



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: 20.12.24 Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham

Value: Trust

Dear Parents and Carers,

Key Stage 1 Nativity 'Everyone Loves a Baby'

Last week we had our second Nativity - this time performed by Key Stage 1. As always the children sang and performed beautifully. My thanks go to all of the Key Stage 1 staff who helped pull the performance together - it really was a joy.



On Wednesday last week we also enjoyed our Christmas Dinner, which was cooked by our wonderful school catering team. Debbie, our cook, said that she would be dreaming about

roast potatoes for the next few weeks – but they really were delicious. My thanks to the team and to FOSTA who donated the Christmas crackers, which added to the festive enjoyment.





After our Christmas dinner, our school choir sang a medley of Christmas songs and carols - entertaining the shoppers of Hoddesdon. With Mr Emerson on the keyboard and Miss Sewell conducting. It was all a great deal of fun.

FOSTA Christmas Fayre

On Friday, having held a hugely successful 'Festive Christmas Wreath' making session the week before, FOSTA planned and organised our Christmas Fayre. As always there was a variety of stalls on offer for adults and children alike to enjoy. Santa was in his grotto and the mulled wine flowed. It was a very happy, festive occasion and was only possible because of the hard work and dedication of our wonderful FOSTA team and for all of the kind donations given over the past few weeks - so thank you all.



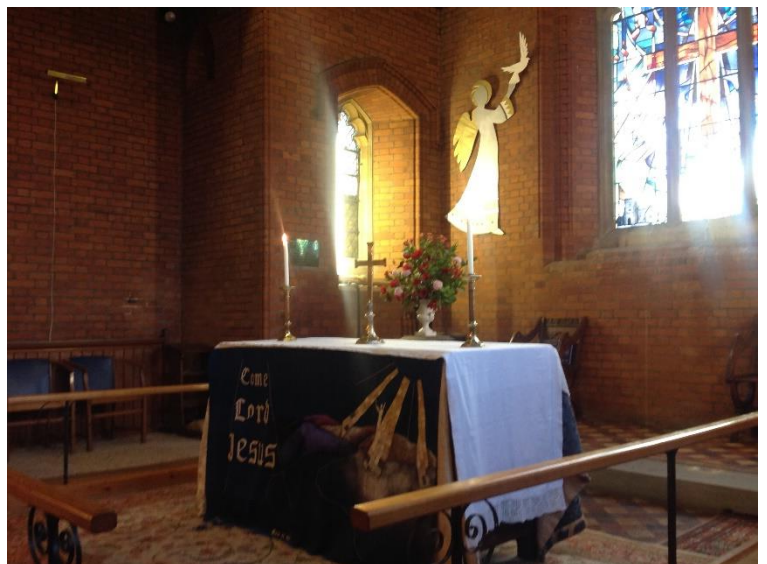


Tuesday was a busy day for us this week, as we had the school Christmas Pantomime and the school disco to enjoy. This year we watched the story of Dick Wittington, who was able to thwart the baddie of the story, win the girl and became Mayor of London. The children loved the play and joined in heartedly with their boos and cheers.

Thank you to FOSTA whose fund raising activities enabled the school to put the panto on for the children. They also organised and ran our school Christmas disco, which was very much enjoyed by both our children and staff.

Church Service

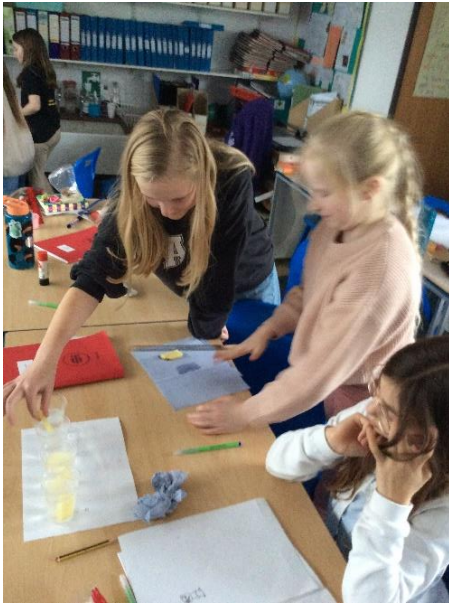
On Thursday we held our school Christmas Service at St Andrew's Church. This is always a beautiful service, with a mixture of readings and Christmas carols. Mr Emerson supported us again by playing the organ and it was lovely that so many parents and carers joined us. Revd. Sarah has extended a warm invitation to all to St Andrew's Church Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December 2024 at 6.30pm.



Excellent Science Work

Of course, in between all of these festive highlights, learning still continues. Year 3, for example, have been making crystals and then either cooling them quickly (in ice) or slowly (insulated with foil and cotton wool) or at room temperature. Through their observations of this process they were then able to apply their knowledge to a similar operation occurring in igneous rock formation.





Year 6 have been looking at how water is transported around the body this term. They have investigated the process of osmosis using potatoes and salt water, and made a model of the kidneys. The children learnt that their kidneys contain a million tiny sieves called Nephrons which filter out waste and excess water. They used filter paper in their experiment and saw the coloured water had been cleaned as it left their 'bladder'.



Skiping Challenge



Congratulations to four children in Year 1 who have won medals in the Hertford and Ware School Skiping Challenge! In the girl's competition, Aurelia won bronze and Cece won gold. For the boys, Zach won silver and Henry the gold. Congratulations to all the children who took part and thank you to our Sports Ambassadors, Jude, Olivia and Jack H (Y6) for running the event.

Brain Work

Barnaby (Y1) made a fantastic model of his brain at home, which he brought in to school. He had been reading about how brains work and thought he would make one of his own showing all of the areas his brain is occupied with.





The award for the best dressed teacher, this week has to go to Dr Collins – who has worn a variety of Christmas inspired outfits to help entertain and get us all into the Christmas spirit.

Winner of the Golden Boot
The Golden Welly was awarded to James in Year 2 for living the St Andrew's values at lunchtime. Well done.



OPAL news

Are you having a pre or post-Christmas clear out? We would love some more supplies for our OPAL playtimes! We particularly need more wheeled vehicles and large loose parts. Please bring any donations to the Office.

Staffing News

We are really pleased to welcome back Mrs Mills to our EYFS team – she will be working alongside Mrs Lynch in Nursery, replacing the days covered presently by Ms Bliss. This will help our smallest children have continuity over this transition period. Mrs Mills has been visiting the class over the past few weeks so that she can get to know the children and so the children can get to know her. I would like to thank Ms Bliss for working so hard for our youngest children over this term.

We are also saying farewell to a number of other staff. Miss Kumm, as you know, is off to begin her new career as a teacher and we wish her all of the very best. I would like to thank her for all of the children and classes she has taken care of doing PPA cover and supporting teachers in class.

Mrs Teresa Fowle is also taking her final leave of the school after eighteen years. Throughout this time, she has been the backbone of this school, helping to oversee the operational management (premises and finances) as the School Business Manager and latterly as the school Bursar. She has been the font of all knowledge fiscal and otherwise and has been a huge support to me over my years as Headteacher. Whilst she has been gradually cutting her hours, Teresa has still kept a very close eye on the school's finances, working alongside Mrs Moorcroft, myself and the Governing Body to ensure that the school remains in a good financial position despite the pressures being put on all schools. I would like to thank her for all of her hard work, her amazing attention to detail and wish her all of the very best for her future retirement.



And finally.....this is my last Newsletter before Mr Speed takes over the reins as Headteacher of St Andrew's School. It has been the very best job I have had during my career in Education and I have loved every minute of it (well most of them!). Your children are a delight and a never-ending source of inspiration and hope. There is never a pickle which cannot be undone and solved, never a time when they do not fill your heart with their smiles, kindness and sheer joy for life. I will miss this all greatly.

Thank you to you all for your support over the years and for your best wishes and gifts given to me for my retirement. I would like to thank all of the most amazing staff - who are always striving to do their very best, at all times, for the children at St Andrew's. They are the most amazing team. Thank you too to the Governing Body, who have always supported me and the school, giving their time freely for the benefit of the school.

As I always say to staff leaving - it is not goodbye because once a member of the St Andrew's family, always a member of the St Andrew's family – so rather than say goodbye, I will just wish you all 'au revoir'.

And to ensure that you all have a colourful Spring term, Year 4 planted up the old leaking pond with colourful bulbs. I am sure they will look beautiful in the warmer months.



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 (Friday 15th December) staff chose:

Nursery: Ronnie P for taking part in class jobs and for being a kind friend.

Reception: AJ for always trying his best throughout the school day.

Year 1: All of Year 1 for their incredible Nativity performances. They should all be very proud of themselves.

Year 2: All of Year 2 for working so hard to learn their lines and words for their Nativity. They all did very well.

Year 3: George M for his excellent attitude in class and hard work at all times.

Year 4: Jack P for his fantastic improvement and effort with his handwriting.

Year 5: Emily for her amazing efforts with her story writing.

Year 6: Antonio for his fantastic efforts in English lessons.



Our Half Term Value: Trust

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

Class Value Advocate	Class Champion - Friday 15 th December
Reception: Harry chose	Stella for always trying her best and living the values.
Year 1: Alice chose	Luna for always doing the right thing and being a kind and helpful member of the class.
Year 2: Emily chose	Ellie for always helping others if they are hurt or upset.
Year 3: George M chose	George S for living the school values and being an excellent role model to others.
Year 4: Caitlin chose	Cianna for living all of the school values.
Year 5: Robyn chose	Buddy for being a kind friend.
Year 6: Isabelle chose	Lilia-Mae for being someone you can trust and for always trying her best.

Red Certificates



Our end of term Red Certificates were given to two children per class who have shown outstanding behaviour and attitude towards learning throughout the term.

Nursery	Sofia for always looking out for her friends and being helpful around the classroom. Rex for always doing his very best and for also being kind and caring.
Reception	Stella for her commitment and hard work and for always being a kind and caring member of the class. Remy for his growing confidence and his hard work in all areas.
Year 1	Alice for her progress, determination and enthusiasm to her learning. Her confidence is growing day by day. Sebby for always being ready and eager to learn and go above and beyond.
Year 2	Stanley for being such a wonderful member of the school, living the values and bringing joy to everyone. Elena for her growing confidence and her positive attitude in all areas.
Year 3	Robert for his enthusiasm and growing confidence in all he does. Amelia for always living the values and her enthusiasm towards her learning.
Year 4	Laura for her enthusiasm, determination and focus in all subjects. Thomas for being an enthusiastic and positive member of the class and who works hard in all areas.
Year 5	Max for his enthusiasm and commitment to his learning and for living the St Andrew's values. Adaley for her focus and commitment to her learning and for being a kind, thoughtful member of the class.
Year 6	Dolly for her fantastic effort in all areas of school life. Well done and keep going. Antonio for his continued improvement in all areas of school life.

OFFICE UPDATE

Payments

The School Office is now reconciling accounts for the Christmas break. Please can all outstanding payments for school dinners, trips, milk, breakfast club etc. be paid as soon as possible, via WisePay, or childcare vouchers if this is applicable. 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 – 1st Half Spring Term

Super Star Sport's clubs for next half term can now 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.

UPCOMING DATES

Jan 2025

- Mon 6th** **Return to School**
Piano lessons restart for the Spring term
- Fri 10th** Guitar lessons restart
- Weds 15th** Year 3 & 4 Faith Tour (details to be sent home soon)
- Weds 22nd** Year 6 Lancaster Model – details sent home

