



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: 1.12.23 Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham

Value: Hope

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas is very much advancing towards us. Our Key Stage 1 and EYFS children are all busy rehearsing for their Nativities which will be performed over the next couple of weeks (exact dates and times can be found below.) Classes are beginning to decorate their classrooms and are creating angels for our St Andrew's tree, which will be displayed as part of **St Margaret's Church Christmas Tree Festival**. A flyer for this is attached to the newsletter and trees can be viewed 2–6pm Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th December. Revd. Sarah has also sent us details of the Christmas services over the Christmas period, which are also attached to this newsletter.



We are also very much looking forward to our FOSTA Christmas Fayre, which is being held next Friday on the 8th December, 5.00pm – 7.00pm. As always there will be a range of different stalls, fun and games, cakes, food and drinks to help get us all in the Christmas spirit. Thank you for all of the sweet and bottle donations for this event. Next Friday FOSTA are requesting cake donations for the cake stall. Please do ensure that there are no nuts in the list of ingredients as we are a nut free school.

Homework Policy

Staff and Governors have recently reviewed our Homework Policy, taking into account parental views from our recent Parent/Carer Questionnaire. Homework is always an area for discussion – whether we set too much or too little. With our re-vamped policy we have tried to get the right balance with core weekly expectations and opportunities for further work.

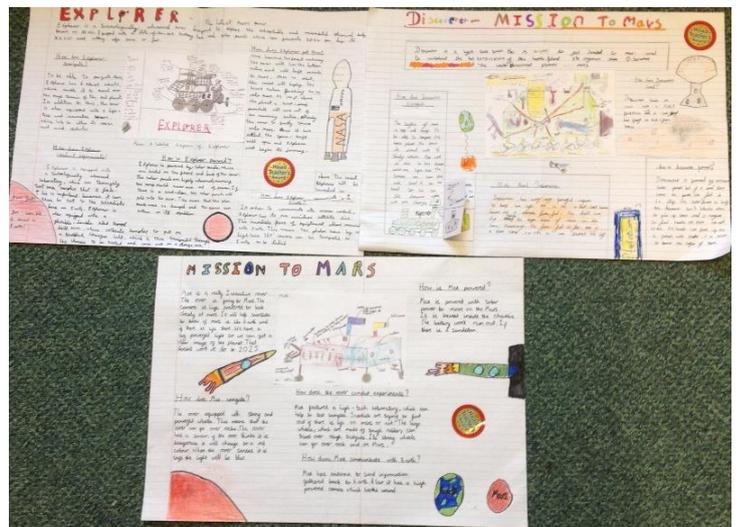
These expectations will hugely benefit your child, as a way of practising and rehearsing learning that they are covering in class. There are also opportunities for your child to extend their knowledge and to be creative. Please see the policy at: <https://standrews323.herts.sch.uk/our-school/policies/>



Year 5 Rover Inventions

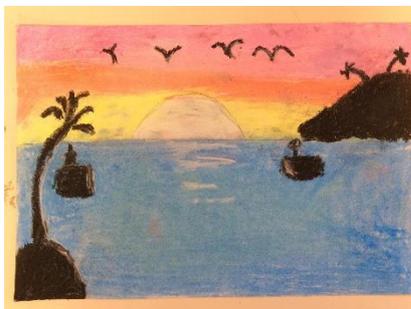


Enthused by their visit to the Discovery Centre and seeing the actual Mars Rover being developed there, Year 5 have been developing their own rover inventions. Just some of the ideas bought to me included ideas of what the rover would be doing on the planet, how it would transmit information back to earth and details of its speed, energy intake and suggested life span. The children had obviously really enjoyed the opportunity to let their imaginations run wild. Their work was beautifully presented.



Year 6 Windrush Art

Year 6 completed their topic studying the Windrush generation today by creating artwork imagining what it would have been like leaving Jamaica for England. Here are a few lovely examples:



SCHOOL CLOSURE / BAD WEATHER PROCEDURES

Whilst the earlier warnings of snow have not yet materialised, we have been revising our procedures for severe weather. We will, of course, aim to keep the school open at all times but if conditions are such that there is danger to our staff and children in remaining open then the procedure will be:

NOTIFICATIONS

- We will send an email via Parentmail to each child's primary contact. Please be aware that in the past when a large number of schools are using Parentmail at the same time, the system can be very slow.
- Our website will also be updated. Please note: again, school websites can be slow to update particularly in bad weather, due to the high volume of traffic at these times.
- As soon as we are able, there will be a message on the school answerphone and signs will be put up at main access points to the site.
- Please be aware the Hertfordshire Closure notification system (Everbridge) is no longer in use.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS USING THE BREAKFAST CLUBS

The breakfast clubs' (Right Start and Toasties) start time each morning means that there are only a few members of staff on site. In the case of very bad weather, we may not be able to ensure that the site is ready for the children's arrival at this early time. If we are unable to run the breakfast clubs, we will inform the parents as soon as feasibly possible.

- In the case where very bad weather is predicted the school will notify parents on the day before that the breakfast clubs will not run.
- If there is unexpectedly snow on the ground in the morning, please assume that the breakfast club will not run.

In the case that the weather subsequently improves through the morning, it will not be possible to reverse the decision once made for the day.

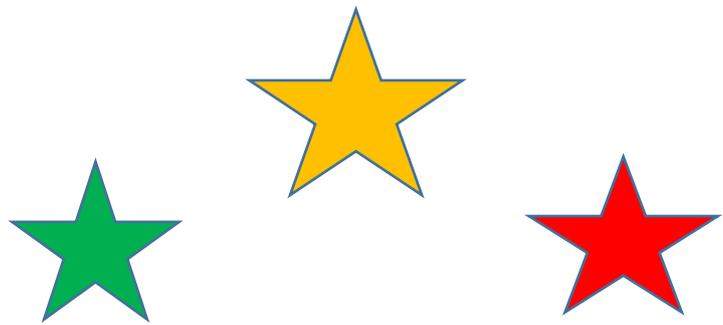
We will make a decision for the breakfast clubs and a decision for the normal school day separately, therefore, we may need to close the breakfast clubs but still be able to open the school at the normal start time.

All parents must make sure that the school is open before dropping children off or sending children to school in bad weather. School telephones will be manned as early as we are able (typically 8.15am), however in the event that staff are unable to attend school the telephones may remain on Night Mail.

Please help to inform other families once you have the correct information. Any children arriving inadvertently without an adult will be brought into school. Staff will arrange with the child/children's parents to collect them as soon as it is practicable.

The safety of all our children in these matters is our greatest concern and we will always make our decision based on this.





Best Class Attendance Award
Week beginning: 27.11.23

Year 3

Times Tables Rock Stars

The winner of this week's 'head to head':

Year 4

The mini league winner:

Year 3



Please be reminded that TT Rockstars have launched a new Parent Webpage



TT Rockstars have created a parent/carer webpage to help you to support your Y2 –Y6 child with their multiplication and times tables. Please follow the link below:

trockstars.com/parents/

What's included?

- Importance of times tables
- TTRS intro video
- Parent guide PDF
- FAQs answered
- Free downloadables



You Can Toucan Awards

The You Can Toucan awards are presented each week to those children who have gone above and beyond the expected.

This week staff have chosen:

Nursery: Alana for being a good friend.

Reception: Zachary for having a wonderful enthusiastic attitude to everything he does.

Year 1: Danae for always making good choices with her behaviour and being a role model to everyone.

Year 2: Lui for working hard in writing lessons.

Year 3: Laura for always doing her best.

Year 4: Logan Gr for his contributions in assembly.

Year 5: Thomas for his perseverance in problem solving in maths.

Year 6: Bobby for his perseverance during art and **Blessing** for his excellent problem solving during maths.



Our Half Term Value: Hope

"May the God of Hope fill you with joy and peace."

Romans 15:13

Our Value Advocates have selected the following Value Champions for the week.

Value Advocates	Value Champions for the week
Nursery: Arabelle chose	Stevie for her brilliant enthusiasm & positivity when singing our nativity songs
Reception: Olivia chose	Freya for always being a kind and hopeful member of our class
Year 1: Kane chose	Niamh for being so happy and positive, spreading our value of Hope
Year 2: Tommy chose	Joshua for being a hopeful and kind friend
Year 3: Harriet chose	Evie for always being hopeful and kind
Year 4: Robyn chose	Megan for living all of our school values every day
Year 5: Jude chose	Seb for giving joy, hope and fun at playtimes
Year 6: Millie F chose	Mia for always trying her best and having a smile on her face

With kind regards

Mrs H Gillingham



OFFICE UPDATE

Payments

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

Help with small emergencies!

Schools try to keep a supply of children's underwear: tights, socks, pants, skirts and trousers.... Just in case! Sizes need to fit Nursery - Year 3 children.

Our supply at St Andrew's is currently running quite low. Please think of us if your children outgrow any of these items and they are still fit for purpose. A child will be very pleased to have use of them one day, if you are able to donate to school. Thank you.

Applications for NURSERY class for Sept '24

Applications for St Andrew's Nursery class for September 2024 are now open. This is applicable to children born between *1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021*. Application forms are available on our school website and from our School Office. The application deadline is **29th February 2024**. 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 '24

Herts County Council online admissions applications for Reception class in September 2024 is now open.

This is applicable to children born between *1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020*. The online application deadline is **15th January 2024**. 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

Booking for Super Star Sport's clubs for next half term is now available at <https://superstarsportuk.class4kids.co.uk> – 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.s

Local News:

The Ware & Stanstead Abbots Safer Neighbourhood Team have asked us to send the following message:

After the success of last year's Christmas Hamper Project, the Ware and Stanstead Abbots Safer Neighbourhood 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 100 hampers to the most vulnerable children in our community.

This list is now exhaustive, and we would be grateful for other items such as books, crafts, edible goodies and toiletries. 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.

Below is our Amazon wish list and we would be grateful for any items that you can provide. (Items will be delivered directly to Police).

As always, thank you for your support.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1HHBMP5E0ELCC?ref=wl_share



UPCOMING DATES

DEC

- 4th Dec:** KS1 Nativity matinee - 2.30pm
- 5th Dec:** KS1 Nativity matinee – 2.30pm
KS1 Nativity evening performance - 6.00pm
CHOIR – The Herts and Ware Schools Carol Service – Christchurch Ware
- 6th Dec:** CHOIR – The Festival of Carols – Hoddesdon town centre
- 8th Dec:** Non-uniform – Cakes donations for the FOSTA Christmas Fayre
FOSTA Christmas Fayre – 5.00pm – 7.00pm
- 11th Dec:** EYFS Nativity 9.30am
- 12th Dec:** EYFS Nativity 9.30am
FOSTA School Christmas Disco – details to follow
- 13th Dec:** School Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day
- 14th Dec:** School Christmas Church Service
- 19th Dec:** End of term
- 20th Dec:** INSET Day

JAN 2024

- 8th Jan:** **RETURN TO SCHOOL**

