



# 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: 4.9.20**

**Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham**

**Value: Hope**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin with an enormous welcome to all of our new parents whose children have started at St Andrew's this term. This includes not just our new Nursery children but also the children who have joined our school this week throughout the different year groups. I know that I am slightly biased but I feel that St Andrew's is a very special school, where we really do follow our vision of helping our children to **"Learn to love, love to learn; in God's love each one will shine."**

Of course, it was also really exciting to welcome everyone back yesterday for the first time since March 2020. Although we still have different arrangements in place because of Covid-19, it does feel right that all of the children are now back in their classrooms with their new teachers.

The following photographs may help you visualise how the school day is being arranged.



Key Stage 2 and Year 2 classrooms have been set up to allow the children to sit facing forward with their own packs of equipment.

Lunch and playtimes are staggered and zoned to prevent any mixing of class bubbles.



We hold our Collective Worship by broadcasting via Teams into each classroom so that we can have regular, whole school reflective times.

The soft start and finish to the day is working well, but please do be reminded that to avoid large groups forming it is vital that parents and carers drop off and then **immediately leave the school grounds**. Similarly, once your child/ren has/have been picked up you should leave the school grounds immediately. Could I also request that you do not enter the school grounds prior to 8.30am or 3.00pm as these seem to be times where we have a number of parents waiting.

All of the children (and staff) looked very tired at the end of Friday. This is to be expected as they all get used to the new classrooms and arrangements. The staff are organising their day to help break up the learning sessions with additional opportunities for outside play and exercise to help the children to settle into their new routines. It would also be helpful if the children had a snack of fruit or vegetables (no sweets or nuts please) at their break time, to help keep their stamina up.

### **Reading, Reading, Reading**

We are continuing our push towards helping the children improve their reading and all children will be bringing reading books home over the next week. We have noticed, however that we are missing lots of our reading books, particularly from our EYFS and KS1 reading schemes and think that they have possibly not been returned, having been taken home prior to Lockdown. Could I therefore extend a plea for everybody to have a good check at home for any school reading books and return them as soon as possible. Please place them in the blue box outside the School Office entrance. Thank you.

I would also be very interested to hear about any child who completed the Library Reading Challenge over the summer holiday. Please do send an email to [admin@standrews323.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@standrews323.herts.sch.uk) and let me know how your child did.

### **Covid-19 Information**

We have been requested to make you aware of the following Government information, which can be accessed via the following link;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

### **Our New Value: Hope**



Our new half term Value seems very apt as we enter into this new phase of the pandemic. Our (virtual) Collective Worship will explore how the life of Jesus gives us hope through times of difficulty and the children will be exploring, in class, what gives them hope for the future.

I would like to finish with our School Prayer, which helps to remind us that at the heart of our school is God and His love for us, which provides hope for us all.

## Our School Prayer

Dear God,  
We pray for our school:  
Let peace dwell here.  
Let the rooms be full of happiness.  
Let love abide here:  
Love of one another,  
Love of learning,  
and love of You.  
Let us remember that  
Many hands make a house  
But many hearts make a school  
And that You love and enable us all.  
Amen

Kind regards,

Mrs H. Gillingham

## Office Update

- **School Office:** Welcome back from the School Office, it is so lovely to get back to our 'new normal' and see so many familiar faces again, albeit from a safe distance! Thank you for supporting us by following our rules of only one adult in the reception area at one time.
- **Meet the Teacher:** We are planning to run 'Meet the Teacher' sessions via Zoom for all our Year groups over this half term.

We will be starting next week with Year 4. On Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> September, Mr Chesterman will be running two identical Zoom sessions, one at 2.00pm and another at 6.00pm. Year 4 parents & carers will receive details via ParentMail early next week and are invited to join either session.

We will announce further dates for the rest of the year groups shortly.

- **PE:** Your child/ren's teacher will have informed their class on which day(s) they will be doing PE in school and will need to come in to school wearing their PE Kit (as detailed in the return to school letter sent home via ParentMail last week). In the cooler weather, school cardigans or jumpers are advised and dark tracksuit bottoms can be worn.

Please contact the School Office if you have any queries.

- **Class Emails:** 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.

- **Breakfast & After School Clubs:** As you will be aware, our Breakfast and After School clubs have restarted again this half term. Our clubs were advertised and places were allocated at the end of last term. In the current situation, we have had to break from our usual protocol and offer these places to families who required the most amount of cover, for a set period of time and a set price.

In good faith, the places for the After School Club were offered to parents on the understanding that the children would attend. Our forecasted income to be generated from the club was then a prime factor when we negotiated the staffing arrangements for the club with SuperStar Sports. We have now become aware that some families are no longer intending to take up their place or utilise all of the days allocated, in turn reducing our funding. We are concerned that if the income generated falls below the expenditure to the school from the providers, we may still need to consider charging parents for the places/days they have requested. We will monitor the situation and request that those parents who have been allocated a place use the club as much as possible. Thank you.

- **Secondary applications:** Year 6 parents and carers will have received a 'Secondary Transfer' leaflet via ParentMail earlier this week. Please see the 'Apply for school poster' attached to the ParentMail with this week's Update for further information.
- **Parking:**  
Abbotts Way: We have received an email from a local resident regarding the car park in Abbotts Way. Parents and carers are encouraged not to use this car park. Additionally, please be reminded not to block in any other cars or the residents' garages and do not park on the soft grass verges along Abbotts Way.

Reminders:

- Parents and carers must also not use the parking spaces in front of the Parish Hall or block their entrance
- The school car park is for staff and visitors only. Parents and carers are not to park in the school car park or to walk up though the car park on foot. The pedestrian walk-way is clearly marked along the bottom of the car park.

We need to be continually respectful of our neighbours and other families living locally when considering where to park. If you are travelling to school by car, there is very limited parking around the school. The short stay village car park in the High Street is free to use (please check ticket procedures in car park) and is only a short walk to the school. This may be less congested in the current climate as there will be fewer commuters using this facility.

- **Data Collection:** Parents and carers are reminded that the School Office must be informed, in writing, of any changes to any contact details or child/ren's medical information. This can be done via email: [admin@standrews323.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@standrews323.herts.sch.uk), or via a letter which parents & carers can hand in to the School Office.
- **Year 6 Residential Trip to Kingswood:** We were delighted to inform our last year's Year 6 parents today that we have been reimbursed for our cancelled residential trip monies from May. A good result!

**DATES:**

September

- 10<sup>th</sup> Year 4 'Meet the Teacher' via Zoom - 2.00pm & 6.00pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> Individual School Photos – details to follow