



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: 3.9.21

Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham

Value: Generosity

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to all of our new families who have joined us in St Andrew's this term and welcome back all of our established families. It has been lovely to meet and greet so many of you in the past couple of days, especially without wearing a face mask! I do hope you all had a lovely break.

We had a lot of work completed around school during the holiday. Our Year 3 classroom was decorated and has new furnishings. Our EYFS garden has a wonderful new covered learning area and more accessible storage space to encourage the children's independence. We have had new security gates places around the perimeter of the school and are also updating Coppings Corner Garden so that it can be utilized by the children more both as a learning space and during the break-times.



It has also been wonderful that we have been able to come back to a nearly normal, pre-Covid school. As you are probably aware, the Government has stated that they no longer recommend bubbles and that we can mix the classes. We have decided to take measured steps towards this; so, for example, we are presently completing Key Phase Collective Worship to help build up the children's confidence and reintroduce our Collective Worship procedures. For lunchtimes and playtimes, we are using all of the school space to ensure the children are spread out and have different zones for eating in. We are also maintaining the good hygiene measures of cleaning hands regularly, cleaning frequently touched surfaces and ensuring there is good ventilation.

As per last term, we will continue with children wearing their PE clothes on the day of the PE lessons to avoid additional changing. Staff will be updating parents next week on the days that the children will be

undertaking these lessons. Please note: the children are expected to be wearing their school PE kit and not their own football outfits on these occasions.

The Government guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance>

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

The most significant change in the Government and County guidance is concerning isolation if there is a positive case in a family or close contact situation. Both the Government and HCC state the following:

For children attending your setting who have been identified as close contacts

Children and young people aged under 18 years and 6 months who usually attend an education or childcare setting **and who have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend the setting as normal.**

Again, any child who is experiencing symptoms must not attend and parents and carers should be advised to book a PCR test or speak to their GP.

Children under 4 will not be advised to take a PCR test unless the positive case is someone in their own household.

i.e; unless your child has symptoms and is being tested, they should be in school even if a member of the family is positive.

I have checked with HCC that this is their expectation and they have confirmed that it is. This does feel uncomfortable given how careful we have all been over the past eighteen months. If you do find yourself in this situation, I recommend that you contact the School Office so that we can discuss the best way for moving forward.

However, the most important thing that we all must do as part of the school community is to ensure that if your child/ren does display symptoms of Covid-19 that they stay at home and be tested. The symptoms are:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Coffee Mornings for our Reception and Nursery Parents/Carers

We would like to invite our Nursery and Reception Parents and Carers to a coffee morning next week as an opportunity, particularly for our new parents, to meet each other. The dates and times are as follows:

Nursery: 9.00 -10.00am Tuesday 7th September

Reception: 9.00-10.00am Wednesday 8th September

Meet the Teacher Dates

We would also like to invite you to a “Meet the Teacher” opportunity on the following dates:

Monday 6 th September 2.30pm: Y5	Tuesday 7 th September 2.30pm: Y1	Wednesday 8 th Sept 2.30pm: Y2	Thurs 9 th Sept 2.30pm: Y3	Friday 10 th Sept 2.30pm: Y6
Monday 13 th September 2.30pm: Y4		Wednesday 15 th Sept 9.30am: Nursery 2.30pm: Reception		

We realise this is short notice so are also offering a later “Meet the Teacher” evening session, for those parents/Carers unable to make the afternoon sessions, on **Thursday 23rd September (6.30pm-7.30pm)**.

These meetings will be an opportunity for you to see the children’s classrooms and be provided with information about your child’s class. All meetings will be held in the children’s classroom and will finish by the end of the school day at 3.15pm. Please arrive no earlier than five minutes before your class meetings and wait outside your child’s drop off door, where you will be signed in.

Poppy Patterns



Mrs Lovell, one of our very creative and talented LSAs and Rev’d Sarah hope to decorate the Church with a wonderful display of home produced poppies during the Remembrance Service in November. To this end they are sending out a request for us all to also get creative and knit, crochet or create paper poppies for this display. Mrs Lovell has kindly provided some patterns (attached to the newsletter) to give us all lots of time to begin work. I really hope that we can engage as many parents, carers, grandparents, aunts and uncles etc to help with this request so that we can help the Church look beautiful in Remembrance for those who gave so much.

Kind regards,

Mrs Gillingham

OFFICE UPDATE

Firstly, on behalf of the School Office – welcome back and a hello to all our new families. It is so nice to see the children back in school!

Whilst the School Office steps up a gear and we get back into the swing, we have only a few notes / reminders this week:-

NUT FREE SCHOOL – VERY IMPORTANT

A little reminder to our parents and carers that we are a nut free school. Please note that we cannot allow peanuts in school either as a snack, in snack bars or peanut butter in sandwiches, due to the risk of anaphylaxis. Even the dust from peanuts can be fatal and it is imperative that parents/carers adhere to this very important.

We also have some children in school who are unable to tolerate sesame seeds and parents are requested to ensure these are also not brought into school on snack bars, etc.

Sandwich Lunches

Whilst mentioning nuts, it may be useful to parents to be reminded of our healthy eating programme and the following guidelines which are set out to parents regarding foods to be included/excluded in sandwich lunches:-

- To supplement sandwiches / rolls / wraps/ savoury lunchtime foods, children are encouraged to include fruit and vegetables in their lunchboxes.
- Eggs for sandwiches etc. should be very well cooked to avoid the possibility of salmonella and to cut down the risk of an allergic reaction.
- Cake, biscuits, mini biscuits or biscuit bars eg. penguin bars are also permitted, but only as part of their packed lunch.
- 'Squeezy' yogurts should only be used if your child is able to open the packet themselves.
- Children should not bring actual sweets or bars of chocolate to school as part of their packed lunch
- Packed lunches should be sent in a named, leak-proof lunch box.
- Drinks should be in cartons or unbreakable bottles. They should be 'still' and cold.

Free School Meals

We would like to make parents and carers aware that their child may be able to get free school meals and other benefits if they are in receipt of the following:-

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance Employment
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run on (paid 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (with annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax and not including any benefits you receive)

We kindly ask all parents that if you may be eligible for any of the benefits listed above, to check and apply via Hertfordshire County Council website on www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals. Whilst

eligibility for 'Free School Meals' is hugely beneficial to parents, it is also one of the few opportunities for the school to receive additional funding generated by these applications to help support your child.

Uniform / PE Kits

We are aware from feedback from parents that some orders for school uniform from our supplier, Macpac are running behind schedule and parents are still waiting to receive their requirements. Our staff are aware of the situation and the children will be able to wear plain, simple red jumpers/cardigans/T shirts in the meantime. As Mrs Gillingham has mentioned, the children are to wear their PE kit on PE days – this consists of a school red PE T-Shirt and black shorts. Please contact the School Office if you have any concerns or queries.

Rightstart Breakfast Club

Mrs Randall and Mrs Hoskin are pleased to welcome our children in Reception to Year 6 to our mornings breakfast club. Bookings can be made via rightstart@standrews323.herts.sch.uk or by calling 07762 439703. Doors open at 7.15am and breakfast will not be a disappointment!

SuperStars Wraparound Club: OPEN 5 DAYS A WEEK FROM 3.15 – 5.45PM

Bookings for our wraparound, after school provision are to be made directly to SuperStar Sports, via their website: <https://www.superstarsport.co.uk/sports-club/> and click on 'info & booking' under our school name.

If you would like to contact the company directly, please call 01992 766707 or email at info@superstarsport.co.uk Payments can also be made by childcare vouchers if preferred.

Upcoming dates:

6th September:	Yr 5 'Meet the Teacher' session @ 2.30pm
7th September:	Yr 5 & Yr 6 swimming tuition to 7 th December 2021 New Nursery parents' coffee morning @ 9.00 – 10.00am Yr 1 'Meet the Teacher' session @ 2.30pm
8th September:	New Reception class parents' coffee morning @ 9.00 – 10.00am Yr 2 'Meet the Teacher' session @ 2.30pm
9th September:	Yr 3 'Meet the Teacher' session @ 2.30pm
10th September:	Yr 6 'Meet the Teacher' session @ 2.30pm
20th September:	Individual school photos
23rd September:	Evening Catch up 'Meet the Teacher' @ 6.30- 7.30pm
12th October:	Rec – Yr 6 Flu Vaccinations – details to follow
13th October:	Governor Day in school Yr 4 'Meet the Teacher' session @ 2.30pm
15th October:	Yr 6 Young Shakespeare Workshop in school Nursery 'Meet the Teacher' session @ 9.30pm Reception 'Meet the Teacher' session @ 2.30pm
22nd October:	INSET DAY
25th October – 29th October:	HALF TERM