



Christmas



Usually at this time of year we would be looking forward to our Christmas Fair and asking parents to help their children in decorating and filling Christmas bags for the tombola, donate raffle prizes, bake cakes as well as buy raffle tickets.

We know we ask a lot from our lovely parents and really appreciate the wonderful support that you continue to give us throughout the year, especially at Christmas.

For obvious reasons, none of this can take place this year and we are sad not to be able to celebrate with the children, parents, staff members and local community. Keeping safe is a priority and let's hope we get back to normal soon.

We are not asking for donations to our Christmas activities this year as we know what a difficult time everybody has been having since March -our main aim is to make sure all the children have a wonderful festive time!

Though things are very different this year, we aim to make sure that all the children at St George's have a very Christmassy time at nursery.

We are planning lots of lovely activities for the children during December, including; "virtual" magic shows by Captain Fantastic's Elves for our pre-school children, lots of Christmas fun and messy play for our babies and toddlers and as always, the After School Club and Holiday Club children will be kept very busy and



Although we are unable to have a visit from Father Christmas in person this year, all the groups of children will receive a "virtual" visit from him at his home in the North Pole!

He will be sure to reassure them that though

he is unable to visit them in the nursery this year, due to the travel restrictions, he is busy getting ready for Christmas Eve and it will be business as usual on that night for him and his reindeers!

Welcome

We have been overwhelmed by the support of the parents and staff at St George's this year and with all our events having to be cancelled, this has never been more needed. We would like to thank everyone who has taken on a challenge to raise money for us or donate - we are extremely grateful.

Pyjama Day



Lots of the children and staff enjoyed coming into nursery in their PJs! Our Annual Pyjama Days have raised £144! Thank you everyone!

Kent Charity Awards

Earlier this year St George's entered The Kent Charity Awards for the "Children's Charity of the Year" award and "Community Charity of the Year" award but, due to COVID-19, the awards have been postponed until next year.

The Awards committee asked us to add to our entries "How has Covid-19 affected us and how we have adapted to the situation and how has St George's shown resilience during the pandemic".

Last month we asked parents if they would like to provide us with a testimonial about how you think we have coped during this unprecedented time or have any feedback whatsoever for us to use as part of our application and/or possibly use in future marketing. We received some wonderful feedback from a few parents but would love to hear from more parents, if you have the time.

Please email Becky on becky.king@stgeorgeschildcare.co.uk

Fundraising Challenges

We have amazing and creative members of staff who continue to think up fun and exciting fundraising activities and our very own Steph is inviting you to take up the following challenge:-

CALLING ALL FUNDRAISERS – (Staff, Children, Families, Friends, Pets)

Fundraising plays a massive part to keep St George's Childcare functioning and, like so many other charities, all fundraising events have had to be cancelled. I have worked as a Childcare Practitioner at St George's for over 26 years and wanted to do something to help our wonderful nursery, therefore myself and Mel have taken this opportunity to do a "Virtual" Half Marathon, as the TW Half Marathon 2021 has been cancelled.



We are going to walk 13 miles up and down our driveway without stopping, on **Sunday 14th February 2021** (this is the date the TW event was meant to take place). We hope that you too cannot think of a better way to spend Valentine's Day and challenge yourselves!

You could try running, walking or cycling for 13 miles, at a location of your choice, either alone or with family, friends and/or pets.

If you would like to support or challenge and support St George's, here is the link

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/StephanieArmstrongBotley>

Our wonderful Sarah Kempster, Senior Childcare Leader in Little Dragons, has set her own incredible challenge that will also benefit St George's. This is Sarah's second challenge this year - along with her 3 daughters, she completed an amazing 24 hour in-door bike ride at home back in May, raising over £1,500 for St George's, which was amazing.



Sarah is passionate about St George's and wanted to help us even more and set her own personal challenge too. She thought that as the message is to stay at home and only go out for

exercise, she would dust her bikes off (exercise and road bikes) and set herself a big personal challenge.

She has decided to cycle the equivalent of John O'Groats to Lands End and complete it on her birthday, 18th February 2021. The total distance is 1745km and she is aiming to cycle about 17kms per day for 102 days - she has already completed over 300km - well done Sarah!

This is a massive challenge for Sarah, and we all think she is amazing for giving so much of her time and effort to support St George's in this way. If you would like to support Sarah and ultimately St George's, you can donate by clicking on this link

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SarahKempster>

Mayor's Toy Appeal 2020



For over 30 years The Mayor's Toy Appeal has been bringing joy to local children and teenagers whose families find Christmas an especially difficult time of year. Sadly, this Christmas may be more difficult for them than most.

Please visit <http://www.twmta.co.uk/> to donate if you can.

Many thanks

