for School

(Details of events will be sent in due course)

- **Monday 6th January** - Inset day
- **Tuesday 7th January** - First day of Term 3
- **Tuesday 7th January** - Year 5 swimming restarts
- **Thursday 23rd January** - Year 3 Family worship (families welcome)
- **Tuesday 4th February** - Last Year 5 swimming lesson
- **Friday 14th February** - Last day of Term 3
- **Monday 24th February** - First day of Term 4
- **Tuesday 25th February** - Year 4 swimming starts
- **Thursday 27th February** - Y4 Hooke Court parents/carers meeting
- **Thursday 20th March** - Year 2 family worship (families welcome)
- **Friday 4th April** - Last day of Term 4

Upcoming dates for Nursery will be sent by the Nursery Team

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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