

SEE THE GRAPEVINE

MONDAY 30 March 2020 XXX · VIII · MMXX

Well, how you all doing!? Here's the weekly newsletter—it does contain additional information from what's on facebook, in addition to some repetition.... It's just another way of trying to communicate with you all, and keep you all in the loop best we can.

I think between all SLMT we've now spoken to you all, and what a great group of people you are. You're performing minor miracles... being a parent, holding down your jobs, and now teaching as well! Take it easy out there, and remember there's enough pressure on us.... Don't add unnecessary pressure on yourselves.... If it's working for you, its working for me.

Strangely, and rather unexpectedly I'm finding myself very busy! Im not quite sure why.... There is actually a lot going on behind the scenes.... Staff are continuing to be absolutely mega on the social media, and see saw... and know every school is doing their bit, and actually, not that it is for me to be proud of my colleagues, but I'm genuinely so impressed at what my headteacher colleagues are doing around Chorley—what a great place to work, to live and to be socially isolated in—take a look at the brilliant book benches as well on your daily hours exercise...another feather in the cap for Chorley!

At school we have ran an advert for 2 teachers this year. No one is leaving, but Rachel will start her official maternity in September, and we need an additional teacher apropos school expansion.

That said, I've spoken to all teachers, and released the teaching line up for next year on the next page.... Kids haven't yet been allocated to classes yet, we will do this over the course of the term, and release as normal, when we send out your report.... Which we will do as normal, although clearly they're only going to comment on the 1st 2 terms in school!

Take care folks

Andy xx

SAS, our supply agency, have given us access to fitter futures. Their home programme helps fight obesity, supports mental well being, improves concentration and can help with behaviour issues. The passwords are scanned and attached to the newsletter. The link is below. I've not put the passwords on the internet as not all school buy into SAS insurance—it's fab!

<https://www.fitterfuture.com/>

The teaching line up, and class structure for next year!

I am absolutely delighted with the teaching line up for next year—full of talent, enthusiasm and passion! We'll hopefully have a lot of laughs, make a few mistakes of course, but get most things spot on to the benefit of all, enjoy ourselves and thrive. I suppose most of all I hope we're back! We are filtering through changes still—you know that, not just following our small expansion, that's easy, more the 2 intakes of 40, following lost appeals! A few years back.

Classes 1 & 2 Reception kids—our new children. Welcome!

Siobhan Horder and **Michelle Yates** (Assistant Head for SENCO & Curriculum lead)

Located in the current reception base. Although 2 classes, they will very much work as one!

Class 3 30 Year 1 Children (See next page for more info)

Louise Darlington. Assistant Headteacher & Assessment Lead, Located in the green room along the promenade

Class 4 Year 1/2 Children (15 of each) (See See next page for more info)

Emma Smith (am) and **Jenny Leap (pm)** will be teaching you in the orange room based along the promenade

Class 5 30 Year 2 kids (See next page for more info)

Nicola Cook (Assistant Head for SENCO & Curriculum lead) based in the promenade purple room.

Class 6 29 Year 3 kids

One of our new teachers will be teaching you. You will be upstairs, located in Rob Horne's current class.

Class 7 30 Year 3/4 kids

Angela Makepeace. Located in Georgina's current room—upstairs

Class 8 30 Year 4/5 kids

Tom Norris. You already know Tom, and he'll be teaching you in the blue classroom along the promenade

Class 9 Year 5 kids

One of our new teachers will be teaching you. You will be downstairs in Siobhans current classroom. That may take some of you back intime to when you were in year 1! But don't worry... it will be very different! I have a beautiful plan!

Class 10 20 Year 6 kids

You will be taught by **Georgina Berry** in the current Arena room

And finally Class 11 will be the other 20 year 6 Kids., and you will be based in Mr Norris's current classroom! **Rob Horne will be teaching you.**

Anne Fothergill will continue teaching in all classes

Naomi Harrison joins Anne in teaching all classes. Naomi will be working 3 days at St George's and 1 day at Mossy Lea. A new job for Naomi as she balances being a myum, with her career! It will be ace to have Naomi back! We really have missed her

Rachel Steel I'm, err "delighted" to inform that that Rachel, and her partner Gabe, are expecting their 1st child! Rachel will be enjoying the longest maternity possible I think. Should things have been normal, Rachel will have left us at Summer, but things have changed haven't they! In any event, Rachel will be returning to us around Easter 2021 will be helping teachers with Intervention classes, and giving them release time for their subject leadership, before resuming work full time from September 2021. Im sure you join me in wishing Rachel, and Gabe all the very best

Questions re school structure

Given the circumstances, and having only limited presence around the place, let me go into a little more detail about the class organising—I'll try and pre-empt your thoughts. Questions normally surround mixed aged classes, and friendship groups. Firstly, let me reassure you, mixed aged classes are normal. St George's has always had them—always. No child is advanced a year. No child is held back a year. The work will not be harder in one class, or easier in another. Every child will cover their age appropriate curriculum. Mixed aged classes will be much easier to manage now.... We're up year 3 being full at 45, which means that kids now, upto year 3 are grouped into mini groups of 15. This mean that even though they rotate around a bit, it also means that they have the security of always being with the same group of 15 kids. This way kids get the best of both worlds.... They are find their security and confidence from being with the same 15, yet over the years make great friends with all 45 kids in their year group, and that gives them oodles of confidence for when they move onto high school.

I often get we asked how we organise the mini groups of 15. We do this in reception. It's purely based on age. Nothing else. Occasionally, if needed we will adjust the groups if for example there isn't a appropriate proportion of boys and girls. And when necessary we take into account parent requests. Please note we only take this into account for exceptional circumstances i.e. circumstances that are peculiar to a particular child, rather than parents requests for friendship groups. If we did the latter, we would potentially lose the overall belief of a random group of kids... it would become selective. And that's not right.

My 2nd main point, is that of friendship groups. Over 2 years children will be with every child in the year group, so they will meet everyone. Furthermore, kids will always have break time, and lunch with everyone from their class, and key stage, go on trips with them etc.... So they are not separate. Of course, during lessons, the kids may not be with their "best friends" - but very often this term is used because parents are "friends" and the reality of it is, the kids don't play together at school, it's just that the parents want them to! That said, we do ensure that children are with their friends in school—I don't want any kids to lose the confidence that having a friend brings, but it is also good for children to mix with all children in their 45.... Having a social circle of 45 is far better than a social circle of 1 or 2.... So please don't worry if your child isn't always with their "best friends" of the time—they have plenty of time to be with them I promise!

As of yet children haven't been put into classes—it's easy for reception—to year 2 kids, you're already in your 15's, and we'll rotate you round. If you're in a "mixed aged class" this year, you won't be next year... but remember , you will be with your 15! Those kids in the current year 3—for the 1st time we are going to split you up! This split will be done on age. Don't be worrying about this Once we have split the group I will let you know.

And year 5 kids—you're either in the blue promenade room, or the newly modified Siobhan's room. You're going to have a door knocked through from the promenade, so that you can scamper in to the blue room for a chat with your year 5 friends! It will be very exciting!

And current year 5—can I thank you for your patience, understanding and conversation throughout the years, in particular those of you in the current class 8. You have really worked with me, and we can now do what you have wanted—put the kids back with their peers as 2 small year 6 classes. You'll have the time of your life with Rob and Georgina.

We have 3 main ways of sharing information.

Facebook—St Georges Primary School Chorley. We have sub divided the topics, so that some things at least can be more easily searched for.

- ⇒ Home Schooling. This is where we post any links to ideas and plans for home schooling. It links to our website where we have a never expanding list of links and ideas for you to build your own timetable, or rather daily structure.
- ⇒ Urgent Contact Details. Here are, well, all urgent contact details that you may need, including the generic email help@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk which is monitored daily by school staff
- ⇒ Andy's weekly Address is where I put the , well, err, weekly address from the newsletter!
- ⇒ 6 Sunday Saviours. This is where I post my Sunday 6 tips to help you firstly realise how much you are doing, and secondly to keep your mind spinning relatively slowly, and focussed on the things that, well, might matter.
- ⇒ Possible Daily Structure. Self Explanatory.... If you need a potential structure, there's one in here!
- ⇒ FSM information. This is where will will try and keep you upto date re FSM information.

We also have a dedicated **email** for you to use—help@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk

The **School Web site** is fully up to speed, and Louise keep on top of that for us. Here's the link.

<https://www.st-georges.lancs.sch.uk/news/?pid=13&nid=2&storyid=95>

We also use scopay to text and email you.

If you have any problems at all, please get in touch.... If I can't sort it, I will know someone who can!

Take care folks, keep your chins up, keep your distance, and I'll see you all very soon.

Andy xx