



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: 4.11.24 Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham

Value: Thankfulness

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new half term - we hope that you all had a good break. The children certainly look rested and raring to go. This will be an especially poignant half term for me as it will be the my last as the Headteacher of St Andrew's, but what a one to leave on, with Christmas and Nativities twinkling at me in the distance. The newly appointed Headteacher, Mr Speed, will be visiting us later this week to spend the day meeting the staff and children and learning about the school. We will all be on our very best behaviour!

Internet Safety

Despite being our first day back, we started it with a bang - with our Internet Safety Day. The Two Johns have held workshops for Year 1 to Year 6. Nursery and Reception did their own safety talks which were age appropriate. The workshops were fun and very informative, the children listened attentively to the strong message –to enjoy the Internet but keep safe at all times. Please do discuss with your child/ren about the workshops to help embed the message.

Parent Consultation Meetings

I hope you found the meetings held at the end of last half term informative for your children. If you have any further questions, you can always make an appointment with your class teacher through the School Office. The education of your children is a partnership between us and we wish to work as closely with you as possible.

Black History Month

At the end of the last term we celebrated the work the classes had produced as part of Black History month. The Year 6 children recited poems by Benjamin Zephaniah and showed us biographies they had written about his life and the obstacles he had overcome. Year 5 had explored the artwork of Lubaina Himid, while Year 4 has learnt all about the newsreader Trevor McDonald. Year 3 learnt about the



lasting contribution of Windrush migrants to the NHS. Year 1 and 2 told us the amazing story of Mary Seacole.



Parking Around the School – please be reminded

Unfortunately, the school has received a second complaint about parking around the school. This time the complaint was concerning engines being left on whilst parents/carers are waiting for their children. The neighbour said that a small minority of engines were being left on for up to forty minutes. This is somewhat surprising as we are all aware of how important clean air is for both the environment and for our children.

Could I please request that we all continue to park with consideration for our neighbours and not either block their access or leave engines on while waiting. Thank you.



Attendance Matters - Every Day Counts!



Present whole school statutory attendance (2024-25)	95%
National attendance	95%

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.

Message from Bezee Bodies:

Are you struggling with your child’s limited diet? Join us for an online masterclass where we’ll share strategies and expert advice to help reduce mealtime anxiety and encourage your child to try new foods.

This session will also provide the opportunity to connect with other parents facing similar challenges, and we’ll share ideas specifically to support SEND children.

Sign up now for free if you’re a parent or carer of any age child in Hertfordshire!

[Supporting Children with a Limited Diet Masterclass Tickets, Mon, Nov 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)



UPCOMING DATES

NOV

Tues 12th Reception Trip - Cooking & Food Tasting Experience (Pizza Express Welwyn)

Fri 15th Reception – Year 6 Nasal Flu Spray

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**

