



Saint George's

Church of England School

Registered Office

Saint George's C of E School, Meadow Road,
Gravesend, Kent, DA11 7LS

01474 533 082

office@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Newsletter February 2024

Dear Saint George's Parent,

Thank you for all your support in ensuring that your children and the school continue to flourish. We appreciate your efforts to make sure your children are smartly turned out, well-equipped and ready to learn. I have spent my first term watching and listening very carefully, not least to the great pupils who have joined me in pupil voice activities throughout the term; they are honest and articulate, and this has been of great help.

In the coming terms we will write to you further with a number of strategies aimed at continuously raising school standards and we would appreciate your help with these in advance. With school improvement in mind, it was great to welcome a number of new teachers this term, particularly into our secondary phase in English and RE; this is set to continue over the next two terms in both phases where we have once again secured some truly great teachers. The recruitment of high-quality teachers and support staff is always a priority at any school, and it feels very positive to be able to complement our existing team in the coming months.

As a good Church of England school, we hold fast to our vision that pupils should be treated equally, be recognised for their own unique talents and skills, and that, through continuously improving, they will flourish now and into the future. That flourishing depends on the way in which we are able to foster good character in line with our Christian values of creativity, honesty, resilience, inclusion, stewardship and thankfulness. It depends too on good academic outcomes for each individual child within our care. With this in mind I am looking forward to seeing how our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils step up once again during their important mock examinations at the start of term 4; we should collectively wish them well.

Our vision is seen too in the many highlights we have seen this term, ranging from our brilliant primary phase class assemblies, their performances at dodgeball, and their singing at the O2, to a return to face-to-face secondary phase parents' evenings, our sporting triumphs, and superb contribution from our Year 11 pupils at the recent Holocaust Memorial event in Chatham Memorial Synagogue, and much, much more in between.

I wish you a restful half term break and look forward to Term 4 and your continuing support as we live out our mission, *All Different, All Equal, All Flourishing*.

Simon Murphy
Executive Headteacher



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Sixth form News

Year 12 students have been adding to their community contribution hours in numerous ways this term. They have started the reading buddy scheme with our primary phase students. Our year 12 students visit all the primary phase classes between Monday and Thursday each week to listen to students read or to work on phonics with year R students. We hope the primary phase students enjoy their visits from our sixth form and are finding this helpful. Alongside this, year 12 students have been peer mentoring year 7 and year 11 students, delivering worship across the school, including at our primary phase and supporting at the year 8 and year 9 parent interview events. The sixth form students are able to collect time towards their community contribution hours, where they are rewarded for 10, 20, 30 & 50 hours of service to the school community. We have a large number of year 12 students already working towards their 20 hours award for the Easter term.

Children's Mental Health Week 5 - 11th February 2024 - This year's theme is 'My Voice Matters'

During Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, whoever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say – and believe - "My Voice Matters".

'My Voice Matters' is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves.

When we feel empowered, this can have a positive impact on our wellbeing. Children and young people who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community and self-esteem. This year, we want children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to be empowered to work together to create a positive change for their mental health and wellbeing.

During Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, whoever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say – and believe - "My Voice Matters".

In addition, we are also heavily promoting online safety to all of our students, more information can be found at the following website:-

<http://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/>



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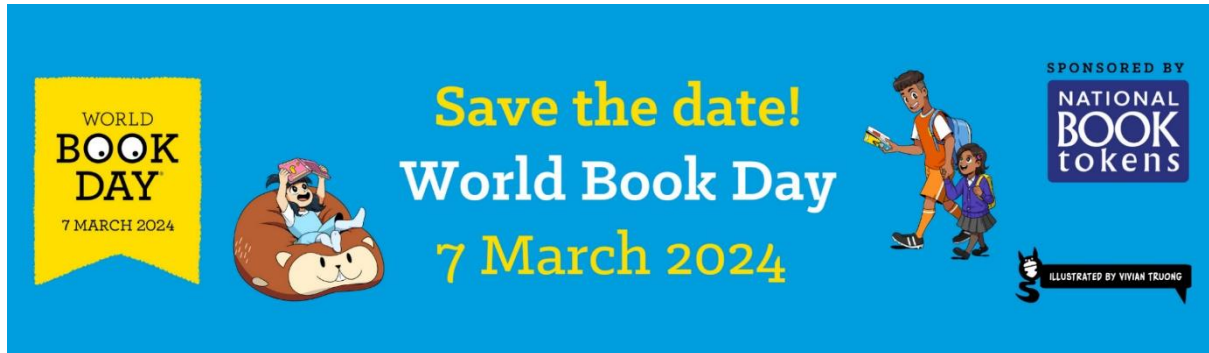
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Save the Date: World Book Day- Thursday 7th March, 2024

All different, all equal, all flourishing readers

We are proud to acknowledge that reading is embedded in our school culture at Saint George's. Books are integral to our students "flourishing" as readers, both at school and beyond the school gates.

We are pleased to share with you our exciting plans for World Book Day next Term!

Pupils across the Primary and Secondary Phase will be dressing up as their favourite book characters. We kindly ask that parents/ carers contribute a donation, either in cash or through Parent Pay, towards Usborne Books, a publishing company who conceive, write, and design all their books in-house. If we raise our school target of £600, Usborne Books will add an additional 60% to our donation and send us back a collection of brand-new texts equal to this value. We look forward to ordering a range of fiction and non-fiction books to refresh our ever-growing school library and suit the unique readers in our school community.

We will also be celebrating World Book Day through the following exciting events:

- Staff fancy dress competition to be judged by our students.
- 'Book Bake-off', where some KS3 students will decorate cakes/biscuits in the theme of books in Food Technology lessons.
- Library Escape Room, which KS3 students will enjoy in their Library lessons.
- Book Swap, where students will be encouraged to donate old books and swap them for new stories.
- Reading Buddies, where select Secondary pupils will visit our fellow pupils at the Primary phase and read together.

More information will follow shortly, but in the meantime, we thank you for your support and look forward to celebrating our love of reading at Saint George's with our valued parents/carers.



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Updates from the pastoral team.

Towards the end of this term, we have seen the emergence of blue lollies being consumed by students. The lollies turn mouths and lips bright blue and have high amount of sugar and colourings. We are finding that some students are eating them, sometimes in considerable quantity, between lessons. The sudden burst of sugar undermines students' ability to concentrate, not to mention the effect on teeth. In term 4 students will be informed that they will have the lollipops confiscated if they are eating them in school.



Uniform Expectations

As you know we are introducing a new school skirt in September. This will be a mandatory item of uniform, should your child wish to wear a skirt.

The skirt can be purchased from <https://www.monkhouse.com/> (formally Simmonds) online or in their store at Chatham Dockside.

Prices for the skirt inclusive of the embroidery range from £20.95 to £31.95 including VAT. The company have assured us there will be plenty of stock available from May.

If your child qualifies for pupil premium, we will fund one skirt per student. Mr Hawkins is organising a voucher code which you will be able to redeem when you purchase the skirt. Mr Hawkins will communicate with parents further about the vouchers next term.

As always, we appreciate your support in ensuring your child wears correct Saint George's School uniform. Please view the uniform expectations over the half term break to ensure your child is dressed accordingly on their return on Monday 19th February 2024.

<https://www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform+and+Equipment&pid=33>

Could I also take this opportunity to remind you that if your child chooses to wear a jumper to school they should be wearing the Saint George's School V-Neck jumper as part of their uniform. Round neck jumpers are not permitted.

Kind regards

The Pastoral Team



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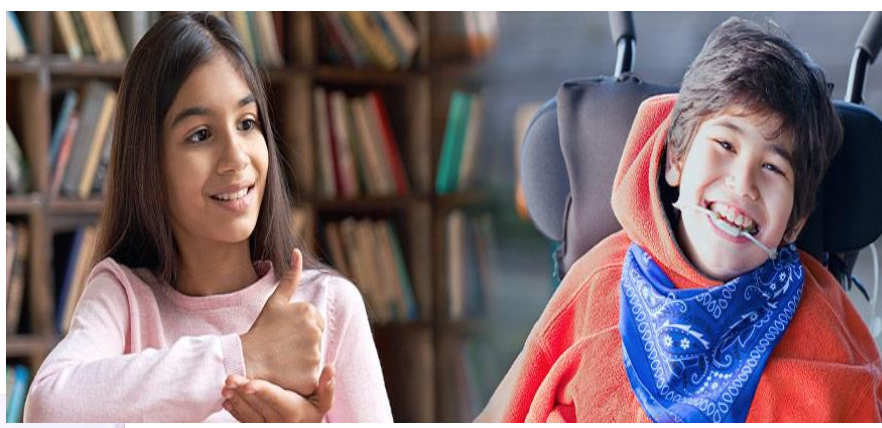


Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Information, Advice and Guidance Event for Gravesham

Monday 26th February 1pm – 3pm

Northfleet Youth Centre, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent, DA11 8AJ

Parents and carers of children aged between 0-25 years, we would like to invite you to an SEND Information, advice and guidance event for Gravesham.



We will be hosting presentations from The SEND Information Hub, IASK-Information and Support Kent, SEND Inclusion advisors, Childrens Centres, Youth Hub, other local providers and a Market Place.

There will be the opportunity for a question-and-answer session and to meet other families who are on the same or a similar journey as you.



We only have 50 places available so if you would like to attend this event, please contact sendroadshows@kent.gov.uk to book your place, alternatively you can call 03000412853 and leave a message and we will call back to confirm. This is a first come first served event. In your email, please let us know whether you have any accessibility requirements. Please also say whether you would like to have the handouts from the day, along with the links to all the websites, so these can still be sent to you if we are unable to offer you a place.





10 Online safety Tips to support Social Media Kindness



1

Be kind to others and share happiness

2

Think before posting on social media

3

Talk to your friends about their posts



4

Look after your digital footprint

5

Ask a trusted adult to check privacy settings

6

Don't copy others if it feels wrong



7

Don't share unkind things

8

Tell a trusted adult if you see bullying

9

Ask permission to share images of others

10

Only say things online you can say face-to-face

