



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: 2.12.24 Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham

Value: Trust

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas has officially arrived and the children have been busy decorating their classrooms. This morning we had a magical EYFS Nativity Dress Rehearsal, with the performances for parents/carers being held tomorrow Tuesday 3rd December and Wednesday 4th December, both starting at 9.30am.

I went with our School Choir for their final practice for tonight's Musical Christmas Performance at All Saints' Parish Church, Hertford. This is a Carol Service which includes a number of local schools and it was wonderful to see how joyfully our school choir sang out their chosen hymn. I am sure they will perform equally well tonight.



Christmas Tree Festival

All of the children have also been creating their crown decoration for the school's Christmas tree- which will be displayed as part of Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church. The doors will be open for viewing on;

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th December 2024 from 2-6pm
St Mary's Church Hoddesdon Road, St Margarets, SG12 8EG

More details can be found on the attached leaflet.

Sharing the Nativity Story

The children in Nursery had a class visit from Reverend Sarah. They enjoyed listening to the story of the birth of Jesus and all concentrated really well.

They told Reverend Sarah that Jesus was born in a stable and for their Christmas show they are retelling the Nativity story.



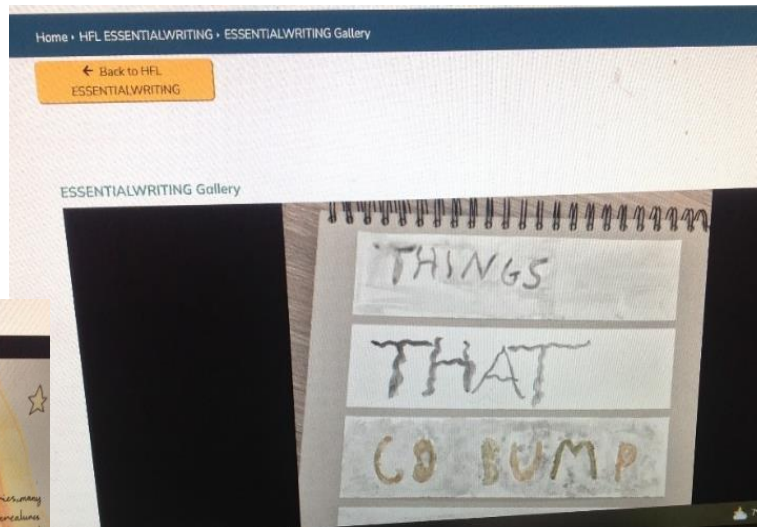
Staffing News

We are very proud that Ms Natalie Kumm our KS2 Learning Assistant has been appointed as a classteacher at a local primary school. Natalie has long wanted to return as a full-time teacher and we wish her all the very best in her new adventure. She will be leaving at the end of this term.

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Beth Keates, who has joined us as an SEN support, and we are also recruiting for a further LSA to help support KS2.

Published Work

I was very thrilled to see that much of our children's written work is presently being displayed as excellent examples on the HfL Learning Hub's Essential Writing website.



We are presently being supported by the HfL English Adviser to ensure that our planning and teaching of writing is the very best it can be.



When the adviser last visited, she asked if she could take some photos of the work she saw, as she said it was such good quality. Perhaps we should have asked for royalties!



Year 3 Sticky Science Fun

Year 3 had great fun in their science lessons when they 'made' sedimentary rocks from igneous rocks using heat and pressure. Of course they weren't using real rocks; however, white and dark chocolate demonstrated the process well - with the added benefit that the children were able to eat the final results. Dr Collins apologises for the messy faces but everyone had great fun and I am sure the children will remember their learning about the rock cycle for a long time.



Badminton Fun

There have been more sporting opportunities for the children last week, including a group of Year 6 children attending a badminton roadshow at Chauncy School. The children were, as always, a credit to the school and came back full of enthusiasm to share the sport with the class.

Pizza Fun in Reception Class



Our Reception class are still enjoying playing in their Pizza Express role-play area, with lots of purposeful conversations about the orders coming in and ensuring good quality products.



The children have also been helping make St Andrews a sustainable school by sweeping up the leaves and collecting them to turn into leaf compost. They will open up the bags in spring to see what has happened to the leaves and will use the compost to help feed their summer flowers.



Fabulous Homework

This week Ava in Year 3 brought in some wonderful fossils which she had created using salt dough. The details were incredible.



Attendance Matters - Every Day Counts!



Present whole school statutory attendance (2024-25)	95.3%
National statutory attendance	95.0%
Best Class Attendance: Week Beginning 25.11.24	Year 1 with 97%

Times Tables Rock Stars

This week's mini league winner: Year 5

Second Place: Year 2

Third Place: Year 3



Winners of the Golden Boot

Last week Thomas and Bronte won the golden welly for their excellent behavior outside. Bronte has been helping Mrs Randall to collect and tidy up, and Thomas has been a good peace-maker, helping others share equipment.

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: Rex for always joining in well with the class activities and working hard.

Reception: Anthony for his excellent effort and progress with his reading.

Year 1: Poppy D for working hard to complete all of her independent jobs.

Year 2: Bonnie for being such a thoughtful and caring friend.

Year 3: Ava for her effort and enthusiasm in all lessons.

Year 4: Glory for her positive attitude towards school life.

Year 5: Joseph for showing increased perseverance with his learning.

Year 6: Austin for his fantastic effort with his handwriting.



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	Remy for living all of the values and being an excellent role model.
Year 1: Alice chose	Edee for always being a trustworthy member of the class.
Year 2: Emily chose	Hadley for always being honest and trustworthy.
Year 3: George M chose	India for settling so well and showing the school values.
Year 4: Caitlin chose	Conor for being a trustworthy friend.
Year 5: Robyn chose	Logan for being a kind and trustworthy member of the class.
Year 6: Isabelle chose	Thomas for being a trustworthy and reliable member of the class.

OFFICE UPDATE

Payments

Please can all outstanding payments for school dinners, trips, milk, breakfast club etc. be paid as soon as possible, via WisePay. Thank you.

Applications for NURSERY class for Sept 25

Applications for St Andrew's Nursery class for September 2025 are open. 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 Local PCSO:

After the success of last year's Christmas Hamper Project, the Ware and Stanstead Abbots Neighbourhood Policing Team are asking for donations to run this initiative again.



With the generosity of our community, local businesses, and a grant from Ware Town Council, we were able to gift over 105 hampers to the most vulnerable children in our community.

We would be grateful for donations of new items such as books, toys, crafts, toiletries and selection boxes. These can be collected by your local Police team, taken to Ware Police Station or dropped to Keith Ian Estate Agents on Ware High Street. Please email Kristine.ward@herts.police.uk if you would like us to collect your gifts or if you have any questions.

We also have an amazon gift list, and we would be grateful for any items that you can provide. (Items will be delivered directly to Police)

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/registries/gl/quest-view/1Q2XIRWNLL66Z>

As always, thank you for your support.

PCSO
Ware & Stanstead Abbots
Neighbourhood Policing Team

UPCOMING DATES

- Mon 2nd** Choir – Carol Service at All Saints Church, Hertford – 7pm (choir children to arrive at 6.45pm)
- Tues 3rd** EYFS Nativity – 9:30am
- Weds 4th** EYFS Nativity – 9.30am
- Weds 4th** Year 5 STEM Trip – Stevenage
- 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 – 2.15pm
- Tues 10th** Year 1 & 2 Nativity – 2.15pm
- Tues 10th** Year 1 & 2 Nativity – Evening Performance - 6pm (Year 1 & 2 children to arrive at 5.30pm)
- Weds 11th** School Christmas Dinner Day and optional ‘Christmas/Woolly Jumper Day’
- 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**
- Jan 2025**
- Mon 6th** **Return to School**

