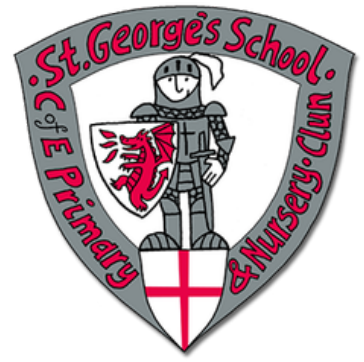


St George's CE Academy

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



Newsletter

6th March 2026

This week in school...

Class 1 returned to Forest School for the first time this year and they looked for signs of Spring and new life and explored the boundaries. It was Class 1's turn for Sharing Assembly and it was so lovely for the children to share their work with their parents and family members.

In Science, Class 2 explored the properties of different materials by carrying out an investigation into which materials can change shape through squashing, stretching, twisting and bending. They also explained why some materials can change shape.

Class 3 were involved in some exciting activities for World Book Day. They were lucky enough to watch a live lesson linking to stories about food by Michael Rosen. They even got to see him perform his famous cake story! They also took part in the Great Big World Book Day Footy and Booky 2026 Quiz which included questions from famous footballers and authors. What a fantastic week!

The year 6's in Class 4 practised their core cycling skills and riding on the road for Bikeability. They learnt how to control their bike, starting/stopping, avoiding hazards and braking. When out on the road they considered their positioning, passing parked cars safely and priorities at junctions making them all more confident riders.

Attendance

This week's attendance is

Whole School: 97%

Class 1: 95%

Class 2: 98%

Class 3: 94%

Class 4: 97%



FRIDAY 20 MARCH

To support Red Nose Day, children are invited to come to school wearing something red for a suggested donation of £1. Let's fill the school with red and raise lots of money for a fantastic cause. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Courage

Ambition

Kindness

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 10th March - Class 4 Sharing Assembly at 2.45pm
Wednesday 11th March - Class 3 Forest School
Thursday 12th March - Birdbox Workshop for Classes 3 and 4
Thursday 12th March - Class 2 Sharing Assembly at 2.45pm
Monday 16th to Wednesday 18th March - Arthog Residential for Class 4
Friday 20th March - Red Nose Day
Tuesday 24th & Wednesday 25th March - Parents Evening
Tuesday 24th March - Nursery Induction 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Thursday 26th March - No Young Engineers
Monday 23rd March - Easter Service at 2pm in the Church

Term Dates

Spring

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

Autumn

PD Days Tues 1st & Wed 2nd Sept 2026

Starts Thurs 3rd Sept 2026

Half Term 26.10.26 - 30.10.26

World Book Day 2026

What a fun day with Amazing Costumes!



2026 - The Year Of Reading



Week 7 - Reading Is a Daily Habit

Short, consistent reading sessions are more powerful than occasional long ones.

At home: Link reading to an everyday routine, such as after dinner or before bed.

Recommended read: The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson – gentle encouragement for daily reading and reflection.

Class 2's Visit to Forest School

Class 2 had an uplifting morning at Forest School this week in the beautiful Spring sunshine. They discussed the fire triangle and using this made a spark using flint and steel. A fire was lit and they whittled a stick to toast marshmallows over the fire.



SM&AG

DEADLINE: FRI 27 MAR 2026

Photo © John More

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

↑ Competition

A call to photographers of all ages - Capture the wild

Enter our Wildlife Photography Competition by Friday 27 March, with categories for under 11s, ages 12–18 and adults. See website for details:

www.shropshiremuseums.org.uk/events/

Calling All Young Wildlife Photographers!

Love exploring outside? Spotting birds, bugs, foxes—or cool textures on trees and plants? Now's your chance to capture the wild side of your local area! We're inviting pupils and teachers to enter our Local Wildlife Photography Competition. No fancy camera needed—just curiosity, creativity, and a good eye for nature.

What to Photograph

Animals big or small

Birds, insects, and other creatures

Trees, flowers, plants, and natural patterns

Signs of wildlife in your community

Creative close-ups of natural textures

How to Take Part

1. Head outdoors and look closely.
2. Snap an image that shows wildlife in a striking or surprising way.
3. Email your best photo to shropshiremuseums@shropshire.gov.uk with:

Your name, age and school

A title + short description

Where and when you took it



Key Dates

Deadline: Friday 27 March

Winners announced: Friday 10 April



Prizes

Winning photos displayed alongside the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition at Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery (25 April–20 June)

Free exhibition tickets for you and your family (up to 4)



Rules

One entry per person

Your own photo only

Minor edits allowed (crop, brightness, etc.)

Submit a JPEG under 10MB, minimum size 600×600. Keep your original/RAW files for printing



St George's CE Academy

Help Us Grow Our Library!



We're raising funds to buy **50 brand-new recommended reads** for each year group from the amazing **Books for Topics** website.

These carefully chosen books will **inspire, excite** and support **every learner's journey** — from curious beginners to **confident readers**.

Every **donation, big or small**, brings us one step closer to a library that sparks joy, curiosity and lifelong love of reading.



DONATE NOW!

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/fundraisers/50-new-recommended-reads-for-each-year-group-1770743866>



Online Safety Newsletter

March 2026

YouTube Safety Update: New Parental Controls

YouTube have published their latest update on how parents can support their child on YouTube. YouTube will now allow parents to set the amount of time viewing Shorts – this can even be set to zero. YouTube Shorts are short videos, usually less than 60 seconds long, which when continuously watched, can lead to excessive screentime. Furthermore, parents will also be able to set bedtime and ‘take a break’ reminders. You can find out more here:

<https://blog.youtube/news-and-events/updates-youtube-supervised-accounts-teens/>

If you would like to find out more about supervised accounts on YouTube, then this article explains the different settings available:

https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420?hl=en-GB&ref_topic=15279060&sjid=15225282118002181205-EU

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/march-2026/>

Mobile phones: do you know the risks?

We know that children having access to a smartphone can expose children to risks including:

- Viewing inappropriate content
- Excessive screen time/use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep pattern.
- Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Spending money on in-app purchases/scams

What effects do mobile phones have on children’s mental health?

Compass discuss the research around this important topic, outlining the positive and negative effects that mobile phones have:

<https://compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/online-resources/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

EE Online Safety Hub

EE has published age guidance for smartphone usage to improve children’s digital wellbeing. In summary, they recommend that children under 11 should use non-smart devices, for children aged 11-13, they advise that if a smartphone is used, then parental controls should be enabled and access to social media restricted. Finally, for 13-16-year-olds they still recommend that parental controls are implemented and appropriate restrictions set up. You can read the full guidance here:

<https://ee.co.uk/internet-online-safety>

Could you delay when your child is given a smartphone with Smartphone Free Childhood?

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

What device?

When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then ‘Which?’ provide an overview of some options available:

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/mobile-phones/article/buying-a-first-mobile-phone-best-dumb-phones-and-smartphones-for-kids-aA03C3Y8aTzr>

Virtual Private Networks

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) helps make your connection between a device and the internet more secure and can help protect personal information and add privacy. However, whilst a VPN has benefits, it is important that you are aware that if your child is using a VPN, they may be able to get round Wi-Fi restrictions, access blocked or restricted websites and bypass parental controls. It may also mean that their browsing history is hidden.

The NSPCC provides a helpful overview of VPNs, plus top tips and conversation starters here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/vpns-and-online-safety/>

Social Media Algorithms

What is an Algorithm?

Algorithms influence what we see on social media platforms and predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with, thereby keeping us online for longer. The algorithm uses information such as who you follow, what you have searched for and what you have watched, liked or shared to determine what it thinks most interests you. It will then show you this content more, for example, in the explore tab on Instagram.



What do I need to know?

Whilst there are benefits to algorithms, for example it means we tend to see content that does interest us, unfortunately there are negatives as well. They can lead to increased screentime as we continue to see things that interest us. Secondly, it can lead to users being shown large amounts of inappropriate content which can for example, exacerbate negative body image or heighten access to misogyny content. It can also lead to 'echo chambers' where you are only seeing content that relates to your opinion rather than seeing a balanced viewpoint.

Further information

- <https://cybersmarties.com/behind-the-screen-how-algorithms-shape-what-kids-see-online/>
- The BBC discuss algorithms in this article about doomscrolling: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zwnk3qt>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.03.26. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement of the linked websites, documents, or videos, nor are we claiming any ownership or copyright in the content of the linked materials.

Five Nights at Freddy's

Five Nights at Freddy's is a horror game designed to frighten players with jump scares or creepy characters. It can be accessed from several places, for example on an Xbox (PEGI rating of 12) and on the App store (age rating of 13+). There is merchandise available, which may suggest that it is child friendly. We would recommend that you preview the game first to ascertain its suitability for your child. You can view Bark's review here:

<https://www.bark.us/content-review/five-nights-at-freddys-review/>

Screen time and online harms

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health have created a page that brings together key resources on screen time. Find out more here:

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/screen-time-online-harms-resources-members>

New government campaign: Is your child influenced by toxic content?

The Government have launched a new campaign providing guidance to parents on safety settings, conversation prompts and advice for tackling misinformation and harmful content. It also includes a quiz to help you and your child spot misleading or unreliable information online. You can find out more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/is-your-child-influenced-by-toxic-content-new-government-campaign-supports-parents-to-talk-about-harmful-online-content>