



## REMINDER:

**Masks need to be worn at drop off and pick up**

## Welcome

As we carry on living through a part of history, we are proud that St George's is serving our community and continuing to deliver outstanding childcare for your children.

We cannot praise our staff enough for their hard work and dedication. Unfortunately, several of them have been quite unwell with Covid-19 and we wanted to take this opportunity to wish them well and a speedy recovery.

After nearly a year of this 'new normal', we know how hard some days can be. As part of the St George's family, we hope that everyone stays safe and remembers to do adhere to the guidelines.



## Staff

We have asked some of the office staff to work from home where possible during this lockdown. There will be a Childcare Manager in the office each day and the staff will still be contactable every day via phone and email.

## Diary Dates

Squirrels and Hedgehogs room reopen	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Little Dragons last day of term	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February
February Half term club	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Little Dragons new term starts	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February



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

<https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgesChildcare>

## COVID 19- protocols

- Squirrel/ Badger and Otters parents: To ease congestion by the back gate, only 2 people can enter at a time
- Please continue to socially distance at drop off and pick up.
- Please can we have one adult per child at pick up
- Masks must be worn at drop off and pick up.
- Please be mindful of other parents waiting to drop off/ collect their child- if you have concerns or wish to share additional details please can you call the office or email [childcaremanager@stgeorgeschildcare.co.uk](mailto:childcaremanager@stgeorgeschildcare.co.uk)

## Invoices

The invoice run for January has been resent due to the room closures.

It is worth noting that;

- Each billed that was emailed superseded the last bill sent.
- Sessions booked for the month January were not all charged for whilst the rooms were closed.
- Any payments made before the bills were recalculated will be left as a credit.

If you have queries or questions about your bill please email

[accounts@stgeorgeschildcare.co.uk](mailto:accounts@stgeorgeschildcare.co.uk)

# Fundraising

Like every charity, all our events for last year had to be cancelled due to the pandemic and, unfortunately, we are unable to plan any of our normal events for 2021, due to the current restrictions and extremely worrying time. Our fundraising has obviously been affected greatly and, more importantly, we have really missed putting on events where children, parents, families, carers and staff can come together and socialise - let us hope that later in the year we can safely do just that - fingers crossed!

## Donate to the Den Appeal

This year our fundraising focus is to raise funds to renovate/ rejuvenate/ refurbish our Den in the garden. As most parents that have children who started with us prior to March 2020 will know, the Den plays a big part in every child's day at St George's. Sadly, this has not been the case since the pandemic struck due to restrictions and keeping everyone distanced, but once our lives get back to normal, it will do so again. It has, however, been utilised as a temporary staff room for one of our "staff bubbles" to go for their breaks, in line with current regulations.

The Den (in usual times) is used for many things - it has always been a place the children can go during "garden time" to sit quietly and look at a book if they wish, do some drawing or construction play or when they just need a quiet chat and/or cuddle with a member of staff if they are upset or not feeling well. We also use it for "Santa's Grotto" at Christmas; crafts/ stalls/ refreshments at the Summer Fair; staff training; fundraising events to name but a few.

The Den is a large pre-fab construction in the garden that was built many years ago and is now in need of complete refurbishment. This will include internal reconstruction, plumbing to be installed for a toilet and sink, a new heating system and new flooring, doors and windows. The new Den will be used as it always has but we are hoping for it to be so much more - we want it to be a flexible space where all the children can enjoy it as an extra room for soft play/sensory play/cooking/putting on shows/special projects etc.,

If any parents feel able to help with anything to do with this project - whether it be manual skills, providing materials, ideas or donations, we would love to hear from you - please email our Fundraising Manager Becky at [becky.king@stgeorgeschildcare.co.uk](mailto:becky.king@stgeorgeschildcare.co.uk).

## Sarah's Challenge

Our wonderful Sarah Kempster, Childcare Manager of Little Dragons, started her own challenge last November - to cycle the equivalent of Lands End to John O'Groats before her birthday at the end of February this year. Sarah is clocking up the miles by using both her exercise bike and her road bike -the total distance she has to cycle is 1730.2kms, which is a massive challenge! Despite working at St George's, caring for her family and having to isolate twice due to COVID-19, Sarah is on track to complete this brilliant challenge to raise funds for St George's Childcare. Thankyou Sarah for committing to this amazing challenge which we know has not been easy - Team St George's is extremely proud of you!

Please visit <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SarahKempster> if you would like to donate.

## St George's Half Marathon for 'Donate to the Den' Appeal

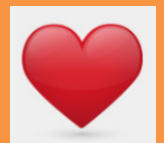
In previous years, several parents and staff have taken part in the Tunbridge Wells Half Marathon to raise funds for St George's.

This event was due to take part on Sunday 14th February (Valentine's Day) this year but has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

One of our amazing members of staff, Steph, came up with the idea of walking the equivalent of a half marathon (13 miles) with Mel on that day, up and down their driveway, to fundraise for us.

We would like to invite you to take part in The St George's Half Marathon on Sunday February 14th by walking, running or cycling 13 miles, either alone or as a combined family challenge - 4 family members could take part in a 3.25 mile walk perhaps?

You can choose when and where to take part - what better way to spend Valentine's Day!!



If you would like to set up a Virgin Giving Money page to raise funds for St George's that would be great, but if you just fancy getting out and challenging yourselves, we would love to see photos.

If you don't fancy taking part but would like to support Steph, please visit <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/StephanieArmstrongBotley> if you would like to support Steph in her Half Marathon challenge for St George's.



# Squirrels



This month Squirrels have been exploring different textures.

They have fun playing with a variety of messy play item including; rice, cotton wool, tissue paper, paint, glue, tinsel and lots of other textured materials.

The children enjoyed creating their own textured pictures which are now on a display board in squirrels.

# Hedgehogs

This month hedgehogs have been exploring our farm animal theme. The children have enjoyed painting cows, sticking cotton wool on sheep and adding feathers to chicks.

Hedgehogs have loved reading animal stories, singing animal songs and learning about the different sounds that animals make.

Hedgehogs have also welcomed some news friends from Squirrels who have settled in well and have been preparing some of the Hedgehogs children for their transition to the moles room.

Next month, hedgehogs look forward to learning about Chinese New Year and exploring Valentine's Day.



# Moles

## Staff

We are pleased to welcome several new members of staff to our team; Jason, Shelin, Megan, Sue and Alice.

We say goodbye Vikki, Stevie-Leigh and Rachel and wish them well for the future.

## Review Us



<https://g.page/StGeorgesChildcare/review>



Moles have been focusing on 'Space' and 'Animals' as their subjects this month.

They have made a solar system display and a sea and land display board - with lots of activities based around their subject, including cutting out animal shapes in playdough and sensory play in tuft trays with dried beans and transport vehicles.

They have also managed to go on a few walks and have loved being outside in the fresh air.

# Little Dragons



Little Dragons had an exciting start to the new term, going on the St George's minibus to the woods. We collected sticks, played hide and seek and went on a lovely walk. We really hope we will be able to go on more trips this term.

We are continuing with our Winter topic and have made some lovely Winter crafts, including some beautiful snow globes and snowflakes. We are focusing on the calendar and weather in our other topic. The children are getting good at remembering the days of the week and months of the year using the songs they have learnt.

Another focus this term is looking at our names recognising them and learning the letter sounds. Some of the children have also been writing their names and labels for our display boards.

In sugar awareness week we talked about health eating and did some activities connected to this, including a brushing teeth activity which the children loved.

We have also welcomed some new children to Little Dragons this term. Everyone is settling in well and enjoying getting to know each other.

## Otters

Otters, for the month of January, have been looking at arctic animals and Winter, where they have been looking at germs and how to take care of ourselves to stay healthy.

They have also celebrated lots of national holidays, including Winnie the Pooh Day and National Penguin Day, where they enjoyed playing lots of fun games! Our favourite story for the month has been Stickman. They really enjoyed our trip to the park to collect sticks and then making them into our own Stickmen! Next month they look forward to celebrating Chinese New Year!

Also, they will be putting a lost property box by the entrance gate. Please can we ask that you check this for your child's clothing and that any clothing is labelled with your child's name. Thank you.



## Badgers



This month was shorter for badgers than expected but they still managed to have a great new year in the short time we were open on January.

To celebrate New year's we made 'olliebollen', a traditional Dutch fried doughnut eaten in the new year, made posters and watched firework displays.

The children spoke about what they got for Christmas and because many children received various dinosaur related presents and dinosaurs were a hot topic of discussion, we decided to focus on them. We started making a paper mache dinosaur land and looked at fossils and dinosaur bones learning about how fossils were formed and then went digging in the sand tray for our own bones and fossils.

We are looking forward to returning to our normal routine soon.