



# 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: 1.3.24 Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham

Value: Wisdom

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a really busy week, returning after our half term break. We have had a number of visitors to look around our school, including Mrs Sorrell, St Albans Diocese Education Consultant, who visited all of the classes and praised the vision and values of the school, and Mr Ottery, HCC Health & Safety Inspector. We have recently had a full Health and Safety inspection - completed every five years by the Herts County Schools team - and came out very highly, with very few actions. Mr Ottery completed our five-year fire check and again, it was a very positive visit.



All the classes have swiftly returned to work mode – fully focusing on their new learning. Here are a few of the interesting activities they have been completing:

Nursery class have been learning how to play the wood blocks and claves in their music lesson this week. They learnt how to play them quietly and loudly. They played along to the 'Animal Tea Party' song, showing a good awareness of how to play in time; knowing when to start and, equally importantly, when to stop!

Reception class have been producing some fantastic writing linked to their book 'The Tiny Seed' by Eric Carle. The children explored the illustrations in the story and then used their phonic knowledge to write their own captions.

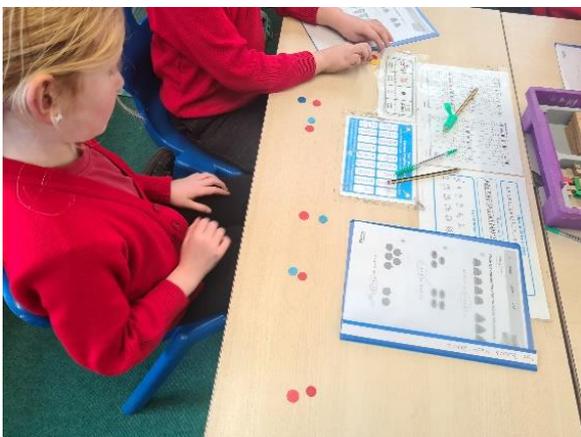




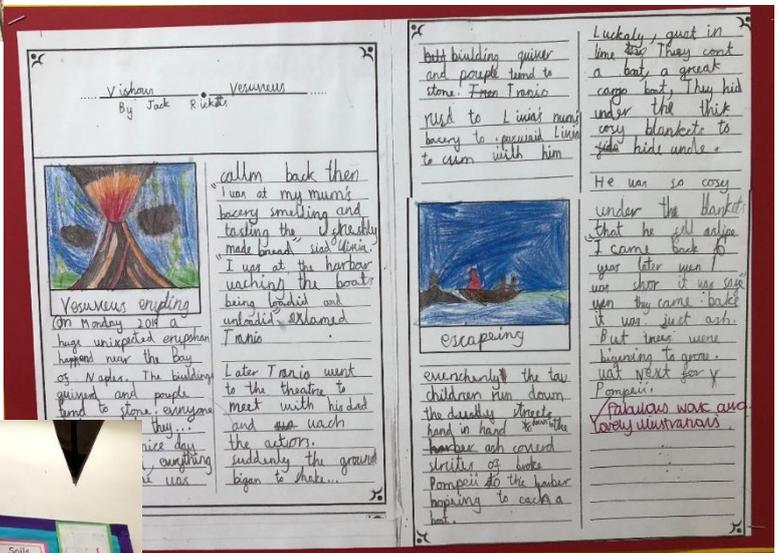
In Year 1 the children have started learning about the Easter story. They discussed what happened on each day and why Easter is important to Christians. They also designed their own crosses to help them remember the story.



In Computing, Year 2 have been playing instruments on the screen before putting blocks of sound together to create repeating patterns and melodies. In their maths lessons the children have been relating division to multiplication by both grouping and sharing amounts.



Jack R (Year 3) did some fantastic, emotional writing, imagining he was at Pompeii during the Vesuvius eruption in AD 79. His work, along with many of the other children's work, is proudly on display in the classroom.



There is also a lovely completed science display outside Year 3, sharing all of the wonderful science work the children have completed over the past half term investigating rocks, soils and fossils. The children have absolutely loved all of the investigations and have been so enthusiastic about their learning - led by Dr Collins.



Eight of our Year 4 children (Jacob, Max, Joe, Louie, Bella, Megan, Hattie and Eliana) represented the school at the local 'Rapid Fire Cricket Tournament' on Thursday morning.

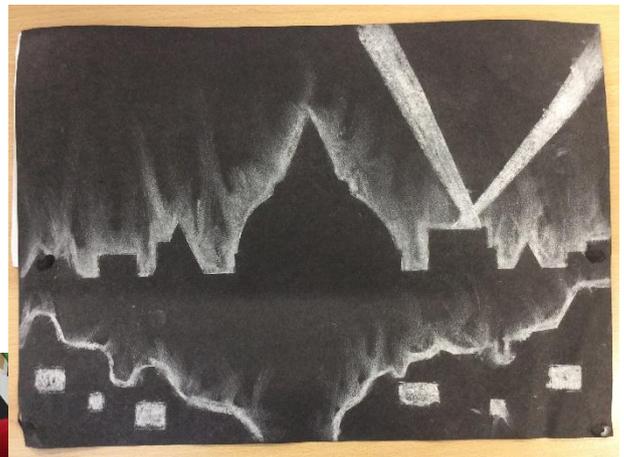
The children had a great time, and came a respectable sixth out of fifteen schools. Mrs Sutcliffe, who attended, commented on their great sportsmanship at the event.



On Tuesday afternoon, Ava, Thomas, Seb and Jack H represented the school in the Year 5 Inter-school Maths Challenge. They worked tightly as a team and answered many difficult and tricky questions. We await the results but are really proud of their positivity.



Year 6 have been focusing upon their SAT preparation but as a bit of a light, artistic relief they have used the photo 'St Paul's on Fire' taken by Herbert Mason during the Blitz to create their own version using stencils and chalk. The results are quite stunning.



### St Andrew's Got Talent

A group of our Year 6 children (Millie A, Jasmine, Millie F, Grace, Rebecca, Annabelle and Grace) organised and led a St Andrew's has got talent show. The children, from Year 2-6, demonstrated a range of skills: art, dance, football dribbling, gymnastics, singing and dancing. It was a lovely afternoon and all of the children were full of enthusiasm. The top acts, once the scores have been calculated, will perform to the whole of the school on Monday.

### Homework

Ava (Year 5) came and showed me some stunning artwork which she had completed at home. Her drawings were particularly fine and showed a real natural flair and attention to detail.



### Congratulations

Very well done to Emma (Year 6) who gained a Distinction for her Grade 2 music exam playing drums. This is a wonderful achievement and we are very proud of her accomplishment.

### SEND and Inclusion Corner

There are a variety of courses available through the Supporting Links network. These courses are running in April and June. Each course runs over 6 weekly sessions and is offered FREE of charge to parents thanks to funding from Herts County Council:

- Talking Additional Needs (2 online courses)
- Talking Families (2 online courses)
- Talking Teens (1 online course & 1 Hertsmere course)
- Talking Dads (2 online courses)
- Talking Anger in Teens (1 online course)
- Talking Anxiety in the Family (1 online course)

For further details please go to the website, call the number below or ask Mrs Davey for a referral form.

[www.supportinglinks.co.uk](http://www.supportinglinks.co.uk) 01442 300185/07467 694278



### Attendance Ladder



### Attendance Matters- Every Day Counts!

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Present whole school attendance (2023-24)     | 94.7%          |
| National attendance                           | 94.3%          |
| This week's school attendance                 | 95.4%          |
| Best Class Attendance: Week Beginning 26.2.24 | Year 6 - 98.6% |

### Times Tables Rock Stars



This week's mini league winner: Year 5

### 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: Stevie** for making the most fantastic mini-books, full of detail and information.

**Reception: Edee and Damon** for working hard on their letter formation.

**Year 1: Louie** for his fantastic letter formation and handwriting.

**Year 2: Finn** for his dedication to his learning.

**Year 3: Thomas** for his wonderful writing.

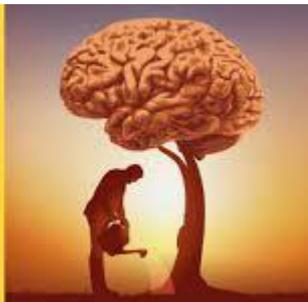
**Year 4: Jacob** for his focus and engagement this week.

**Year 5: Jack R** for showing perseverance with his times tables.

**Year 6: Noah** for his hard work and effort all week.



What is  
wisdom?



## Our Half Term Value: Wisdom

*'Blessed are those who find wisdom.'* Proverbs 3.13

Our Value Advocates, who will be choosing the Value Champion each week, for this half term are:

| Class Value Advocate |
|----------------------|
| Nursery: Harry       |
| Reception: Jamie     |
| Year 1: Ezra         |
| Year 2: India        |
| Year 3: Rosie        |
| Year 4: Lewis        |
| Year 5: Austin       |
| Year 6: Evan         |

With kind regards,

Mrs H Gillingham

### OFFICE UPDATE

#### School dinner payment slips

The dinner payment slips have been sent home this afternoon. Please look out for it in your child's book bag.

#### Applications for NURSERY class for Sept '24

**Applications for St Andrew's Nursery class for September 2024 are now closed.** Please contact the School Office if you are looking for a place and have not yet applied.

#### After School clubs – 2nd Half Spring Term

Booking for Super Star Sport clubs for next half term are 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](http://www.superstarsport.co.uk). For any queries: email [info@superstarsport.co.uk](mailto:info@superstarsport.co.uk) or phone 01992 766 707.

#### Local news:

Hertfordshire police have sent the following information:



Nobody is immune from fraud and cyber-crime. The criminals behind it target people online and in their homes, often emotionally manipulating their victims before they steal money or personal data.

But there is something we can do. By staying vigilant and always taking a moment to stop, think and check whenever we're approached by text, email, phone, or online, we can help to protect ourselves and each other from fraud and our accounts from being hacked. You can visit the Home Office national campaign against fraud [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams \(stophinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk\)](https://stophinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk)

### **UPCOMING DATES**

- Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Feb – 6<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Scholastic Book Fair – after school in hall
- Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Mar:** 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 Mother's Day Sale in School
- Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Nursery, Reception, & Year 1 Mother's Day Sale in School
- Mon 4<sup>th</sup>– Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Year 5 Bikeability
- Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Shooting Star Circus Science Workshop in school (Yr 1 - Yr 6) - details to follow
- Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Year 1 Hertford Museum Workshop in school - details to follow
- Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Mar:** World Book Day in school – details to follow
- Wed 20<sup>th</sup> – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar:** Year 5 Hudnall Park Residential
- Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Y3 & Y4 Easter play – evening performance starting at 6.30pm
- Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Y3 & Y4 Easter play – matinee performance starting at 2.15pm
- Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Y3 & Y4 Easter play – matinee performance starting at 2.15pm
- Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Mar:** **Last day of Spring term**
- Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Apr:** **Return to school – Summer Term**
- Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Apr:** Nursery Open Day – for Sept '24 applicants
- Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Apr:** 'Chance to Shine' Cricket Day school workshops (Yr2 - Yr6) in school
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> May:** Year 6 SATs week
- Tues 21 May:** Year 3 Trip to Welwyn Hatfield Museum
- Sun 19<sup>th</sup> - Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> May:** Year 6 PGL Residential trip

