



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: 15.12.23 Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham

Value: Hope

Dear Parents and Carers,

FOSTA Christmas Fayre

Last Friday was an enormous success with our FOSTA Christmas Fayre. The school was jam-packed with stalls, children and happy customers – all really enjoying the Christmas spirit. Thank you to everybody, especially FOSTA, who put in so much work planning and preparing the event as well as making sure it all ran smoothly. I believe the total so far is £2583, which is brilliant as these funds will all go towards enriching your child's life at school. However, the real benefit was to see the community spirit of the school, really pulling together and having a jolly good time.

FOSTA have raised an amazing £3566 in total this term from all their events, including not only the fayre but a disco, art, Bags2School, and uniform sales. Our huge thanks go to the organisers and to all our supporters.





On Sunday, some of the school choir had the chance to sing with the Hertford Symphony Orchestra at the Drill Hall in Ware as part of their Winter Wonderland concert. This was organised by Miss Sewell, who performs regularly with the orchestra.

Nativity Homework

Caitlin came to see me, having made a wonderful Nativity tableau at home. She explained all of the processes she went through to create her scene and I am sure it will become a well-loved Christmas memento brought out each year. It really was stunning.

EYFS Nativity

Another stunning Nativity, this week, was EYFS's 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel'. After a brilliant dress rehearsal, the play was performed confidently by our youngest children and was enjoyed by all. I am always amazed at the children's ability to learn all of their lines and the words to the songs - it really is impressive.



Christmas Church Service



We held our traditional Christmas Service at St Andrew's on Thursday. This is always a moment for us all to pause in the hectic Christmas schedule and remember what is at the heart of the season; the gift of Baby Jesus. Our Year 6 Prefects helped to lead the service with reading and prayers and the service was full of songs and music from the Choir and from our two nativities. It was a very special moment.

Christmas Disco and Dinner

Two further joyful events, this week, involved the children dancing the evening away on Tuesday and then tucking into a wonderful Christmas lunch on Wednesday. Thank you to FOSTA, once again, for organising the disco and the pizza tea for all of the children and thank you to our wonderful dinner ladies for putting on such a lovely spread on Wednesday. Both events were really appreciated.

Here are Year 3 resplendent in their Christmas clothes ready for their Christmas lunch.





Mrs Partridge

Very sadly this is the last school Christmas dinner being cooked by our wonderful school cook - Mrs Sam Partridge. Sam has been our school cook for more than 7 years and will be very much missed by both the children and staff alike. Sam came in throughout the Covid lockdown period, providing meals for our key worker and vulnerable children. She really was a positive force throughout that time and continued to be afterwards. However, we won't be saying a complete goodbye as she will continue in her parent role for the next few years. We wish her all the best in her new job.

Congratulations



Congratulations to both Mrs Davey and Mr Cooper who were awarded their National Professional Qualification for Headship this week. This is a tough qualification to get and has taken over eighteen months of study, courses and implementing initiatives to achieve. We are really proud of them both but hope that they do not take that step towards Headship too quickly!

Miss Muncey has also completed her National Qualification for Senior Leadership this term, which again has involved study and many hours of extra work. We really are very lucky that we have so many staff who are willing to continue developing and deepening their educational knowledge. The impact of this personal study helps ensure that the school continues to be a forward looking, academic environment for all.

OPAL – Mr Cooper

A reminder that we are collecting:

- large planters/containers for planting herbs (and any excess herb off-cuts!)
- wooden tables/units and wooden chairs to extend our mud kitchen further



- old pots, pans, sieves, utensils etc.
- toy cars and small world toys (dinosaurs, animals, dolls)
- aprons

Neurodiversity Support Hub

For Parents, Carers and Professionals

We can offer support, signposting and guidance about a whole range of things including but not limited to:



- Understanding ADHD/Autism
- Distressed Behaviours
- Anxiety
- School

The phones are answered by our team of parents and carers of neurodivergent children and young people



01727 833963



supporthub@add-vance.org

**Open Monday-Friday
9 AM - 1PM**



Here to support, reach out for a listening ear



ADD-vance
The ADHD and Autism Trust

Herts Parent & Carer Involvement
www.hertsparentscarer.org.uk



Herts Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism Health and Care Partnership



SEND- Mrs Davey

NEW Neurodiversity Support for Parents, Carers and Professionals in Hertfordshire

We are delighted to let you know about the launch of The Hertfordshire Neurodiversity Support Hub which is **open Monday - Friday 9am-1pm**. (Please see the flyer below)



The Hub is staffed by experts by who can answer any questions to do with Neurodiversity, however big or small, or just be a listening ear. Please note, **no diagnosis is required to access the support** and the helpline is **open to parents, carers and professionals**.

The Hub can be contacted by phone on 01727 833963, with an answerphone facility for out of hours or by email at supporthub@add-vance.org

There are also some **new digital webinars** which parent, carers and professionals can access on demand. Initially there are webinars on Understanding Autism, Understanding ADHD, Navigating the SEND world and Navigating the SEND world post 16 with more coming soon. These can be accessed here [SEND documents and resources \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SEND/documents-and-resources)

A short digital animation about ADHD and Autism support in Hertfordshire can be found following this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJmmvf_LTbU

Local Church Events

Revd. Sarah has asked us to share with you the local Church events being held over the Christmas period.

Our children may particularly enjoy the candlelit Carol Service being held at St Andrew's this Sunday at 6.30pm, and taking part in the reimagining of the Christmas story on Christmas Eve. The procession for this will begin at St Margarets Train Station at 3pm on 24th December.

Follow The Star
Join the Song
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Advent Carols
Sunday 3rd December
4pm at St James,
Stanstead Abbots

Christmas Tree Festival
Saturday 9th &
Sunday 10th December
2–6pm at St Mary the
Virgin, St Margarets

Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 10th December
6.30pm at St John the Baptist,
Great Amwell
and
Sunday 17th December
6.30pm at St Andrew,
Stanstead Abbots

**The Christmas Journey
The Nativity Story
Reimagined**
Sunday 24th December
Starting 3pm at St Margarets Train
Station and ending at St Andrew,
Stanstead Abbots

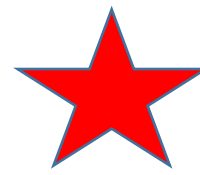
**Christmas Eve Midnight
Holy Communion**
Sunday 24th December
11pm at St Andrew,
Stanstead Abbots

Christmas Day Service
Monday 25th December
10.30am at St Mary the
Virgin, St Margarets

The 3 Churches Benefice invites you to come along with us
as we follow the star, journey to the manger, join the song
and come into the presence of Jesus Christ.
Visit www.3churches.net for more information.



Attendance Ladder



Best Class Attendance Award

Week beginning: 11.12.23

Year 2



Times Tables Rock Stars

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

Year 2

The mini league winner:

Year 4

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: Mario and Jesse for their wonderful retelling of the nativity story.

Reception: All of Reception for the fantastic performance of our nativity play.

Year 1: Tuesday for her perseverance in maths and great contributions in lessons.

Year 2: Jax for his positive attitude to writing and phonics.

Year 3: Rosie for her hard work in writing poems.

Year 4: Lexi for her great effort in her reading comprehension.

Year 5: Lilly R for trying her best in every lesson.

Year 6: Grace for her fantastic attitude towards her learning.





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	All of Nursery for their wonderful performance in the EYFS nativity.
Reception: Olivia chose	Damon for being a kind and hopeful member of the class.
Year 1: Kane chose	Philon for being a good friend and living all the school values.
Year 2: Tommy chose	Digory for showing hope.
Year 3: Harriet chose	Willow for always being helpful and hopeful.
Year 4: Robyn chose	Louie for living all the values.
Year 5: Jude chose	Bela for being kind and thoughtful towards others.
Year 6: Millie F chose	Noah for always giving 100% to everything he does.

As this our last newsletter for the year, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

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

19th Dec: End of term – 1.30pm finish

20th Dec: INSET Day

2024

8th Jan: **RETURN TO SCHOOL**

10th Jan: Year 4 Development Day – information sent home

11th Jan: Year 1 & 2 Police Safety Talk and Activity - in school

15th Jan: Applications for RECEPTION class for Sept '24 - deadline

7th Feb: Year 2 Trip to St Albans Cathedral

13th Feb: Parent Consultation Meetings

15th Feb: Parent Consultation Meetings

