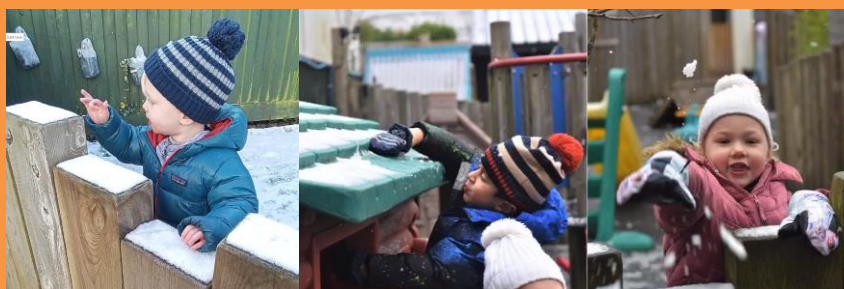




Welcome

We hope you all had a lovely and relaxing Christmas and New Year, though it seems to be a distant memory already!

We have had a great month back and had a variety of weather to enjoy already, including snow at the beginning of the month.



St George's team have a lot of exciting plans coming up this year and can't wait to share it all with you.

Staff

We are delighted to welcome back Nenita to St George's. Nenita was a member of our management team for several years and has now returned to being Senior Childcare Leader (SCL) in our Badgers room.

We also welcome Tom Killeen to our team as our Maintenance Assistant and Minibus driver.

We have several members of staff on maternity leave or due to go on maternity leave this year. If they are a key worker, then the management team will do their best to give your children a smooth transition to another member of staff.

Information

15 hours code for Funding for children over the age of 2

Please don't forget to apply before 31st March. If you have any questions or need information, please come and speak to a member of the office team or visit

[Childcare Choices](#) | [30 Hours Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More](#) | [Help with Costs](#) | [GOV.UK](#)

Car park



The car park now has allocated 'Parent parking' bays which were implemented this month.

We hope this helps to make drop off and collections easier.

Garden redesign



We are excited to announce that this Spring we will be updating our garden and play areas. The management team have been working hard with local companies and decided on a design that will inspire and excite the children when they play outside.

Room Fundraisers

Along with their huge contribution to the Christmas Fair the rooms were very busy holding their own fundraisers towards the end of last year. Squirrels, Hedgehogs, Moles and Badgers all held pyjama days. Hedgehogs, Otters and After School Club arranged their own Christmas photoshoots, selling either digital images or a printed photo to parents. Little Dragons held a craft evening for parents and a Christmas Concert. Otters organised a Nativity at St Johns Church and Hedgehogs had an activity morning.

The total sum raised from these events was £732.40 and each room has added to the funds they have to spend on resources and outings of their choice.



We are delighted that one of our parents, Carlos Gris, will be running the Hendy Tunbridge Wells Half Marathon on Sunday 18th February, to raise funds for St George's. It is a notoriously difficult course, so we are extremely grateful to Carlos for taking on the challenge.



If you would like to show your support for Carlos please visit his fundraising page to sponsor him [St George's Community Children's Project: Carlos runs the TW Half Marathon for St George's \(enthuse.com\)](http://StGeorge'sCommunityChildren'sProject:CarlosrunstheTWHalfMarathonforStGeorge's(enthuse.com).).

All funds raised will go towards our key fundraising projects:-

- Improve our Garden Space to make a greener environment for the children
- Provide sufficient Funds for subsidised places (to support 20+ families)
- Source new equipment and resources for the setting

If you would like to take on a challenge to raise funds for St George's, or have any ideas for fundraising events we would love to hear from you.

Please contact jo.bailey@stgeorgeschildcare.co.uk

We are currently putting together our schedule for fundraising events in the coming months so please watch this space for further details.

Thank you

My time as interim Fundraiser for St George's is coming to an end, and we are really looking forward to welcoming Amy Pearce-Watts back from maternity leave at the end of February.

I have really enjoyed having the opportunity to meet so many of you over the past nine months and would like to say a huge thank you for all your help and support.

Jo Bailey



Diary Dates

Little Dragons end of term	Friday 9 th February
ASC last day	Friday 9 th February
February Half Term Holiday Club starts	Monday 12 th February
Valentines Day	Wednesday 14 th February
Valentines stay and play in Moles room	Wednesday 14 th February

Please review us

[St George's Childcare, 7 Chilston Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9LP \(daynurseries.co.uk\)](http://StGeorge'sChildcare,7ChilstonRoad,TunbridgeWells,KentTN49LP(daynurseries.co.uk))

Facebook



Follow St George's Facebook page to see the fun activities that the children and staff enjoy!

www.facebook.com/StGeorgesChildcare



February Half term holiday club is almost full, but we have a couple of sessions left.

Please email

holidayclub@stgeorgeschildcare.co.uk

Squirrels



Since coming back from the Christmas break, the staff have moved the room around. We have introduced a physical room which includes a climbing frame, slide, ball pit as well as ride on toys, tents and tunnels.

The children have really loved taking risks and seeing how far they can push themselves and especially enjoyed using the climbing frame and slide.

Hedgehogs

This month Hedgehogs have done lots of messy play! The children enjoyed playing in the snow which prompted some ice and snow themed play, including coloured ice cubes and snow dough.

We have also been exploring music, doing lots of dancing, singing and playing with instruments.

We are looking forward to Chinese New Year next month and have started some crafts already!



After School Club



It's been a busy month in ASC! Our Winter display board has come along nicely with glitter snowflakes and winter themes artwork.

The children have been using pastels to create even more pictures.

Some of the children wanted to use the water tray and had lots of fun, especially when Zoe added bubbles!

Moles

Moles have been extremely busy this month! They have been discovering patterns, identifying colours and testing their counting skills with the Math cubes. The children have shown a huge interest in numbers over the past few weeks.

We appreciate your patience whilst our bathroom is being renovated, we are excited to have this finished soon, the children have already started painting some artwork for the new Sealife theme in the bathroom.

We are looking forward to celebrating Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day next month.

Date for the diary: 14th Feb - Moles Valentines play and stay 9.30-11am



Little Dragons

The Little Dragons children have been fascinated by the cold weather spell we are having and the changes they are noticing in their environment, especially seeing the first snow flurries and trying to catch it through the open windows. They have investigated the properties of ice, hunting for icy patches in the garden, breaking up some huge blocks of ice that were found in the allotment, and 'rescuing' insect toys from the ice when they were left outside overnight!

The children have enjoyed lots of messy play as well as planting bulbs kindly donated by Notcutts.

Lots of children have been chatting about different modes of transport, sharing their ideas, and taking on roles in their play. They helped create a big red bus to extend the fun, taking turns to sell tickets, drive the bus and be passengers.



Otters

Badgers

When we all came back after the Christmas break, lots of the Otters were still speaking about Christmas and what presents they got. The children made their families New Year cards and we made firework pictures, with a wish on for the new year!

The children have also been enjoying working on their hand-eye coordination. We played bowling, throwing games and using the loose parts in the garden!

We've been enjoying the snow and ice that the cold weather has produced and the children enjoyed throwing snowballs at the adults and experimenting with paint and ice to watch for the different changes!

We've enjoyed sharing different stories that the children have brought in from home and from one deduced that lots of the children would like to be police officers when they're older. This sparked a detective investigation around the room to find different pieces of evidence, as well as making a police car from loose parts in the garden and a number recognition messy tray!



It has been great to see everyone after the Christmas break and lovely to hear about all the presents everyone got.

This month we have settled back into our regular routine and welcomed Nenita as our new room leader. The children have enjoyed the rainy weather and had a couple of trips to the park for a nature walk. They also enjoyed completing a nature hunt tick list. The wet weather also allowed us to explore more science activities, baking and indoor action games.

We have talked about birds as we are taking part in the RSPB Birdwatch week! Badgers also enjoyed bringing their favourite books and dressing up as the characters for our Storytelling Week! And a HUGE thank you to the parents who have come in and read a book to the children and being part of our Storytelling Week!