

## Dear Parents and Carers



Welcome to the second newsletter of 2023 :)

Please see the attached term dates for 2023-24. Please remember that we have also adjusted this current year's term dates to show King Charles' Coronation Day on 8th May 2023, which is a new national bank holiday. All schools will be closed on that day in May.

The theme of this week's newsletter is **Maths**.

We know that maths plays a huge role in the lives of our children as they develop in this world. Here at St George the Martyr, we strive to allow our children to be successful in maths. To help our children in school, we have a variety of ways to help their maths skills become even stronger. Each class completes a 'Blast Off' twice weekly. This is to help children recap and know more and remember more. Each week, we also challenge children to complete our 'XFactor times tables / Number Bonds Challenge'. You may have seen the certificates coming home.

In each lesson, our children are equipped with the skills and knowledge (as defined by the National Curriculum) and are given opportunities to develop their fluency, reasoning and problem solving.

For homework, children have access to [Maths.co.uk](https://www.maths.co.uk) which has a multitude of games, learning and tasks for the children to complete. If you need more information on this, please come and see us and we can talk you through this application.

Many parents ask, "What can I do to support my child in maths?"

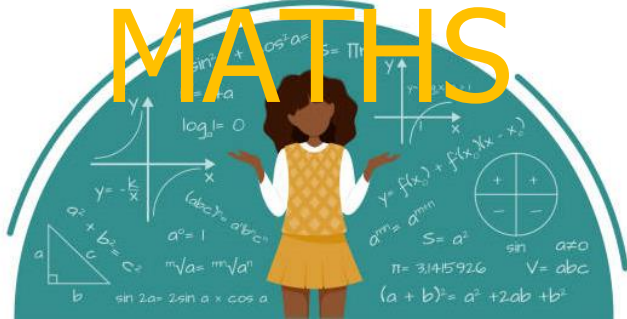
Here are some ways you can support your child:

- Times tables practice – test your children on a times table.
- Go through with them how to add and subtract.
- Use maths.co.uk to support their home learning.
- Let them come shopping with you and add up the shopping as they go.
- Give them a 'mini maths test'.
- Be positive about maths. There are parents who have had a bad experience of maths so being positive in front of the child is important to relieve 'maths anxiety'.

Best wishes

Mrs Rebecca Harris Headteacher and Miss Taryn  
Jackson, Deputy Headteacher

# MATHS

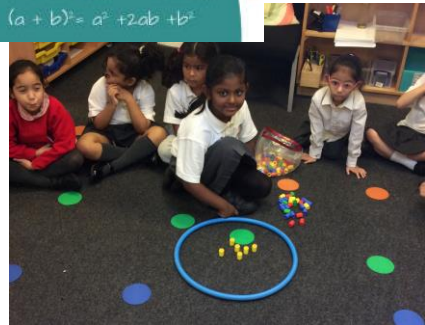


**Nursery** have been learning to write and recognise numerals 1-5 and some 1-10. Using concrete objects, we have been counting objects one at a time and representing numbers using our fingers.

**Reception** have been learning the importance of zero when counting. They have been learning that zero means nothing and that it is an absence of a number. They have been looking at pictures on the board and counting them and saying how many objects there are and if there are no objects. They have also been making a representation of zero by making a closed fist with their hands. We have also been comparing numbers to five, looking at numbers that are bigger or smaller than five and ordering them.

**Year 1** have been learning about place value within 20. We have been building on the work that we did before Christmas, when we studied 10. We have been finding different ways to make teen numbers, using dienes, straw bundles, counters, cubes, ten frames, numicon and Reknereks. We have been matching teen numbers and words to representations and reasoning and problem solving. When Tiny the tortoise muddles up his numerals and thinks that 16 is 61, year 1 are very quick to explain that 16 has one ten and six ones.

**Year 2's** learning focus has been to explore and understand money. From recognising all British coins and notes, to finally solving problems, this unit has allowed children to apply theoretical knowledge to real life examples. The class has enjoyed using money resources, as well as finding out that behind everyday activities, such as shopping, involve the use of simple mathematical calculations, such as addition and subtraction. One of the class's favourite lessons was to make a certain amount using different coins and notes each time!



In **Year 3** this week, the children have been working hard at multiplying 2 digits by 1 digit as well as dividing 2 digits by 1 digit. We explored different ways to do this by partitioning numbers using base 10 as well as using part-whole models. After they were confident with their fluency, they were challenged further by having a go at using this concept practically by answering reasoning questions in their books.

This week in **Year 4**, we have been looking at multiplying and dividing by ten and by one hundred. We have been exploring inverse sums and have paid attention to how numbers can be grouped and partitioned to help us with problem solving questions.

**Year 5** have been working on long multiplication this week. The class have been exploring problems involving very large numbers, with answers going into the 100,000s.

It has been a great week for **Year 6** during our maths lessons as they learn all about ratios and proportion. The class has been enthusiastic to show their understanding during class discussions and questions regarding their understanding on the order and ratio sign. This has then moved on to scale factor, where some of the children expressed their interest in architecture, which includes a great deal of maths! Children have scaled both down and up different shapes from 1 to 100. Amazing!

## **GOLD STAR OF THE WEEK**

**James Oloruntoba**



**Since starting in Year 1, you have worked very hard to be calm, focussed and to show good learning behaviours in class. You think carefully about your work before you start and you keep on challenging yourself, even when tasks are tricky. You share your lovely ideas and wide knowledge of the world, you seek feedback, learn from mistakes and try even harder next time. Consequently, you have made incredible progress and you should be very proud of yourself.**

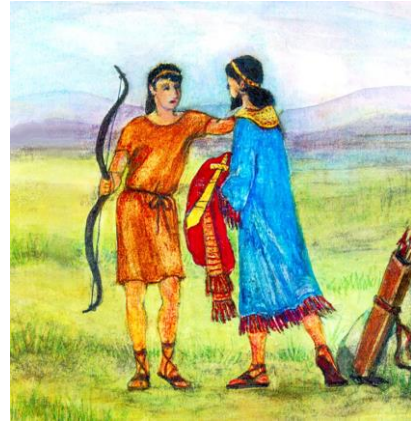
**From the moment you walk into the classroom in the morning, with a big smile on your face, you are curious about what we will be learning next. You are an excellent friend to others, you always think about how the people around you feel and you've been a caring and kind friend to your classmates.**

**You thoroughly deserve to be recognised for all of your hard work**

# Collective Worship

Continuing with the theme of **FRIENDSHIP**, this week we explored the Bible story of David and Jonathan. David and Jonathan were really good friends who kept their promise to look after each other even in the most dangerous circumstances.

The story of David and Jonathan is a wonderful tale of friendship and doing the right thing, even when you are feeling scared or feeling under pressure not to.



Friendship

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

(1 John 3:18)

## Families For Life - Parents

Camden  
Learning

### Virtual Sessions

Sessions cover topics such as energy efficient meals, food exploration, lots of Q&A tim, 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

Fussy Eating strategies are discussed in each session

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

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](mailto:healthandwellbeingteam@camden.gov.uk)

<https://www.camden.gov.uk/health>

## 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

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



Asking questions is seeking information.

We ask questions when reading for two main reasons:

- So we think more deeply about the whole text.
- So we check our understanding as we read.

## Half-price music lessons for Free School Meals Children

Don't you wish you played a musical instrument? Give your child the gift of music.



Families which qualify for Free School Meals, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support can have half-price music lessons for their children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 here in school. Prices start from £58.20 for ten lessons. (Subsidies funded by Camden Council and Universal Music Group). Full price lessons start from £116.40 for ten lessons.



## Epiphany Collective Worship



Year 2 led their wonderful Epiphany Collective Worship in the church last week.

The children told us about how the three wise men visited the baby Jesus after following the star and gave him precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They also wowed us with their singing of 'We Three Kings'.

They worked incredibly hard to learn their lines, songs and actions to perform this beautiful Epiphany assembly.

They learned about the story of Epiphany and realised how profound its meaning is. The children encouraged each other and had fun rehearsing. On performance day, everybody gave their best and made themselves super proud!

Well done Year 2 for your hard work and your determination to succeed at every opportunity!

# Online Safety & Gaming



Gaming refers to playing electronic games, whether through consoles, computers, tablets, smartphones or other devices. Gaming remains one of the most popular forms of entertainment, attracting a wide range of age groups from all across the world. Gaming is always looking to develop, often improving on graphical features, accessibility and user engagement as years go by.



Unlike many other forms of media, gaming brings a sense of challenge to the player. Usually there is a degree of skill involved that players need to develop in order to progress. Depending on the type of game, it can also offer players a platform where they can be imaginative and explore their own creativity.

Some games have rich storylines and characters that are engaging and memorable. Many players also use it as an opportunity to compete and socialise with other users whether it be in person or online. More often than not though, people game, because it is fun!

## Benefits of Gaming

- 1 Can develop critical and creative skills
- 2 Can bring educational benefit and awareness
- 3 Is available to most audiences and family members
- 4 Is an easy and accessible way to socialise with others



## Considerations for Gaming

- 1 Have awareness of appropriate age restrictions
- 2 Parental awareness around purchasing
- 3 Active discussions around socialising safely
- 4 Reporting harmful or offensive content online

## Socialising Online

A staple of gaming is the community that surrounds it. Groups and audiences can gather around a specific game, character or theme to build specific fan bases that can interact with each other. Young people may like to socialise online because:

- 1 It gives them a platform to be with friends outside of school
- 2 There is usually a competitive element at play, which can feel rewarding
- 3 It can build confidence and social skills which may not be attainable physically
- 4 It gives opportunity to young people who have difficulty socialising with friends and others



## Reporting and Blocking

Gaming communities can range from supportive and educational, to toxic and harmful. In some instances, it can even lead towards more radical content being promoted. When faced with something or someone being harmful online, make sure young people know how to:

- 1 Report the player or piece of content
- 2 Mute or block the player
- 3 Manage their privacy settings or communication options
- 4 Speak with a trusted adult for support



To find out more about Gaming visit the SWGfL hub:  
[swgfl.org.uk/topics/gaming/](http://swgfl.org.uk/topics/gaming/)

or scan the QR code



## Further Support

Professionals Online Safety Helpline: [saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline](http://saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline)

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service: [swgfl.org.uk/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/](http://swgfl.org.uk/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/)

Report Harmful Content:  
[reportharmfulcontent.com](http://reportharmfulcontent.com)



## Phonics Workshop for Parents



We had an excellent turnout for this week's phonics and Early Reading workshop. Phonics can be a bit of a mystery to parents, especially if you didn't learn to read using phonics at school. It is also true that many adults who did learn to read using phonics at school have forgotten many of the GPCs (grapheme phoneme correspondence - how the sounds are written) because once you know how to read, you don't need the phonics because you read with automaticity.

Phonics and Early Reading are vital in EYFS and KS1; once you can read, you can access the whole curriculum and read for pleasure. Reading for pleasure begins with shared reading with parents/carers. Cosying up to read a book together, or listening to an audio book will form a positive association with reading for your children. Whilst reading is set as homework, it shouldn't be a chore! Studies have shown that early reading is a big indicator of future academic success, so it is important to find the right time of day for your child to read and to encourage them to expand their diet of reading. Please do talk to your class teacher if you'd like some recommendations for your child.

## Weekly Awards

### Star Learners / Christian Value certificates

Class	Star Learners	Christian Value
Nursery	Henrietta	Aizah
Reception	Albie	Keziah
Year 1	Abeedah	Sarrah
Year 2	Mohilam	Iqra
Year 3	Lianna	Augusta
Year 4	Harry	Ivy
Year 5	Hector	Yasin
Year 6	Madehaa	Liana

### Attendance

CLASS	PERCENTAGE
Reception	88.3%
Year 1	91.7%
Year 2	92.2%
Year 3	93.7%
Year 4	92.8%
Year 5	92.1%
<b>Year 6</b>	95.4%
Whole School	<b>93.0%</b>

### Reading

CLASS	PERCENTAGE
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>98%</b>
Year 2	95%
Year 3	94%
Year 4	88%
Year 5	93%
Year 6	96%

Please see below key dates for your diaries this term:

## January

- **Sunday 15th January: Deadline for Reception admissions.**
- **Tuesday 17th January at 9.00am: Naila Hirani well-being parent workshop in school.**
- **Tuesday 17th January at 9.00-3.30pm Reception parent and carer catch up meetings with the teacher.**
- **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 2.45pm meeting for all parents and carers in the school hall to meet Mrs Whiteley and Mr Webb, our new Head of School and Executive Headteacher, alongside our Chair of Governors Rev. Guy Pope. Please come along to this important meeting.**
- **Thursday 19th January at 10.00-11.00am: Families for life parent session online.**
- **Wednesday 25th January at 2.45pm: SATs meeting for Year 6 parents.**

## February

- **Thursday 2nd February 1:30 pm to 2: 30 pm 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 10am – 11.30 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 – 11:15 Year 3 School trip to Building Center – 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**