



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

Telephone: 01920-870097 Web: www.standrews323.herts.sch.uk Email: admin@standrews323.herts.sch.uk

St Andrew's Weekly Update

Date: 18.11.24 Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham

Value: Trust

Dear Parents and Carers,

We had a number of visitors to the school last week. Amwell View children came to lead our second Boccia session, this time teaching our Year 2 and Year 3 children Boccia ball skills. We met our new School Improvement Partner who observed the teaching of writing in a number of our classes. She was extremely complimentary about the positive work ethic of our children and the quality of the work they were producing. This was then echoed by the HfL English adviser who came to support Mr Chesterman in his new role as English subject lead. They scrutinized the English work of our children from Nursery to Year 6 and gave the school an excellent report and a few next steps - which will be actioned immediately.



Remembrance Work

We have a lovely new display in the hall showing some of the work completed by the children last week for Armistice Day, which I thought I would share with you.

Y4 have also created a stunning display with their silhouette artwork which they produced following our Remembrance service last Monday.



Year 3 Science

Mr Hulme, one of our Governors, came into school to observe a Year 3 science investigation into the porosity of rocks. Through their testing the children discovered that some rocks are more porous than others and concluded that this was because some rocks had more holes in their structure than others.



Today Year 3 have had fun playing musical instrument 'snap'. This opened up lots of discussions about the names of instruments and their associated instrument families.



Reception's Pizza Express Trip

The Reception class went on their first school trip of the year to Pizza Express in Welwyn Garden City. The children made their own pizza and learnt about all the different jobs people do in a restaurant.

The children loved squashing out the sticky dough, spreading the sauce and adding a generous cheese topping. They even got to take their creations home with them. The trip has led to some wonderful role play, both in and out of the classroom.



Year 6 were set the homework task to investigate the etymology of a chosen word. A number investigated the word dinosaur and presented their findings beautifully.



Road Safety Week (17th-23rd November)



We have begun this week with an assembly around road safety as it is National Road Safety Week. We celebrated all of the Road Safety Heroes who help keep us safe and the teachers are also reminding the children, in class, about how they can keep themselves safe around roads or when travelling in cars.

Well done to Isabelle (Year 6) for her intrepid endeavours during the weekend. She took part in the county-wide Green Beret competition with her Scout Troop during which they camped out in tents for two nights (despite the bad weather) and took part in team challenges such as orienteering, night exercises and a very muddy obstacle course! Isabelle's team of six Scouts did really well; they came 4th in the Ware District group, and 40th overall out of 146 teams from Hertfordshire.



Attendance Matters - Every Day Counts!



Present whole school statutory attendance (2024-25)	95.4%
National statutory attendance	95.2%
Best Class Attendance: Week Beginning 11.11.24	Year 4 -99%

Times Tables Rock Star

This week's mini league winner:
Year 5 with 9005 points.



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: Toby for always being kind to his friends.

Reception: All of Reception for their wonderful behaviour during their school trip.

Year 1: Lola for having a can-do attitude in all areas of her learning this week.

Year 2: Louie for his hard work and perseverance with his reading and writing.

Year 3: Yusuf for playing nicely and kindly with his friends.

Year 4: Joey for his thirst for knowledge.

Year 5: Logan for his effort and positive contributions in lessons.

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



Our Half Term Value: Trust

Psalm 18.2: "My God is my strength in whom I trust."

This half term's Value Advocates are:

Class Value Advocate	Class Champion
Reception: Harry chose	Alana for always being kind, reliable and trustworthy.
Year 1: Alice chose	Layla for being a kind and trustworthy friend.
Year 2: Emily chose	Danae for always helping others.
Year 3: George M chose	Rose for being a trustworthy learning partner.
Year 4: Caitlin chose	Laura for being a trustworthy friend.
Year 5: Robyn chose	Joseph for trying hard in his lessons and for being a good friend.
Year 6: Isabelle chose	Lilly O who can always be trusted to her best in her lessons.

OFFICE UPDATE

Applications for NURSERY class for Sept 25

Applications for St Andrew's Nursery class for September 2025 are now This is applicable to children born between *1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022*. Application forms are available on our school website and from our School Office. The application deadline is **28th February 2025**. All on-time applications must be returned to school, either directly to the School Office or via email: admissions@standrews323.herts.sch.uk. Prospective Nursery class parents are encouraged to book a tour with Mrs Gillingham for an opportunity to look around the school and ask any questions. Please contact the School Office to book an appointment.

Applications for RECEPTION class for Sept 25

Herts County Council online admissions applications for Reception class in September 2025 are open. This is applicable to children born between *1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021*. The online application deadline is **15th January 2025**. Prospective Reception class parents, including our current Nursery class parents, are encouraged to book a tour with Mrs Gillingham for an opportunity to look around the school and ask any questions. Please contact the School Office to book an appointment.

After School clubs – 2nd 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. For any queries: email info@superstarsport.co.uk or phone 01992 766 707.

Local News

Message from the Police Commissioner's Office:

Commissioner launches Christmas card competition for Hertfordshire children

With just weeks to go until Christmas, Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner Jonathan Ash-Edwards is launching a competition for the county's children to design his Christmas card. The winning card will be sent to some of the most important figures in policing and community safety nationally as well as communities across Hertfordshire.



Children aged 11 and under are invited to put pen or pencil to A4 paper and submit their creative Christmas designs by **Thursday 28th November**. The only rules are no paint or glitter please! The theme for the Commissioner's first competition is **'helping people at Christmas'**.

Paper pictures are preferred but email entries will be accepted although the original may be requested by the PCC's office.

Prizes of Amazon vouchers will be available for the winner and runners up. The winner will also receive printed copies of their design. If the winning entry is submitted via a school or children's club, that organisation will also receive an Amazon voucher.

Postal entries should be sent to: PCC Christmas Card Competition, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, 13 Vaughan Road, Harpenden, AL5 4GZ

Email entries, using a high resolution scan of the image, should be sent to: commissioner@herts-pcc.gov.uk

All entries will need to include the child's name and age as well as contact details for the child's parent or guardian so contact can be made with the winning entry. If entering via a school or children's club, a named contact will also be needed.

We look forward to seeing everybody's efforts.

UPCOMING DATES

NOV

Thurs 21st Year 4 trip – The British Museum, London

Fri 29th Non uniform in exchange for sweets for the FOSTA Fayre

DEC

Mon 2nd Choir – Carol Service at All Saints Church, Hertford – Evening

Tues 3rd EYFS Nativity – AM

Weds 4th EYFS Nativity – AM

Weds 4th Year 5 STEM Trip – Stevenage (details to follow)

Thurs 5th FOSTA – Wreath Making Workshop in school - 6.30 - 8.30pm

Fri 6th Non uniform in exchange for bottles for the FOSTA Fayre

Mon 9th Year 1 & 2 Nativity – Matinee

Tues 10th Year 1 & 2 Nativity – Matinee

Tues 10th Year 1 & 2 Nativity – Evening Performance

Weds 11th School Christmas Dinner

Fri 13th Non uniform in exchange for cakes for the FOSTA Fayre



Fri 13th FOSTA Christmas Fayre – 5-7pm

Tues 17th FOSTA Christmas Disco

Thurs 19th Church Service

Fri 20th **Last day of Autumn Term**

