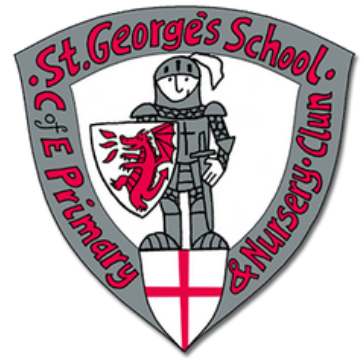


St George's CE Academy

'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' John 7:38



Newsletter

16th January 2026

This week in school...

Last week, the children were very excited to welcome some new friends to Class 1, Harmony, Jaxson, William and Autumn. This week, our traditional story focus has been the Gingerbread Man. The children have really enjoyed retelling the story using drama, props, small world and puppets.

Class 2 have been busy developing their computer skills and learning about programming using 'Scratch'. They have also started learning their new class text 'The Papaya That Spoke' and exploring how they can make their writing more exciting.

Class 3 have had a special visit this week by some interesting creatures...aliens! In English, they have been exploring who the Aliens are and how they got to Earth. They have been thinking about the aliens using personification and 'show' not 'tell'.



Class 4 have begun learning their new cautionary tale 'The Canal' which has already gripped the children as it unfolds, brimming with exciting themes of temptations, dangers and risks.

Attendance

This week's attendance is

Whole School: 98%

Class 1: 98%

Class 2: 98%

Class 3: 98%

Class 4: 97%



2026

Courage

Ambition

Kindness

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 21st January - Class 3 Forest School
Wednesday 28th January - Class 4 Forest School
Thursday 29th January - Class 3 Sharing Assembly
Tuesday 3rd February - Class 4 Sharing Assembly
Wednesday 11th February - Reception and Year 6
Height and Weight Checks (optional)

Class 2's Visit to Forest School

Class 2's first visit to Forest school in 2026 got off to a blazing start, quite literally! Our theme was The Great Fire of London and we built houses from sticks and discussed how wind and dry materials helped the fire spread in 1666. We discussed fire safety and how to make a safe fire circle. It was a very fun and informative session.

2026 - The Year Of Reading



Week 1 - Welcome to the Year of Reading

This year, our school proudly celebrates 2026 as The National Year of Reading. Reading is the heart of learning. It builds vocabulary, imagination, confidence and understanding, and supports children across every subject area.

At home: Create a calm and daily reading routine, even if it's just 10 minutes.

Recommended read: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle - a delightful beginning to reading for all ages.

Term Dates

Spring

Starts 06.01.26
Half Term 16.02.26-20.02.26
Ends 27.03.26

Summer

PD Day Mon 1st June 2026
Starts 13.04.26
Half Term 25.05.26-29.05.26
Ends 17.07.26



Uniform Reminder

There are an increasing amount of children wearing trainers to school on non-PE days. Please can you make sure that your child is wearing **black school shoes** as per our school policy. Thank you.

SPRING TERM SEND MEET & CHAT FAMILY DROP-IN

Hosted by Shropshire Early Help









Do you care for a child or young person with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)?

These sessions are open to anyone supporting a child with SEND — whether you're a parent carer, family member, or professional.

Come along to ask questions, get practical advice, and connect with professionals who understand your journey

Speak with experts in:

-  EHCPs
-  School support
-  Health and wellbeing
-  Social care
-  Mental health
-  Navigating SEND challenges

Each session will have different professionals available, so come along, have a chat, and find the help you need.

LUDLOW - HELENA LANE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Tuesday 20th January 2026
12:30pm-14:30pm

Helena Lane Community Centre, 20
Hamlet Rd, Ludlow,
SY8 2NP

SHREWSBURY THE LANTERN

Thursday 19th February 2026
10:00am-12:00pm

The Lantern,
Meadow Farm drive,
Shrewsbury, SY1 4NG

MARKET DRAYTON RAVEN HOUSE

Tuesday 24th March 2026
13:00pm-15:00pm

Raven House,
129 Cheshire Street,
Market Drayton TF9 3AH



HAVE YOUR SAY!

Scan the QR code to suggest topics and activities for future drop-in sessions.

Online Safety Newsletter

January 2026

Instagram Teen Accounts - update

You must be over 13 years of age to set up an account. Instagram is used to post photos and videos as well as send direct messages, make voice/video calls, and send disappearing messages.

Teen accounts are automatically set up for users aged 13 – 17. Instagram have announced that teens will now see content similar to content that they would see in a PG-13 movie.

Instagram have also updated their policies around content to include “hiding or not recommending posts with strong language, certain risky stunts, and additional content that could encourage potentially harmful behaviors”

Finally, for parents who would like to apply more stringent settings, Instagram are also introducing a new, stricter setting called ‘Limited Content.’ This setting will mean your child is not able to see, leave, or receive comments under posts as well.

You can read about the updates here:
<https://about.instagram.com/blog/announcements/instagram-teen-content-safety-pg-13>



Playing games online

Does your child play games online? We have outlined some risks that you should consider:



Chatting to strangers / risk of inappropriate language

Some games will allow communication via text chat, direct messages or chatting. Some games do offer the ability to switch communication off and/or the option to restrict bad language, so make sure settings appropriate to your child are applied. If your child is playing online with strangers, then you need to be aware that there is a risk of grooming. Some games do allow you to restrict communication to ‘friends only,’ however you would need to monitor that their online friends are real life friends. It can be difficult to moderate online chat so ensure your child knows how to block and report other players.

Cyberbullying

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they would not if they were face to face. Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect. Other forms of cyberbullying whilst playing games could be excluding others, criticising the ability of other players and ganging up on others.

In app purchases

Many games include the option to purchase additional items/ subscriptions so ensure you do not have payment cards saved or set up restrictions/ a password to approve purchases.

What can I do?

Set up parental controls - as well as setting up appropriate parental controls through the game’s settings, ensure you have set them up on the console/device your child is playing on.

Check age ratings - before buying the game, check that your child is old enough to play it. All games will either have a PEGI rating or be rated by the App Store/Google Play.

Chat to your child regularly about the risks above so that they are aware of what can happen online and remind them to always talk to you or a trusted adult if they have any concerns

Further information

CEOP provides further guidance and support regarding this topic:
<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>