



St Andrew's Church of England (VC) Primary School

'Learn to love and love to learn; in God's love each one will shine.'

St Andrew's Weekly Update

Date: 11.9.20

Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham

Value: Hope

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs. G. Askew to our school team. She is teaching on Wednesdays in Year 1 and Reception, for PPA cover. We know that she will be a real asset with all of her previous early Years and KS1 experience.

Another new member of our school community to welcome is Reverend Sarah Forrest, whose Licensing service I attended last night at St Andrew's church. It was a real privilege to be there representing our school and a very special time for her family and the local community. It has been nearly a whole year since we said farewell to Reverend Anne and it is wonderful that we can now welcome Reverend Sarah to be a part of our school.

Some sad news is that we are saying goodbye to Mrs. J Addy who, after 19 years, has very reluctantly tendered her resignation due to personal reasons. She will be much missed, not just for her wonderful positivity and much-valued counselling skills but also for her dedication to help and support all of our children and her care of all of our staff too. Mrs. Addy is greatly respected by us all and it is difficult to say goodbye to her. Instead we have told her "Au revoir" and she has promised that she will keep in touch with us.

We will be making a collection for her in the School Office (I hope she is not reading this!) and if you would like to make a contribution then please do so by Monday, 21st September.



Exciting Developments.

EYFS outside space has had a much needed facelift by the addition of new climbing frames. The children loved watching the workmen install them – indeed there was a line of Reception

children at the windows with clipboards completing health and safety reports throughout the day.

I have been informed that Mr. Price and Miss Bowie are now costing up other equipment which they wish to add, to further enrich the children's outside learning experience.



Reading, Reading, Reading

Last week I asked to hear about any children who have completed the local libraries' Reading Challenge. Well done Lily (Y5) who set herself a target of reading 8 chaptered books, which she exceeded. It was great to hear that she loves reading. Fantastic work Lily. I am sure many more children will have completed the scheme too, so please do let me know.

Thank you for the return of books back borrowed before Lockdown, but Miss Muncey has informed me that she is still missing over 40 new reading scheme books. This is a real shame as we invested a lot of money in this whole new scheme in December, ensuring that our reading scheme books match the phonics that the children are being taught. Please can I request again that everybody has a good look to help us return the books so that our new classes can benefit from them. I have asked the children, in Collective Worship, to look as they tidy their bedrooms this weekend! There is a blue box outside the main entrance for any returning books, or you can return them straight to the class.

Covid-19 Safety Information

Understandably, there is ongoing concern about the Covid-19 situation and schools are not exempt to that. Whenever we receive updated guidance from either the County Council or the Government, we will always forward it to you and put the information onto our website:

<https://standrews323.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/letters-home/>

Children inevitably get sniffs and sneezes and it may be difficult to judge whether it is the start of something more serious. All of the guidance, presently, is that if it is a runny nose or sore throat these are not thought of as symptoms of Covid-19. We have been advised that the symptoms for you to be mindful of are **a new continuous cough and/or high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)**. If your child develops any of these symptoms, you should follow the steps outlined on the attached sheet.

For further information, see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

You can get a test done at a test site and get your result the next day, or order a home test kit. This link provides further information.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/>

There are Covid-19 Drive-through Testing Sites at Welwyn Garden City (Tesco Plus (HQ)) or at Stansted (Stansted Airport)

Hands, Face, Space Campaign



Following Wednesday's launch of the Prime Minister's 'Hands, Face, Space' Campaign urging the public to continue to wash their hands, cover their face and make space to control infection rates, our staff will now be wearing face coverings (either a mask or a transparent visor) during busy times at school - particularly pick up and drop off times. Rest assured that the staff will not be wearing masks in the classroom.

I hope many of you will also wear masks at these times too, as this will help keep all of us safe. I say this as I am aware that, even though our soft drop off is working brilliantly, there are pinch points around the school (e.g. near to EYFS) where parents are being funnelled together.

Of course this does not preclude you taking any face covering off to kiss your child goodbye and give them a hug. We all know how important that is.



This week's **You Can, Toucan** awards, chosen by the staff, go to:

Nursery and Reception: All of the children for starting school so positively.

Year 1: Oliver and Bella for their lovely manners and beginning so well at their new school.
Megan for being brave when coming into school.

Year 2: The whole of year 2 for settling in so well and for their lovely writing.

Year 3: Aydin for already reaching Gold in Turbo Tables.

Year 4: Elodie for her maturity and positive attitude towards school life.

Year 5: Gwen and Harper for settling in brilliantly into Year 5.

Year 6: Callum for his excellent start to Year 6.

Our New Value: Hope



In our Collective Worship we have explored images and symbols of hope. We discussed the tenacity and strength of Sir Tom Moore, who raised over £32million in his walk for the NHS. We also discussed why the rainbow was used as a symbol of hope through lockdown – a symbol that light and hope comes after a storm, linking with the rainbow that God sent in the Old Testament story of Noah's Ark.



In class Collective Worship the children explored the creation story and linked this to a celebration of all of the wonders the natural world offers. After the discussion I was visited by a number of children who shared their thoughts about how we could take care of the world. Charlotte and Holly came and told me about how they had been (safely) litter picking in the local park.

A little later Huxley, Paige and Aaliyah showed me poems they had written at home, which I thought I would share with you to end my part of the newsletter.

Kind regards,

Mrs H. Gillingham

school packed lunches that have a credit due from March will be notified today of their credit amount.

- Parents of children who have a credit due from March but are not currently taking up meals will be informed by the School Office in the coming week of their credit total. Parents are able to hold their credit on their child's account until they resume taking school meals and the balance will gradually diminish or, if parents prefer, please let the School Office know and we will arrange for a refund.
- Payments for this half term: In usual circumstances, parents are requested to pay their child's dinner money account at the beginning of the term. At the present time, as children have the option to choose on a daily basis whether they wish to take up a school packed lunch, we are asking parents to make payments for their child's lunch via Wisepay on a regular basis, i.e. weekly. For audit requirements, all meals taken this half term need to be paid for in this half term. We request that all payments are made by Tuesday, 20th October, at the latest, including any payments due for Wednesday or Thursday, 21st and 22nd October. (Friday, 23rd October is an Inset Day).
- Unfortunately, we are unable to take cash or cheques at the moment. If you need to make payment to the school, please do so via Wisepay. If you have any queries or need help accessing Wisepay, please contact the School Office. Thank you.

Meet the Teacher sessions:

Due to the current situation, you will be aware that we are unable to hold our usual 'Meet the Teacher' sessions in our classrooms this year. We are instead replacing them with Zoom meetings. Invitations will be sent out via ParentMail a few days prior to the session date. On the day, your child's class teacher will hold a session at 2pm and another identical session at 6pm.

Year 4 have already had their meeting with Mr Chesterman – the rest of the class dates are below:

Nursery	Wednesday, 30 th September
Reception	Wednesday, 23 rd September
Year 1	Tuesday, 22 nd Sept
Year 2	Monday, 21 st September
Year 3	Monday, 14 th September – invite sent via ParentMail Thursday, 10 th Sept
Year 5	Thursday, 17 th September
Year 6	Wednesday, 16 th September

Early Years:

As Mrs Gillingham has mentioned, we are delighted with the new installations in the Early Years garden. We also extend our huge thanks to Robyland Ltd, who have worked their magic again and completed the much needed refurbishment to the Nursery / Reception toilets. We are also expecting the permanent fencing in front of the Nursery red door in the Roydon Road Car Park, to be completed over the weekend. Again, huge thanks are extended to Mr Weeks for assisting us in with the temporary fencing in the interim.

Class Emails

As a reminder, please be aware that the class email addresses (Year1@standrews323., Year2@standrews323... etc) are not regularly monitored. If you have an urgent query or need a quick response, please contact the School Office who can pass on any information to the class teachers.

Secondary School Applications:

Also as a reminder, our Year 6 parents need to apply for a secondary school place via the HCC website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions by the deadline of 31st October 2020. Please refer to information attached to last week's newsletter for details of the secondary school open events. The School Office is happy to help if you have any concerns / queries.

Data Collection:

Parents and carers are reminded that the School Office must be informed, in writing, of any changes to contact details or child/ren's medical information. This can be done via email: admin@standrews323.herts.sch.uk, or via a letter which parents & carers can hand in to the School Office.

Collection of Children:

Whilst we continue to be in these unusual circumstances, please can we also ask parents that if they find themselves in a situation whereby none of their child's nominated family/friends are within 20-30 minutes of the school, that they consider nominating another adult to collect their child in the event that their child becomes unwell during the school day. We will continue to call parents to collect their child if they need to leave school, for whatever reason. Parents/Carers will have the opportunity to confirm if another parent is to collect on their behalf, when we call. Thank you.

COVID-19:

Finally, we are resending the information to parents now received via HCC, highlighting what to do if you suspect Covid-19 symptoms in your child. This is accompanied by a 'Stay Safe Herts' information leaflet about travelling to and from school.

FORTHCOMING DATES:

September

- 14th** Year 3 'Meet the Teacher' via Zoom - 2.00pm & 6.00pm
- 16th** Year 6 'Meet the Teacher' via Zoom - 2.00pm & 6.00pm
- 17th** Year 5 'Meet the Teacher' via Zoom - 2.00pm & 6.00pm
- 21st** Year 2 'Meet the Teacher' via Zoom - 2.00pm & 6.00pm
- 21st** Individual School Photos – details to follow
- 22nd** Year 1 'Meet the Teacher' via Zoom - 2.00pm & 6.00pm
- 23rd** Reception 'Meet the Teacher' via Zoom - 2.00pm & 6.00pm
- 30th** Nursery 'Meet the Teacher' via Zoom - 2.00pm & 6.00pm