



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: 10.11.23 Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham

Value: Hope

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a number of visitors monitoring our school this week. On Monday we had our re-visit of the Early Years Advisor to look at the provision for our very youngest children. He was very impressed with all that Mrs Bugg and her team have put in place for our children. He particularly commented on the learning environment and all that they had done to ensure our children have easy access to resources to enrich their play and learning. We know what a wonderful and fun learning environment our Early Years is for our children and I was proud to show it off.

On Tuesday we then had our Autumn visit from our Schools Effectiveness Advisor. He led a Deep Dive-styled morning, looking at our maths provision. We completed observations in all classes and he spoke to both Miss Muncey, our Maths Subject Lead and the children about maths in our school. Once again, we saw some excellent practice and the Effectiveness Advisor spoke highly about both the provision and Miss Muncey's expertise and strong leadership in this area. For further information about our maths curriculum, please see our subject page on the school website:

<https://standrews323.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/subjects/maths-2/>

Remembrance

In yesterday's assembly we held our school-based Remembrance Service which was an opportunity for some of the children to share their reflections and thoughts from the work they have completed this week. Year 6 used old egg boxes to make poppies.

Thank you for all of the donations for the poppies. All the proceeds will be going to the British Legion.



Inspiring Science Work

Our Year 5 came back full of enthusiasm about the future of space exploration, having visited the STEM Space Discovery Centre in Stevenage, on Wednesday. The children I spoke to, afterwards, were able to share some really in-depth knowledge about the Mars Rover and its proposed future.



Year 3 have also been completing some investigations themselves. For homework they decorated a plate of their favourite food and then worked out the content of that meal in terms of food types and calories. A beautiful mix of art and scientific research.

OPAL



Historically, at this time of year the children would have been confined to play on the hard surfaces when outside. Under OPAL we still allow them to use the field and the area under the trees. This helps them to continue to enjoy the wider space our lovely outside area provides and to enjoy watching the changing of the seasons. We do, however stipulate that they have to have a change of footwear if they want to access these areas. Most of our children have brought in boots or outside shoes. Some children are also bringing in outside trousers whilst they learn that mud can be slippery!

Remembrance Service

We held our school Remembrance Service on Thursday 9th November. Revd. Sarah led the service and our Year 6 prefects helped read the prayers and poems. It was a thoughtful, reflective occasion. This Sunday Raphael, Rebecca and Jasmine will be representing the school in laying a wreath at the war memorial outside St Andrew's church. The service will begin at 10.30 and all are invited to join. Attached to the newsletter are details of local services.



Warm Welcome Space



Revd. Sarah would also like us to advertise the re-starting of the 'Warm Welcome Space' initiative. The mission of Warm Welcome Spaces is for organisations to open their doors and provide a warm welcome for those struggling to heat their homes this winter. If you'd like to know more, please visit <https://www.warmwelcome.uk/>

Two local spaces (Wilshire Hall and St Mary's Church) will be open for coffee and tea on either Monday or Wednesday mornings. For full details please see attached poster.

Reading Makes Us Smart!

Ware Library Winter Reads initiative



A reminder of the Ware Library Winter Reading Challenge. This is an initiative which the whole family can enjoy together. The challenge will run from Saturday 4th November 2023 until Saturday 24th February 2024.

To take part, just visit a Hertfordshire library to collect a challenge card and choose 12 challenges from a choice of 24. Join the library, it's free, to take part.

On completing the challenges, the challenge card is stamped & on completion of all the challenges a certificate is awarded. Challenge completers will then be entered into a prize draw to win a Ware Libraries prize of an iPad and if the Winter Reads Challenge was completed at Hoddesdon Library, completers will also be entered into a prize draw to win a family ticket for 4 at Willows Activity Farm.





Attendance Ladder



Best Class Attendance Award

Week beginning: 6.11.23

Year 5

Times Tables Rock Stars



This week's winner is:
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: Remy for his determination and persistence in building a house for our toy cat.

Reception: Barnaby for going above and beyond in our maths work this week.

Year 1: Marshall for being caring towards others.

Year 2: Olivia for listening and showing respect to others.

Year 3: Jamie for being on fire in all his subjects this week.

Year 4: Alby for his contributions to class discussions, and **Hattie** for her positive approach to school life.

Year 5: Abigail for her positive attitude and persistence in her learning.

Year 6: Mimi for her fantastic effort and attitude in everything!





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	Vienna for her wonderful positive attitude to school life
Reception: Olivia chose	Edee for living the value of help
Year 1: Kane chose	Hadley for always being happy and cheerful in class
Year 2: Tommy chose	George S for showing the value of Hope
Year 3: Harriet chose	Rosie for her hopeful and pleasant disposition
Year 4: Robyn chose	Joe for being kind and helpful
Year 5: Jude chose	Jack R for being a positive and kind member of the class
Year 6: Millie F chose	Summer for her hopeful and positive attitude towards school

With kind regards

Mrs H Gillingham

OFFICE UPDATE

After School clubs – 2nd Half Autumn 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.

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.

TT Rockstars Parent webpage launch

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:

ttrockstars.com/parents/



What's included?

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



Local News:

Herts Music Service – local music groups

Herts Music Service are on a recruitment drive for pupils to attend groups within the East Herts and Broxbourne area - so much can be gained by attending groups -musically and socially. Attached are posters for the groups that HMS run at their centres in Bishops Stortford, Broxbourne and Hertford.

Hertfordshire's Community Risk Management Plan

Sent on behalf of Herts Fire and Rescue Service: Please support Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service to understand how prepared people who live and work in Hertfordshire are for dealing with emergencies, building a picture of the barriers there are to people joining the fire and rescue service, and learn how it can better engage with the local community.

You can participate in this survey by clicking <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/> . The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete and the deadline to complete is 19th November 2023. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us on SafeandResilient@hertfordshire.gov.uk

'Supporting Links' – Support groups for parents and carers

Supporting Links offer Parenting Support Groups countywide and ONLINE for the **Spring term 2024**.

There are **7 online** courses starting in in the new year, as well as **2 face to face** groups. Each group runs over 6 weekly sessions and is offered **FREE of charge** to parents and carers thanks to funding from Herts County Council:

Talking Additional Needs (1 Three Rivers course)

Talking Families (1 online / 1 Welwyn/Hatfield course)

Talking Teens (2 online courses)

Talking Dads (2 online courses)

(NEW) Talking Anger in Teens (1 online course)

(NEW) Talking Anxiety in the Family (1 online course)

BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN

Further information on course content and suitability, along with details on dates and times, can be found in flyers available from the School Office.

Children's Commissioner for England - "The Big Ambition" survey

The following has been received from Children's Commissioner for England:

The Children's Commissioner recently launched The Big Ambition to hear directly from children and young people across the country about what they need to make their lives better. Thousands of children have already had their say. Now, as we approach the General Election, it is a crucial moment to take children and young people's voices to policymakers and the Government, to make sure they are heard. That is why, through The



Big Ambition survey, we want to hear from children and young people about their schools, communities, family life, and the wider world, as well as what they want for their future, their hopes, dreams, and aspirations.

This survey is for all children and young people aged 0 to 18. Children aged 6 to 18 can complete the survey themselves. For those who may need additional support or for children under six parents and other adults can complete the survey on their behalf. The survey can be completed here:

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition

Through this link there is an easy read version and different questions based on the age of the child or young person. By completing 'The Big Ambition' you'll be ensuring children's voices are reflected in the decisions that will affect them in years to come."

UPCOMING DATES

NOV

- 13th Nov:** Y4 trip – The British Museum, London
- 15th Nov:** Reception – Year 6 - Flu vaccinations in school
- 16th Nov:** Year 5 - Residential Trip March '24 – parents' meeting 3.15pm Y5 classroom
- 24th Nov:** Non-uniform - Sweets donations for the FOSTA Christmas Fayre
FOSTA Pre-loved uniform and Christmas jumper sale - 3.15pm outside the Canopy

DEC

- 1st Dec:** Non-uniform - Bottles donations for the FOSTA Christmas Fayre
- 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 – (9.30 – 11am - details to follow)
- 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**

