



# 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: 24.03.25 Headteacher: Mr M Speed

Value: Justice

Dear parents and carers,

This week, we celebrated World Book Day! A very special day in the school calendar, this event helps to promote reading for pleasure and encourages children to discover new and exciting books. The children's costumes were brilliant and we all had a lot of fun working out who everybody was. In the classroom, children carried out a range of learning activities including mapping out books that they have read and making dioramas depicting particular events.

### World Book Day

Year 4 created Reading Rivers.

These collect favourite books that the children have read over the years.



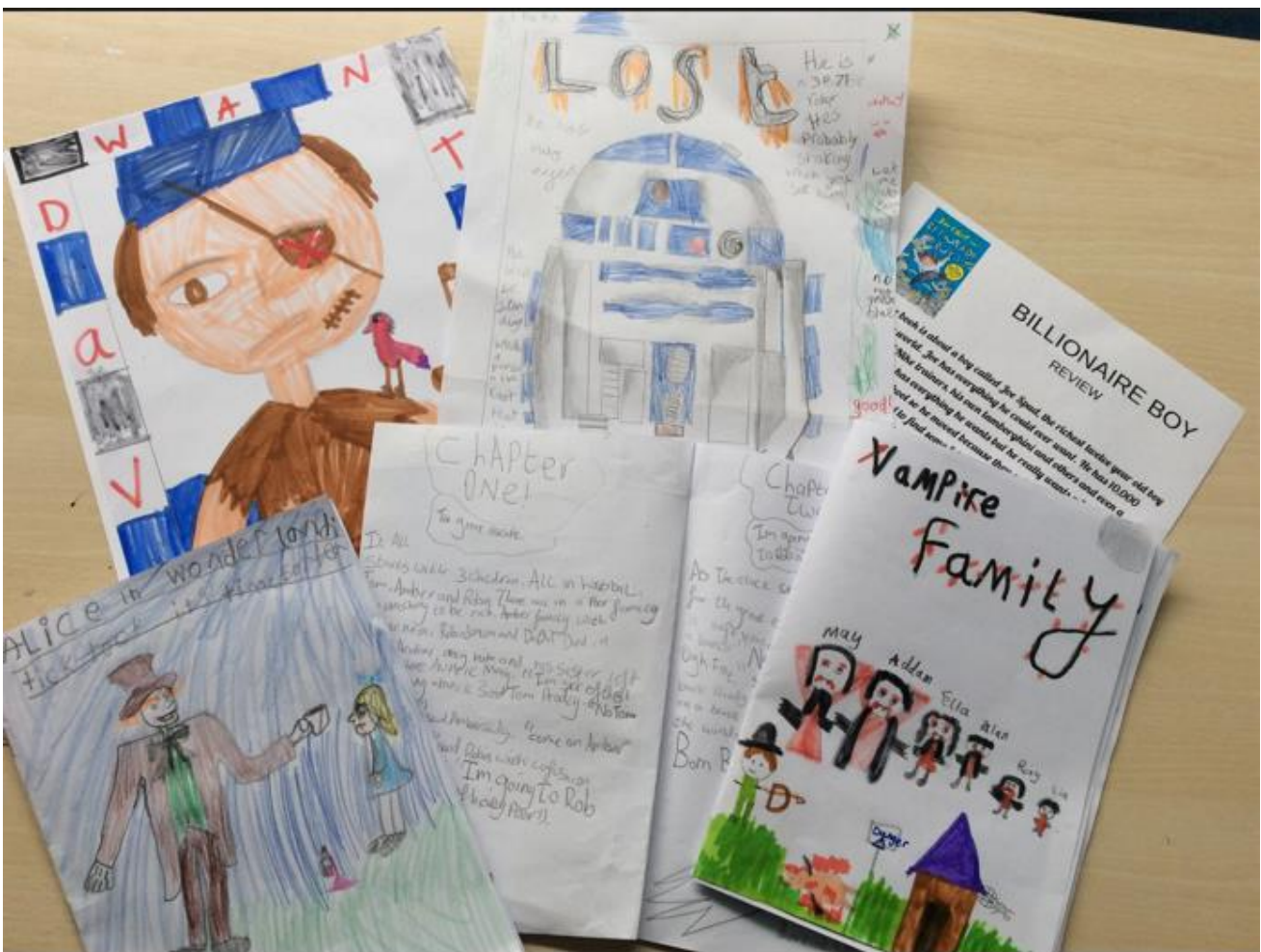
Year 2 had a fun day discussing their favourite books and characters. They made bookmarks, wrote stories and designed front covers of their favourite books.



Year 5 read to the Nursery and Reception children who loved having the books shared with them.



Year 5 carried out a variety of different activities including creating wanted posters for a book character, writing book reviews and writing stories of their own.



### Year 3

Year 3 have been making earthquake-proof buildings in DT using marshmallows and sticks. They tested the 'buildings' in a marble tray to simulate an earthquake to work out which structures were strongest.



### Year 2

Year 2 had a wonderful trip to St Albans Cathedral on Wednesday. The staff gave a tour of the cathedral and the children carried out a range of activities including a parade, waving palm leaves as they acted out part of the Easter story. Some of the children had the opportunity to dress up in robes and stand in the pulpit whilst others had their feet washed! In the afternoon they had an Easter workshop and made clay tiles.

They were all very enthusiastic to write about their trip and everything they had learnt. The whole class received a bonus You Can Toucan award for their excellent behaviour.



## Staffing News

As the Year 4 & 5 parents are already aware, it is with mixed emotions that I inform you both Mr Chesterman and Miss Sewell will be leaving St Andrew's at the end of this term. While we are sad to see them go, we are happy for them as they embark on new adventures. Mr Chesterman is starting a new journey with a promotion which he fully deserves, and Miss Sewell is taking on a different role. We thank them both for all their hard work at St Andrew's.

For the summer term, we are pleased to welcome Mrs Khodabocus who will be teaching Year 4. Mrs Khodabocus is an extremely experienced teacher and brings with her leadership experience. She fully supports our vision and values and is excited to join us at St Andrew's to teach the children.

We are also pleased to welcome back Mrs White who will be teaching Year 5, along with her partner teacher, Mrs Kirwan. Mrs White used to teach at St Andrew's (under the name of Miss Voss). Mrs Kirwan is an experienced teacher and has taught the Year 5 children already. Both Mrs White and Mrs Kirwan can't wait to join the team at St Andrew's for the summer term.

## Attendance Matters - Every Day Counts!



<b>Present whole school statutory attendance (2024-25)</b>	95%
<b>National statutory attendance</b>	94.6%
<b>Best Class Attendance: Week Beginning 10.2.25</b>	<b>Year 1 with 99%</b>

## Golden Welly Award

This week the Golden Welly was awarded to **Noah and Archie in Year 4** for their kindness, respect and truthfulness.



## Times Tables Rock Star

This week's mini league winner:  
**Year 2 with 15,906 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: Sienna** for being kind and always working hard.

**Reception: Olive** for excellent writing about the 'The Tiny Seed'.

**Year 1: Blake** for writing a fantastic school counting poem.

**Year 2: Olivia** for her conscientious effort attitude to her learning.

**Year 3: Finn** for his thoughtful contributions in lessons.

**Year 4: Jack W** for being a kind friend to all.

**Year 5: Joseph** for increased effort and focus in his learning.

**Year 6: Sebastian** for his excellent contributions to class discussions.



## This Half Term's Value: Justice

This week, our class Value advocates have chosen:

	<b>Class Value Advocate</b>
<b>Reception: Arabelle</b> chose	<b>Tommy</b> for his strong sense of justice and focus in his learning.
<b>Year 1: Jonah</b> chose	<b>Poppy</b> for always living all of the Values every day.
<b>Year 2: James</b> chose	<b>Philon</b> for living all of the Values.
<b>Year 3: Elsie</b> chose	<b>Amelia</b> for living all of the Values.
<b>Year 4: Joseph</b> chose	<b>Jack R</b> for being a kind friend.
<b>Year 5: Noah</b> chose	<b>Sonny</b> for being a fair and kind friend to others.
<b>Year 6: Dolly</b> chose	<b>Olivia</b> for being supportive to everyone on Year 6's school trip.

Best Wishes,

**Mr M Speed**

## OFFICE UPDATE

### Payments

A plea from the Office!

We are nearing our financial year end and are asking for **any outstanding monies to be paid for**: school dinners, 30hrs Nursery payments, class trips, Art Club, Breakfast Club and any other monies owed, including from previous half terms. Payments can be made via WisePay (or childcare vouchers for 30hrs and breakfast clubs) as soon as possible. It would be extremely helpful for us to have received all payments **by Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> March at the very latest.**

### News from Herts County Council:

#### Low-cost family earning workshops.

Enjoy family fun during the Easter school holidays with low-cost family learning workshops from Step2Skills, in Stevenage.

Spend quality time with your child during the Easter school holidays on 2-hour interactive workshops from Step2Skills, designed to get you working together on a range of fun activities. Choose from Spring Explorers or The Crystal Challenge. The workshops are being held in Stevenage and are ideal for 5- to 10-year-olds, with their accompanying adult.

Tickets are £5 per adult. Book your place on their website: [www.step2skills.org.uk](http://www.step2skills.org.uk)



### **HCC - Think Pharmacy First**

Did you know that Pharmacies can now offer NHS clinical appointments with medication available if required for four clinical conditions particularly relevant to school age children?

Earache (Children aged 1-17)

Sore Throat (over 5s)

Infected Insect bites (Over 1s)

Impetigo (Over 1s)

Visit your local pharmacy for more information.

To find a local pharmacy see: <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/pharmacy/find-a-pharmacy>

### **Easter holiday cycle training courses**

Hertfordshire County Council are running cycle training at various Cycle Hubs across Hertfordshire during the Easter holiday. 'Learn to Ride' sessions and 'Bikeability' training is available at the following cycle hubs during the Easter Holidays:

**Watford Cycle Hub** - [www.watfordcyclehub.org.uk](http://www.watfordcyclehub.org.uk)

The Pavilion, Chaffinch Ln, Watford WD18 9QD

**Stevenage Cycling Hub** - [www.stevenagecyclinghub.co.uk](http://www.stevenagecyclinghub.co.uk)

Fairlands Valley Park, Six Hills Way, Stevenage, SG2 0BL

**St Albans Cycle Hub** - [www.stalbanscyclehub.co.uk](http://www.stalbanscyclehub.co.uk)

Cottonmill Community and Cycling Centre, Cottonmill Ln, St Albans AL1 2EF

**Herts Disability Sports Foundation** - [www.hdsf.co.uk](http://www.hdsf.co.uk)

Courses for riders / trainee riders with SEND requirements in varying locations across Hertfordshire.

For any other cycle training please email us at [cycle.training@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:cycle.training@hertfordshire.gov.uk) Happy cycling!

### **UPCOMING DATES**

#### **March**

**Tues 25<sup>th</sup>** Year 3 & 4 Easter Production – Matinee – 2:30pm

**Tues 25<sup>th</sup>** Year 3 & 4 Easter Production – Evening Performance – 6:30pm

**Thurs 27<sup>th</sup>** FOSTA Mothers Day Sale – in school

**Fri 28<sup>th</sup>** FOSTA Mothers Day Sale – in school

#### **April**

**Tues 1<sup>st</sup>** FOSTA Easter Disco

**Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup>** Easter Church Service – 9.30am

**Fri 4<sup>th</sup>** Last day of the spring term – 1.30pm finish

**Tues 22<sup>nd</sup>** **Return to School**

**Thurs 24<sup>th</sup>** Choir Evening Performance Sele School – details sent home.

**Weds 30<sup>th</sup>** Chance to Shine Cricket Workshops – Year 1 - 6

#### **May**

**Thurs 1<sup>st</sup>** Year 1 Castles Workshop – in school

**Tues 6<sup>th</sup> – Fri 9<sup>th</sup>** Year 5 Bikeability

