



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: 15.9.23 Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham Value: Community

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all parents and carers who were able to attend our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions this week. Year 6's session will be held on Monday and Year 2 will have theirs on Tuesday. We hope that these sessions are helpful and informative. For those unable to attend, all teachers will ensure that any handouts will be available to collect at the end of the school day. The main message in every session is underlining the importance of parental engagement in helping your child succeed. As stated in last week's Update, reading is a major focus for us this academic year and the more our children read at home, with your support, the greater their progress will be. We are presently reviewing our school homework policy, which will outline how you can support the learning of your child/ren. We will send this out to you as soon as it is completed. If you have thoughts about homework, then do please share at the upcoming Curriculum Evening.

Curriculum Evening

How we teach phonics and reading will also be the main focus of our Curriculum Evening – which will be held on Tuesday, 26th September. Each teacher will hold two identical sessions, the first starting at 6.00pm and the second at 6.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Author Talk



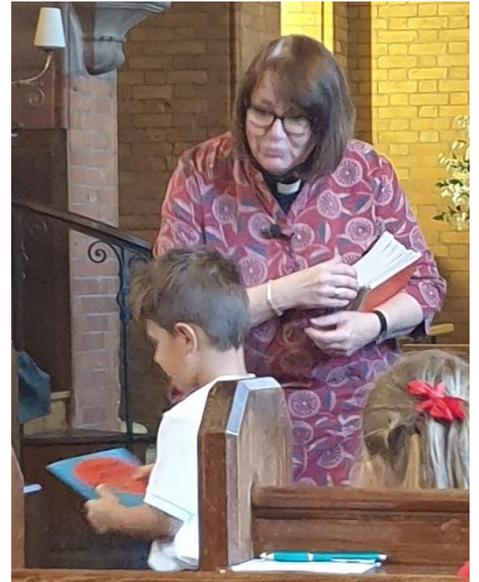
Continuing the theme of reading, Years 5 and 6 joined a Zoom call with S.F. Said, author of 'Varjak Paw' and latest release 'Tyger'. Years 5 and 6 heard how Said's first two books had been rejected over 80 times by publishers but that eventually, with plenty of perseverance, 'Varjak Paw' was picked up by a publisher after 5 years of writing and over 17 drafts! The talk certainly inspired our older children and showed them that you must never give up!





Reception's Welcome Service

Chaperoned by our Year 6 children, our new Reception class went to St Andrew's where Revd. Sarah led their welcome service. This was a lovely service attended by many of the children's parents. All of the Reception children received a gift of a book from the church which, we are sure, they will treasure.



Harvest Festival Appeal

We have launched our Harvest appeal to the children this week. We will be collecting food items (cans, dry foodstuffs - such as pasta, rice, cereals etc.) and toiletries for the local food bank. Although the items will not be opened or consumed in school, as we are a nut-free school, please can we ask that any nut products (including jars of peanut butter or 'Nutella') are not brought in to school.



We are also asking for **donations of books and toys** for a toy-book sale to raise money for the St Alban's Harvest appeal "Cracking Food Poverty Together." Money raised will go towards buying hens for Ugandan farmers - who will then be able to sell the eggs and raise money for educating and supporting their families.

For more details about this cause please click on the link below.

<https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/parishsupport/growing-community/harvest-appeal-2023/>

Donations for either of these excellent causes can be brought in by the children to their classes.





OPAL – Outside Play and Learning

This morning, during Collective Worship, the children were introduced to the new vehicles that would be available to them during break and lunchtimes. We discussed how we could use them safely and fairly. Our children have also loved playing with our new role-play boxes and being creative with old cardboard boxes and packaging.



If you are having a clear out at home and have any scooters, trikes, balance bikes or scuttle bugs that your child may have grown out of, we would love to add them to our fleet of vehicles at St Andrew's!

Attendance Matters



Best Class Attendance Award

Week beginning: 11.9.23

Year 3 and Rec with 99.6 % Attendance!



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: Stella for being a kind friend.

Reception: Jonah for settling in well to school life.

Year 1: Violet for her enthusiasm when contributing to discussions.

Year 2: George S for being an excellent role model.

Year 3: Joseph for his effort, enthusiasm and good behaviour.

Year 4: Lewis for being enthusiastic and positive about school life.

Year 5: Zack for settling brilliantly into Year 5 and working really hard.

Year 6: Summer for always being ready to learn and for working her hardest.



Our Half Term Value: Community

“Live in harmony with one another.”

Romans 12.16

Our new Value Advocates for this half term chose the following Class Champions for the week. These are children seen living the value for the week.

Class Value Advocate	Class Champions
Nursery: AJ chose	Denis – for being a friendly member of the class
Reception: Teddy chose	Poppy R – for being a welcoming member of the class
Year 1: Valentina chose	James – for being friendly to everyone in the class
Year 2: Jax chose	Hugo – for helping his friends in class
Year 3: Archie chose	Glory – for living the value in school!
Year 4: Daisy chose	Max – for being kind to his peers
Year 5: Lily R chose	Dolly – for taking care of others
Year 6: Joseph chose	Jasmine – for helping and supporting the younger children at lunchtime

With kind regards

Mrs H Gillingham



OFFICE UPDATE

School dinners – invoice slips

Dinner slips have been given out to all the Key Stage 2 children this week - please look out for it in your child's book bag. Please note that, if paying half termly, the school requests that payment is received as soon as possible. If your child is subsequently absent from school, a credit will be added to their account for the next half term. Thank you.

Local Offer

The Local Offer website lets parents, young people and professionals know what special educational needs and disabilities services are available in Hertfordshire, and who can access them. There is so much more than that, too. Please see the following link for more information: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer

After School clubs – 1st Half Autumn Term

Booking for Super Star Sport's clubs for this half term is 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.

Local News:

Herts and Ware Police Community Day

Our local PCSO has invited all our families to the Ware Police Community Day on Sunday, 17th September from 11am – 3pm. Please see the flyer attached to the newsletter for more details.

UPCOMING DATES

SEPT 2023

- Mon 18th** Year 6 Meet the Teacher Meeting - 2.30pm
- Tues 19th** Year 2 Meet the Teacher Meeting - 2.30pm
- Tues 19th** Family Support Coffee Morning – by invitation
- Thurs 21st** Individual photos
- Fri 22nd** FOSTA Pre-loved Uniform sale – 3.15pm in school Canopy
- Mon 25th** Coram Life Tent in school for all classes PSHE
- Tues 26th** Curriculum Evening - see this newsletter for details
- Wed 27th** International Language Day
- Fri 29th** Year 3 trip - Celtic Harmony Camp

OCT

- Tues 3rd** Year 6 – PGL Residential trip – Launch meeting for Parents – 3.15pm
- Thurs 5th** Church Service – Harvest Festival



- Wed 11th** Governor Day
- Fri 13th** Year 6 – Stanstead Bury Farm
- Tues 17th** Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30pm – 7.00pm
- Thurs 19th** Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30pm – 7.00pm

NOV

- Wed 8th** Y5 trip – STEM Discovery Centre, Stevenage
- Mon 13th** Y4 trip – The British Museum, London
- Wed 15th** Reception – Year 6 - Flu vaccinations in school

