

## Dear Parents and Carers



Welcome to this week's edition of the St George the Martyr newsletter.

Thank you to everybody who came along to meet our new Executive Headteacher Mr Webb and Head of School Mrs Whiteley on Wednesday, who will begin working at our school in April.

The meeting began with an introduction and summary of the history of our lovely school from our Chair of Governors, Rev Guy Pope.

Mr Webb and Mrs Whiteley really enjoyed meeting you in person and having the opportunity to explain the differences between their two roles.

### Head of School - What does Mrs Whiteley do?

- Mrs Whiteley is your 'go to' headteacher!
- Works with the governors and Mr Webb to plan for the school to improve further
- Mrs Whiteley is the day to day headteacher of the school
- Mrs Whiteley will be at St George the Martyr every day

### Executive Headteacher - What do Mr Webb do?

- Work with the governors and Head of School (Mrs Whiteley) to plan for the school to improve further
- Inspect the school every week
- He will not be at St George the Martyr every day

Mr Webb explained that Miss Bhoday will be working at the school every day as Assistant Headteacher/SENDco.

I am very excited to be continuing to work at St George the Martyr school on a part time basis, helping the school to continue going from strength to strength.

Best wishes

Mrs Rebecca Harris Headteacher and Miss Taryn Jackson, Deputy Headteacher

## A Message from Mr Webb.

Thank you to the many parents who were able to join us at the parent meeting on Wednesday afternoon to hear about our plans for a successful future at our school. Parents heard more about St George the Martyr joining a partnership of other church schools from April.

Small schools are increasingly joining together in order to secure their future and be in a position to recruit the best leaders and teachers available. St Mary's and St Luke's in Kilburn are both well-established successful schools and St George's Hanover Square has recently joined as a partner school and is now securely good.

As you know, Mrs Harris is moving towards the end of her main career and will be working part time with St George the Martyr from April. Parents met Mrs Whiteley, who will be the Head of School from April, and Mr Webb who is Executive Headteacher of the partnership of schools.

If you were unable to join us for the meeting, you'll get to know Mrs Whiteley well in the summer term as she will be the 'go to' headteacher who parents see every day on the gate and when you have questions or something to share.

At the meeting parents asked sensible questions about the school's future:

### **Will St George the Martyr keep its identity?**

Yes! The school will look and feel the same, children will continue to wear our uniform and continue our close partnership with St George the Martyr Church.



### **Will my child's teacher change?**

Your child's teacher will continue to the end of the school year. Our school already works closely with the other schools in the partnership. Children will continue to be taught our high quality curriculum by their teachers. Of course, there will inevitably be the usual movement of some staff at the end of the school year as is typical of inner London schools.

### **Will finances be shared across the schools?**

Schools in a partnership do not share finances but do share expertise. This enables us to have expert teachers and leaders providing curriculum planning and staff professional development across the schools.

It was lovely to see so many parents and answer your questions. Thank you for the many comments from parents who said they felt reassured and are looking forward to seeing the school continue to thrive. If you have any further questions do pop in to ask them.

We'll give you an update in newsletters towards the end of term. We anticipate that it will be very much business as usual.

## WELL-BEING CHAMPIONS

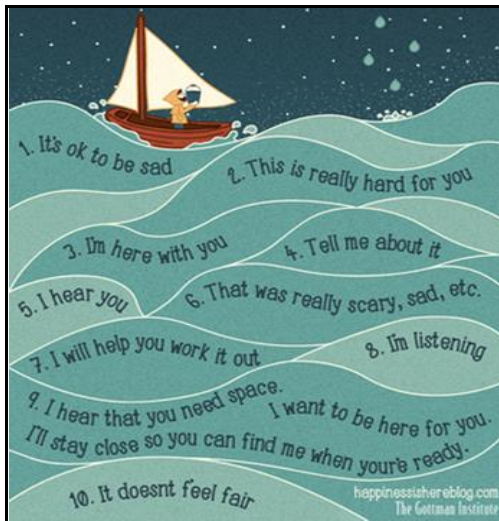
Last Friday, we had the pleasure of welcoming Naila Hirani, a Camden expert on mental health and well-being, into school to work with the School Council representatives. Naila trained the children to think like well-being champions. They learned all about the importance of physical and mental health, suggested ideas on how to check in on their peers and also role-played scenarios where they were able to help another child who had a big issue. The children learned that when an issue is too big to solve on your own, it is always best to talk to a trusted adult.

Here is some of the feedback the group gave on the session:

*'The role playing task was very good at properly showing us what a real scenario would be like.'*

*'Acting out our worries really helped resolve the problems that some people may have during the day.'*

*'I enjoyed working in a team and getting to know the other people in the group better.'*



One way of helping us feel calm is mindfulness breathing. We learned about different breathing techniques using these videos that can be found on YouTube.

Mindfulness Maya  
[@mindfulnessmaya5351](https://www.instagram.com/mindfulnessmaya5351)

Our favourite was 'The Cookie Breath'. Check it out!



## **GOLD STAR OF THE WEEK**

**Liyana**



**Your journey through Year 3 has been really inspiring to see.**

**You are continuously showing good listening and focus on the carpet, and your enthusiasm to produce top-quality work is breathtaking. You always follow the shared model, use the resources given to you to help structure your writing, go back through your work to edit, and you do these ground-breaking tasks independently!**

**Your wonderful academic achievements can also be seen alongside your personality, Liyana, as you are a wonderful member of the school community. You are always kind and respectful to your teachers and class peers, and you are always considerate of helping others.**

**Be proud of all that you have achieved, Liyana, as we are all very proud of you.**

# Collective Worship

Thank you Rev Jamie for reminding us all about the importance of friendship in our lives.

We were reminded about how true friends never give up on us and are there for us when we need help and support

*Friendship*

*"Dear children, let us now love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."*

## Families For Life - Parents

Camden Learning

**Virtual Sessions**  
Sessions cover topics such as energy efficient meals, food exploration, lots of Q&A time, plus the following:

- Week 1: Eating Well at Home
- Week 2: Fussy eaters and hidden sugars
- Week 3: Understanding labels and portion sizes
- Week 4: Keeping Active and Screen time

**Start date:**  
12th January  
10.00  
-11:00am

**Fussy Eating strategies are discussed in each session**

These sessions are taking place virtually through Microsoft Team. Teams is free to download on a computer, phone or tablet.

Either visit your app store or go to:  
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/download-app>

**CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR PLACE**

Contact  
Camden's Health and Wellbeing Team  
if you've any questions:  
020 7974 6736  
healthandwellbeingteam@camden.gov.uk  
<https://www.camden.gov.uk/health>

Microsoft Teams

Camden

## Information for Parents

### Do you have any questions about school life?

We are of course, really happy to answer any questions about school, no matter how small. Do phone the school office to ask questions or ask to arrange an appointment to speak to the class teacher. You can also speak to myself or Miss Jackson (Deputy Headteacher).

A member of the office staff will also be available in the playground in the morning. If you are worried about something, see us straight away. Don't let a little worry turn in to a big one. We also like to hear your good news. It helps to keep us going with a smile.



**Mrs Rebecca  
Harris**  
Headteacher

### Prayer

Dear God,  
We thank you for our  
friends and for the happy  
times that we share with  
them.

Help us to be a good  
friend to them.

Teach us how to play  
fairly and to share.

Help us to recognize  
loneliness in others and  
show friendliness towards  
them.

Thank you that you are  
our friend and will be with  
us always.  
Amen.



Please remember the importance of your child being at school on time and being in school every day.

**Holidays during school term time will not be authorized.**

## Information for Parents

# School Visit to Waterstones



**Mrs Harris and Miss Lapage Browne very much enjoyed a visit to Waterstones book shop last week with a group of happy children.**

**Some children's comments:**

*"We got to choose our own book and I got to see a new bookshop. I have never been to a bookshop before."*

*"It was fun to get a book I liked and read it at home."*

*"My mum liked that I was reading my book."*

*"I liked that there were so many books to pick from. I bought a book about snakes. My mum is scared of snakes!"*



Rev Jamie is happy to invite you to a free half-term event '**Fab Feb Fun**' at **St George the Martyr Church** from 11.30am - 2.30pm. on Monday 13th February. This is a chance for kids to get stuck into some arts, crafts, games (and dancing!) Plus make their own yummy lunch. Parents can chill in the comfy seats with hot drinks and biscuits or alternatively join in the fun!

RSVP

This week in **Destination Reader** lessons **KS2** children have been

## Inferring



Inferring means using clues and prior knowledge to find out what the author doesn't tell us.

You can make inference about the character, setting or mood.

## Foundling Museum Workshop at Nursery



Nursery Class had another exciting opportunity to engage in a creative workshop delivered by The Foundling Museum. We were learning to develop our oracy in describing a familiar route. The children had back and forth conversations talking about their route into school. We decorated our paintbrush, using a range of natural materials.

We then used our paintbrush to create different marks, representing a map of our route into school.

What a spectacular experience for our little pupils. A big well done to all the Nursery children.



## Workshop for Parents

On Tuesday this week, we were joined by Naila from Camden Learning, who came in to deliver a parent workshop on managing screen time and social media.

This was a great session where parents could openly discuss the challenges they face and different strategies they use to help establish clear boundaries and ground rules around this.

We spoke about the importance of family time without any screens and how to role model technology use for children. The next workshop will be on 7th February on understanding child development for wellbeing.

We hope to see you there! Please book your place at Reception. 😊



## Parent/Carer Coffee Mornings

### St. George the Martyr Primary School

We would like to invite parents and carers into school to attend workshops and to enjoy some hot drinks.

All workshops will be delivered by Camden Learning's Health and Wellbeing Consultants from 9.00-10.00am.

**Tuesday 7th February 2023**

**Understanding Child Development to support Wellbeing**

- Looking at principles and theories that underpin child development
- Understanding the links between behaviour, temperament and development
- Responding to behaviour in ways that promote growth and self-regulation

**Please sign up at Reception to book your place**

## Weekly Awards

### Star Learners / Christian Value certificates

Class	Star Learners	Christian Value
Nursery	Aya	Arissa
Reception	Sezen	Ariane
Year 1	Ayoub	Jessie
Year 2	Ela	Maryam
Year 3	Chloe	Taio
Year 4	Maria	Chloe
Year 5	Mohab	Lena
Year 6	Rayan	Abdul

### Attendance

CLASS	PERCENTAGE
Reception	91.7%
Year 1	82.0%
Year 2	92.8%
Year 3	97.8%
Year 4	89.7%
Year 5	96.0%
<b>Year 6</b>	95.4%
<b>Whole School</b>	<b>92.5%</b>

### Reading

CLASS	PERCENTAGE
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>97%</b>

Please see below key dates for your diaries this term:

## January

- Wednesday 25th January at 2.45pm: SATs meeting for Year 6 parents.
- Monday 30th January 2.15-3.15pm: Come along and join your child in class for our first session of PWAC, Parents Working Alongside Children. The lesson will be art, so paintbrushes at the ready!

## February

- Thursday 2nd February 1:30 to 2: 30pm Nursery School Trip to Foundling Museum.
- Wednesday 1st February at 2.45pm: Early number EYFS mathematics parent and carer workshop.
- Thursday 2nd February at 10.00-11.00am: Families for life parent session online.
- Tuesday 7th February at 9.00am: Naila Hirani well-being parent workshop in school.
- Tuesday 7th February 10.00am – 11.30am Year 6 WW2 workshop at London Metropolitan Archives.
- Monday 20th February at 2.45pm: On-line safety parent workshop, led by Mary Rebelo CEOP adviser.
- Wednesday 22nd February at 9.30am: Year 3 parents - Ash Wednesday and Lent collective worship at Church.
- Friday 24th February 10:30 – 11:15am Year 3 School trip to Building Centre – workshop about sustainable materials to create new homes and buildings.

## March

- Thursday 2nd March: World Book Day - children to dress as a book character.
- Friday 3rd March: Academic Review Day for parents (crèche available)
- Wednesday 22nd March at 9.30am: Year 4 parents - Stations of the Cross and Easter collective worship at the Church
- Friday 31st March: School breaks up for Easter at 2.00pm