



# 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: 16.2.24 Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham

Value: Joy

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Parent Consultation Meetings

Thank you for coming to our Parent Consultation Meetings this week - we hope that you found them beneficial and helpful.

### Year 3 Creating Fossils

Year 3 had a very messy but exciting science lesson as they explored the process of fossil making by creating their own fossils.

First they made their dough using flour and water, then they made a dinosaur imprint into the dough using sticks and stones and finally baked their creation. The children loved the activity and were full of details they knew about real fossils.



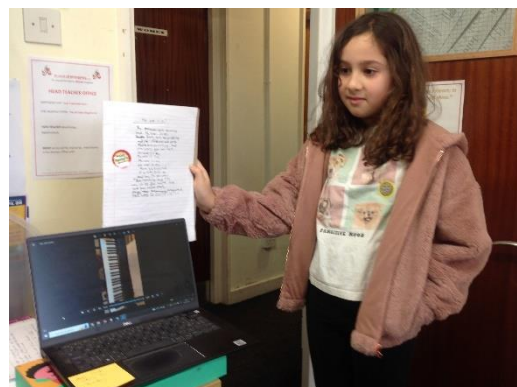
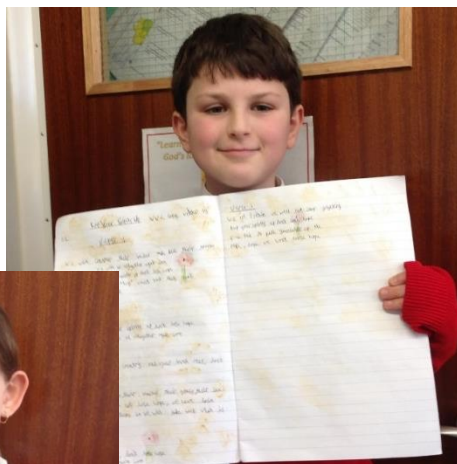
### Year 3 Aboriginal Art

Year 3 have been studying Aboriginal Art this term. They created their own versions of two Dreaming stories, inspired by Aboriginal artists Danny Eastwood and Walangkura Napananga.



### Excellent Homework

Owen (Year 6) shared his WW2 homework, where he had written a forces-inspired song. It was beautifully presented and authentically stained using a teabag. He also told me about his family history and his great, great grandfather's role during WW2. Lela from Year 6 later shared with me her WW2 song which she had composed. Her tune involved changes of key and speed and was matched with dramatic lyrics. It was really impressive.



Hattie (Year 4) shared her rainforest project which she had written and illustrated with some stunning photos. It was full of interesting facts and details.

Earlier in the week she had also produced a handwritten, rainforest information sheet, while Elianna had made a rainforest presentation. Well done to all of them.



### Tricky Technology

Year 6 have been writing algorithms to make a fitbit count steps accurately. Rebecca and Eifa came to show me their working model and we tested it on Mrs Moorcroft who had to run up and down the corridor. Their fitbit recorded her steps very accurately.



## Nursery News



The Nursery class at St Andrew's have been learning about 'Traditional Tales' this half term. They baked their own gingerbread, made beanstalks as tall as themselves, built bridges in the garden and pretended to be trolls. They have rolled out and decorated playdough, tried on giant clothes and retold the stories using puppets!

There was also time to celebrate Lunar New Year with homemade dragon puppets, food tasting and painting with feather brushes.

## New Early Year Parent Activity Offer

We have been asked by Southern Maltings, Ware to share an offer for a free Early Years 'play and stay' initiative which they are developing. They say the following:

*'Calling parents/carers of 3 and 4 year olds. Would you like a **FREE** class for you and your child plus a Mini Maltshake in our café at the Southern Maltings, Ware? Can you spare **1 hour**? We need guinea pigs for some feedback for our new early years' initiative. We are starting classes in April and would love to run a **few free trial sessions** prior to launch. **Trial dates are Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Mar 12.15pm, Thu 7<sup>th</sup> Mar 9.15am and Thu 14<sup>th</sup> Mar 1.30pm.***

Please email [bookings@southernmaltings.co.uk](mailto:bookings@southernmaltings.co.uk) or [lisa@southernamltings.co.uk](mailto:lisa@southernamltings.co.uk) if you are interested or if you would like further information. Please let us know which session you would like to attend. Look forward to seeing you!'

## OPAL – Mr Cooper

Spring 1 round up: This half term has seen a number of new initiatives begin as part of our OPAL programme. In January Mrs Randall and I visited Trott's Hill Primary School in Stevenage to view how they were running OPAL at lunchtime in their school. This visit gave us some great ideas and inspiration to make playtime even better.

In January we used a Tesco grant secured by Mrs Thomas to purchase a new mud kitchen and we have purchased four new storage sheds to make accessing playtime equipment easier.

We have also opened up Forest School area at both break and lunchtimes to give the children even more space to use. They have loved being able to climb trees and run through the different pathways in that area. We have also received a donation of a wonderful boat that Mr Griffin is currently working on to ensure it is safe and secure to use.

In March we have our Development Day 2 booked in with our OPAL mentor Bethan. Next steps this year include introducing tyre swings, a digging area and the introduction of our large loose parts area. If you are able to help us source any of the large loose parts shown in the flyer, then please get in touch!



## Make Lunch

There is an opportunity to have a free lunch and join in with a range of fun activities, over the half term break. The popular, 'Make Lunch' at Wilshire hall, St Andrew's Church, will be open on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 12pm-2pm. See below for details.



# Make Lunch Club

Looking for something to do with the kids this **half term**?

Come along and join us at **Make Lunch Club**!



### WHEN?

12 to 2 pm

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> &

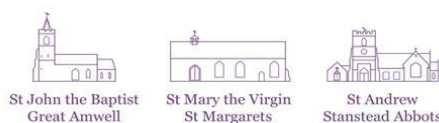
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

### WHERE?

The Wilshire Hall  
St Andrew's Church  
Stanstead Abbots



To book a place, email [makelunch@3churches.net](mailto:makelunch@3churches.net)



**The 3 Churches Benefice**



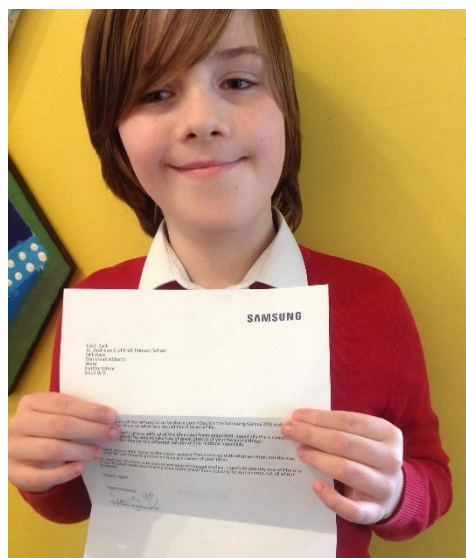
### Sportshall Athletics



On Monday, eighteen children from Year 5 and 6 took part in the Medium Schools Sportshall Athletics competition at Wodson Park. The children took part in a range of different track and field events including javelin, triple jump and a number of different relays. Out of nine schools, the girls finished a brilliant 3<sup>rd</sup> and the boys finished a fantastic 2<sup>nd</sup>. Well done all.

### Congratulations

Congratulations also go to Zack (Year 5) who wrote to Samsung offering them his thoughts and ideas for how they could improve the design of their phones. Aided by Mrs Gardner, who tracked down the contact of the CEO, he received a letter from Samsung thanking him for his ideas and designs. Who knows - perhaps they will take up his design for a rainbow phone, with easier features.



### FOSTA

Thank you for all of the donations given towards our: **'Fun & Funky Friday'**. Children were able to take part in a list of fun & funky activities in exchange for a donation of 50p per activity. Thank you too for the donations towards FOSTA's cake sale this evening. It certainly gave a joyful end to the half term.

### Staffing News

We are very pleased to announce that we have appointed Ms S Karahasan to cover in Reception for the Summer term while Mrs Mills is on her maternity leave. Ms Karahasan comes with lots of experience teaching in Early Years and is already working with Mrs Mills and Mrs Bugg to ensure that the transition goes smoothly.



## Attendance Matters- Every Day Counts!

### Attendance Ladder



Present whole school attendance (2023-24)	94.6%
National attendance	94.2%
This week's school attendance	95%
Best Class Attendance: Week Beginning 12.2.24	Year 6 - 98.5%

### 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: Sophie** for her enthusiasm and effort all week

**Reception: Isla** for her improved attitude and listening skills

**Year 1: Phoenix** for outstanding effort in his reading and writing

**Year 2: Noah** for his positive attitude to writing

**Year 3: Glory** for her hard work throughout the year

**Year 4: Lewis** for his enthusiasm and effort this week

**Year 5: Seb** for his fabulous History work about Anglo-Saxon gods

**Year 6: Rebecca** for her excellent problem solving during computing





## Our Half Term Value: Joy

“Rejoice with those who rejoice.”

Romans 12:15

Our Value Advocates chose the following class Value Champions. These are children who have lived the value during the week.

Class Value Advocate	Class Value Champion
<b>Nursery: Brooke chose</b>	Mario for finding joy in making up and playing games with his friends
<b>Reception: Gwilym chose</b>	Teddy for being a wonderful friend to everyone in our class
<b>Year 1: Olivia chose</b>	Violet for being happy and joyful
<b>Year 2: Florence chose</b>	Jax for always being kind and joyful
<b>Year 3: Evie chose</b>	Noah for being a joyful peacemaker
<b>Year 4: Alby chose</b>	Robyn for bringing joy to others
<b>Year 5: Dolly chose</b>	Isabelle for bringing joy to the class and making people smile
<b>Year 6: Annabelle chose</b>	Noah for being a supportive learning partner

With kind regards,

Mrs H Gillingham

### OFFICE UPDATE

#### Payments

Please can all outstanding payments that are due for this half term be paid as soon as possible, via WisePay.

#### 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 *1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021*. Application forms are available on our school website and from our School Office. The application deadline is **29<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

#### After School clubs – 2nd 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](http://www.superstarsport.co.uk). For any queries: email [info@superstarsport.co.uk](mailto:info@superstarsport.co.uk) or phone 01992 766 707.

### UPCOMING DATES

**Mon 19<sup>th</sup> – Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb:** Half Term

**Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Feb – 6<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Scholastic Book Fair – after school in hall

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> – Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Year 5 Bikeability



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

