



# St Andrew's Church of England (VC) Primary School

'Learn to love and love to learn; in God's love each one will shine.'

*"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." Matthew 4:19*

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## St Andrew's Weekly Update

Date: 14.10.24 Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham

Value: Thankfulness

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have continued celebrating Harvest and the seasons in a variety of ways. Last Wednesday, Miss Sewell and I went with our school choir to St Albans Cathedral to take part in the Diocesan School Harvest Festival. This was a lovely occasion which allowed our children to give thanks, with other local schools, for our own harvest and to reflect on harvests in other countries. Thank you to all of the parents/carers who helped transport our children to the event. We were very proud of Thomas (Year 6) who confidently stood in front of the whole congregation to present one of the readings.



This year the Diocese is collecting for sufferers of leprosy in Sri Lanka

<https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/parishsupport/growing-community/bishop-of-st-albans-harvest-appeal-2024/>

### Reception Harvest Feast

The Reception children each brought in a vegetable to make a class soup to mark the festival of Harvest. They worked together to learn to chop and peel the vegetables, helped stir the mix and enjoyed tasting the finished product. They all agreed it was delicious!



## Story Writing



Year 1 and Year 2 have both been completing narrative units in their English work. Year 2 have been reading the book 'The Frog and the Stranger' and they have chosen a character from the book to write their own story about. Year 2 took their writing down to the Year 1 classroom and shared their stories with the Year 1 children, who are also in the process of writing their own stories.

## Ancient Homework

The children in Year 3 have responded in many ways to their Stone Age homework. We have axes, houses, a diorama, a bow and arrow, a shield and a cave painting just for starters. Fabulous homework - well done Year 3.



## Winter Reads Challenge



Alongside the awaited opening of the new Ware Library, Hertfordshire Library Service has also announced that their 'Winter Reads Challenge' is returning from Friday 1 November to Saturday 31 January. This initiative aims to encourage all ages to engage with reading during the winter months through a series of fun, flexible challenges and fantastic events.

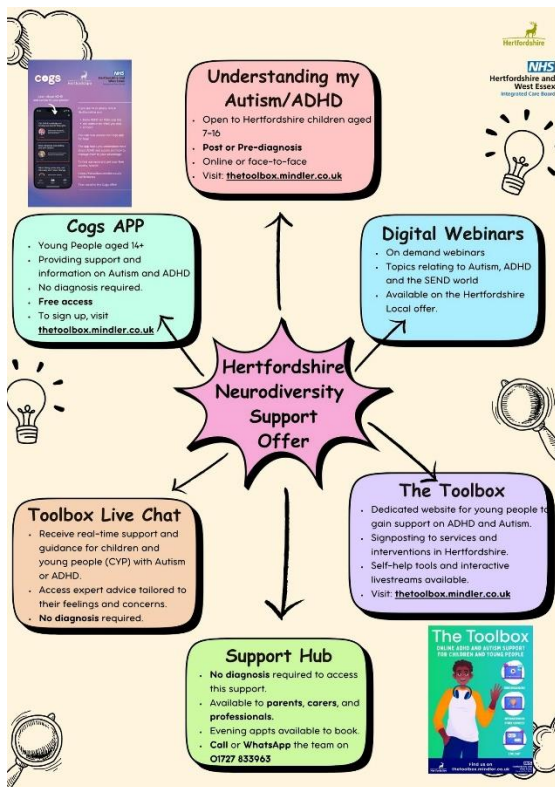
The goal of the Winter Reads Challenge is to complete six different reading challenges over the winter and as reading preferences and habits vary, so the challenge is adaptable: - For less avid readers, the challenges can be simple and achievable. For instance, they can complete two challenges with one book. For those who love a challenge, the service offers the Wild Card challenge, where they can create their own reading goals.

The challenge is open to all ages, so families can take part in the Winter Reads together. Those who complete all six challenges by Saturday 31 January will be entered into prize draw to win an iPad. The challenge is FREE - you just need to be a library member. We believe this challenge will not only foster a love for reading but also provide a fun and engaging activity for all during the winter months.

Visit: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/events-and-things-to-do/library-events.aspx#winterreads> for more information.



## Neurodiversity Support offer for parents/carers, professionals and young people in Hertfordshire.



Attached to the newsletter is a flyer which demonstrates the help and support on offer for parents and carers with Neurodivergent children, such as ADHD and Autism. The HCC and ICB offer consists of various resources including group courses, webinars and a live web chat for young people as well as the support hub and digital webinars for parent/carers and professionals.

There is also a detailed [Neurodiversity Handbook](#) which offers lots of resources, support and signposting for parents and carers.

Details of all these offers can also be found on the [Neurodiversity Support \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](http://hertfordshire.gov.uk).

## Attendance Matters - Every Day Counts!



<b>Present whole school statutory attendance (2024-25)</b>	96%
<b>National attendance</b>	95%
<b>Last week's school attendance</b>	95%
<b>Best Class Attendance: Week Beginning 7.10.24</b>	Year 3- 98%

## You Can Toucan Awards

The You Can Toucan awards are presented each week to those children who have gone above and beyond the expected.

### Last week staff chose:

**Nursery:** Billie for trying well and being kind and helpful to others.

**Reception:** Jesse for excellent writing.

**Year 1:** Damon for trying his best in his independent writing.

**Year 2:** Olivia for her conscientious attitude towards her learning.

**Year 3:** Noah for his perseverance with his writing.

**Year 4:** Ethan for his excellent poetry.

**Year 5:** Lewis for always trying his best in his learning.

**Year 6:** Harriet for her fantastic effort in her maths all week.



## Our Half Term Value: Thankfulness

*1 Chronicles 16:34: "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."*

Our Value Advocates chose the following children who have lived the value for the week.

Class Value Advocate	Class Champion
Reception: Vienna chose	Jacob for his enthusiastic approach to school life.
Year 1: Gwilym chose	Alice for living the values and being a kind and helpful member of Year 1.
Year 2: James chose	Emily for being a fantastic role model and living the values.
Year 3: Isla chose	Finn for his excellent manners and always saying thank you.
Year 4: Mimi chose	Isabella for always living the school values.
Year 5: Lewis chose	Adaley for being a kind friend.
Year 6: Lilly O chose	Dolly for always being polite and thankful.



## Times Tables Rock Star

This week's mini league winner:  
**Year 5 (for a second week!)**

With kind regards

Mrs H Gillingham



## OFFICE UPDATE

### **After School clubs – 1<sup>st</sup> Half Autumn Term**

Super Star Sport's clubs for this half term can be booked:

<https://superstarsportuk.classforkids.io/term/526>

Superstar Sport also continue to provide after-school care from 3.15pm – 5.45pm, Mon-Fri. Further information is available at [www.superstarsport.co.uk](http://www.superstarsport.co.uk). For any queries: email [info@superstarsport.co.uk](mailto:info@superstarsport.co.uk) or phone 01992 766 707.

### **Local news:**

**Diocesan news - we have been asked by St Albans Diocese to pass on the following news:**

*The Diocese is advertising for two part-time administrators to work with the Education Team at Holywell Lodge. Further details are available on our website at: <https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/vacancies-role/diocesan-roles/>. Both roles have an application deadline of 24th September.*

### **'Cups on a String' - Wednesday 16th October at 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church**

*TLG / Riding Lights team will be performing their new production – CUPS ON A STRING by Bridget Foreman – that explores the work of Early Intervention Coaches in schools, and explores how God is able to use these relationships to bring change in the lives of vulnerable young people and families. The play is suitable for teenagers and adults but not recommended for younger children.*



*What's it all about?*

*Joe's eleven and home is hard. School is even harder. He breaks stuff: pencils, chairs, rules. One thing he won't break is his silence. Heather's fifty-seven. She's got a comfortable life and a comfortable home. But her comfortable world is about to be turned upside down as she and Joe spend an hour a week together. Every week. For a year. Where will this journey of hours and weeks take them?*

*'Cups on a String' is a warm-hearted and moving new play, developed from remarkable true stories. Challenging, surprising and beautifully hopeful, 'Cups on a String' takes you into the heart of the friendship between Heather and Joe, and the profound impact it has on them both.*

*To book your tickets, please visit: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/select/RdiEJKhzXNnT> or call the Box Office on 01904 613000.*

## UPCOMING DATES

### OCT

**Weds 16<sup>th</sup>** Year 6 trip – Stanstead Bury Farm

**Thurs 17<sup>th</sup>** Year 5 & 6 School Journey meeting – 3.15pm in the Year 6 Classroom

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup>** Tuckshop and uniform sale – after school



**Tues 22<sup>nd</sup>** Parent Consultation Meetings  
**Nursery:** 12.30pm – 2.30pm  
**Rec – Year 6:** 3.30pm – 7.00pm

**Thurs 24<sup>th</sup>** Parent Consultation Meetings  
**Nursery:** 12.30pm – 2.30pm  
**Rec – Year 6:** 3.30pm – 7.00pm

**Fri 25<sup>th</sup>** **Inset Day**

**Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Nov – Half term holiday**

### NOV

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup>** The Two Johns – Internet Safety Day for Year 1 – Year 6  
The Two Johns – Internet Safety Talk for parents & carers - 5.3-7.00pm

**Tues 12<sup>th</sup>** Reception Trip (details to follow)

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup>** Reception – Year 6 Nasal Flu Spray

**Thurs 21<sup>st</sup>** Year 4 trip – The British Museum, London

**Fri 29<sup>th</sup>** Non uniform in exchange for sweets for the FOSTA Fayre

### DEC

**Weds 4<sup>th</sup>** Year 5 STEM Trip – Stevenage (details to follow)

**Fri 6<sup>th</sup>** Non uniform in exchange for bottles for the FOSTA Fayre

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup>** Non uniform in exchange for cakes for the FOSTA Fayre

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup>** FOSTA Christmas Fayre – 5-7pm

**Tues 17<sup>th</sup>** FOSTA Christmas Disco

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup>** **Last day of Autumn Term**

