



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: 07.10.24 Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham

Value: Thankfulness

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who joined us for our Harvest Festival at St Andrew's church. It was a joyful service full of songs and contributions from the children. We will be continuing to collect food items (cans, dry foodstuffs - such as pasta, rice, cereals etc) and toiletries for the local



food bank - up to the end of this half term. Please be reminded that although the items will not be opened or consumed in school, as we are a nut-free school, please can we ask that any nut products (including jars of peanut butter or 'Nutella') are not brought in to school.



Practical Maths



As part of developing our younger children's early maths skills, we are currently taking part in the 'Mastering Number' project led by the NCETM. Staff attended the national launch and subsequent training. They are now ensuring that the children are receiving additional maths mastery sessions on top of their well-established maths lessons. Year 2 have been learning how to use their new rekenrek resources to support their fluency with number. They are already making progress with 'magic counting' and moving the correct number of beads quickly and accurately!



Year 3's Development Afternoon

Year 3 visited Wodson Park to take part in a carousel of different sports. This was a wonderful opportunity for the children to try out a variety of different sports including basketball, boxing, boccia and curling. They also watched a demonstration of badminton. The children really enjoyed the experience and came back full of enthusiasm to continue learning about these sports.



Year 3 and 4 History Day

Our Lower Key Stage 2 children had an exciting hands-on experience when Hertford Museum visited the school to lead two workshops. Year 3 had a Stone Age themed workshop during which the children were able to handle artefacts from the Stone Age period, including a real mammoth tooth! They also spent time learning what archaeologists do and made a job advertisement for an archaeologist on a prehistoric dig. In the afternoon the children worked on a carousel of activities: Making a Stone Age house, producing a floor timeline of the stone age period and dressing a mannequin in a Stone Age outfit. They all had a lot of fun and learned a lot!





Year 4 explored life in Ancient Egypt and specifically the mummification process. The children were able to mummify a doll using bandages and also got to take a look at some replica artefacts.



Year 5 Art Work

Year 5 have some lovely pieces of art work on display. They have been exploring pattern and were asked to fill their silhouette with items which are important to them. There was quite a lot of footballs subsequently on display but also a pleasing amount of maths.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Mr Chesterman who has been awarded his National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership. This award has taken over a year to accomplish, involving study and research in Mr Chesterman’s own time. We are very proud of him and, as a school, are benefiting from his studies in his role as Lower Key Stage Lead.

FOSTA NEWS

Thank you to our wonderful FOSTA who came in today to help our younger children create some beautiful artwork for their Christmas Art campaign. The whole school will finish their creations by the end of this week. Proofs of the artwork and details on how to order will be sent home with the children, hopefully by the end of next week. Please look out for these!

Attendance Matters - Every Day Counts!



Present whole school attendance (2024-25)	95%
National attendance	95%
Last week’s school attendance	96%
Best Class Attendance: Week Beginning 30.9.24	Year 4 – 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: Caleb for settling so well in our Nursery.

Reception: Lottie for her hard work in her phonics learning.

Year 1: Henry for challenging himself and completing all of his independent learning jobs to a very high standard.

Year 2: Philon for being super helpful in class and being a good friend to all.

Year 3: Olivia for her excellent behaviour and effort at Wodson Park.

Year 4: Laura for her superb writing this week.

Year 5: Robyn for her effort and enthusiasm in every lesson.

Year 6: Lilly R 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	Denis for living all of the values and working very hard.
Year 1: Gwilym chose	Aurelia for always showing respect and being ready to learn.
Year 2: James chose	Ronnie for living the value of thankfulness and always having a positive grateful attitude.
Year 3: Isla chose	Hugo for his good manners and kindness to others.
Year 4: Mimi chose	Ava for always living the school values.
Year 5: Lewis chose	Joe for being polite and thankful to others.
Year 6: Lilly O chose	Jude for being a good friend and for living the school values at all times.



Times Tables Rock Star

This week's mini league winner:
Year 5

With kind regards

Mrs H Gillingham



OFFICE UPDATE

After School clubs – 1st 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:

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 9th** Choir – St Albans Cathedral - during the day
- Thurs 10th** Year 5 & 6 School Journey Meeting – POSTPONED - details to follow
- Weds 16th** Year 6 trip – Stansteadbury Farm
- Fri 18th** FOSTA uniform sale and tuckshop – after school
- Tues 22nd** Parent Consultation Meetings
Nursery: 12.30pm – 2.30pm
Rec – Year 6: 3.30pm – 7.00pm



Thurs 24th Parent Consultation Meetings
Nursery: 12.30pm – 2.30pm
Rec – Year 6: 3.30pm – 7.00pm

Fri 25th Inset Day

Mon 28th Oct – Fri 1st Nov – Half term holiday

NOV

Mon 4th The Two Johns – Internet Safety Day for Year 1 – Year 6
The Two Johns – Internet Safety Talk for parents & carers - 5.30pm-7.00pm

Tues 12th Reception Trip (details to follow)

Fri 15th Reception – Year 6 Nasal Flu Spray

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

Trip dates for other classes are to be confirmed.

