



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

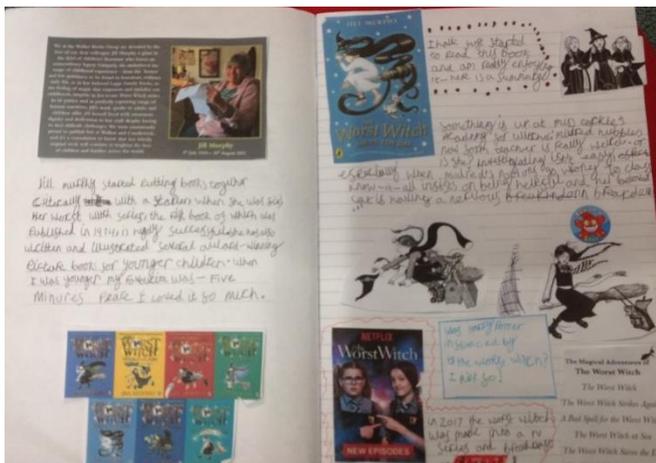
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St Andrew's Weekly Update

Date: 6.10.23 Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham Value: Community

Dear Parents and Carers,

We were visited by a Herts County Council English adviser this week, who we have commissioned to support us further improve our English provision for the children. As discussed in our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions and also in our recent Curriculum Evening, reading is a particular focus for us and we have reviewed and strengthened the various ways we teach reading; as can be seen on our website: <https://standrews323.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/subjects/english-2/>.



The English adviser and I completed a 'reading walk', looking at reading lessons throughout the school and she was really impressed with the established reading culture. She said that it was clear that the children loved reading and valued all of the opportunities to develop their reading skills. 'Reading makes you Smart!' is rapidly becoming our mantra. An example of this is a reading scrap book project completed by Rosie (Y3) as homework. The adviser was so impressed with the work that she even took a photo of it, to share with other schools!

Continuing our book theme, our Nursery class have been inspired to make some soup, having read 'Oliver's Vegetables'. They will be visiting the local allotments next week to see how vegetables are grown. The soup was delicious.



Harvest- Church Service

Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us on Thursday at St Andrew's Church for our Harvest Festival. Revd. Sarah led a lovely service, which included the children sharing their own Autumn reflections. We listened to poems and songs, looked at art displays and learnt more about our Autumn Charities - the Food Bank and the Diocese of St Alban's Appeal; 'Cracking Food Poverty' (details of which are below). It was a lovely service.



OPAL News by Mr Cooper



This week during our OPAL assembly we introduced shelter-building as a break time and lunchtime activity. We discussed our safety rules and how to ensure we make the activity fair for all. The children have loved working together to create fantastic dens! If you have any old tarpaulins or large pieces of material at home that you no longer need, we would love to use them for creating even more exciting dens!





FOOTBALL UPDATE



On Thursday after school a team of Year 5 and 6 visited Millmead School to play the first football match of the season. The final score was 3-1 to St Andrew's with two goals from Blessing and one from Oscar. Everyone played really well and showed great sportsmanship and manners throughout.

FOSTA's BAG 2 SCHOOL INITIATIVE

All of your donations for the Bag 2 School initiative were sent off on 5th October. FOSTA would like to send out a big thank you to everyone who brought in bags to support this. We will let you know the total raised when we receive it.



FOSTA PLEA

FOSTA held their AGM this Monday evening. Unfortunately, it was very poorly attended, with only six parents and Mrs Davey. FOSTA's fundraising events have become more and more critical in supporting the education of all of our children. The money they raise has ensured that we have been able to continue with school trips, as FOSTA funds supplement the costs. We are now able to provide the children with access to new Chromebooks - all purchased through FOSTA's fund raising efforts. School discos, pantomimes and other treats are all paid for by FOSTA. Our school would be a far less fun and exciting place if FOSTA did not organise and run their annual events. However, the pressure of organising these activities is falling onto the shoulders of an increasingly small group; FOSTA is in critical danger of folding without more support. We all lead busy lives, but if the load could be shared and everyone do a little bit - this will have a transforming effect upon this vital part of our school community. FOSTA are sending out a plea for more help. If you think that you can offer some time over this new academic year then please contact your FOSTA rep or visit the School Office. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

FOSTA
(Friends of St Andrew's)



Relationship and Sex Education Policy

The school's 'Relationship and Sex Education' policy has been reviewed by staff and Governors. It is on our school website for you to read and review. Please see:

<https://standrews323.herts.sch.uk/our-school/policies/>

If you have any comments about the policy, then please contact the school.

Church Events

A reminder of the Harvest Thanksgiving Service being held on Sunday, 8th October, at 11am St James 'Church, Roydon Road, Stanstead Abbots. If you would like to stay for the Harvest Lunch after the service, then email ginitrower@btinternet.com. (Tickets £15)

Bookings can also still be made for the Big Quiz Night being held on Saturday, 7th October at 7pm in the Wilshere Hall, St Andrew's Church. Tickets are £5. Please see the attached poster for further details and how to purchase your ticket.

Babies Loss Awareness Week (9–15TH OCTOBER 2023)

Revd. Sarah would also like us to share the support on offer by St Andrew's Church during next week's babies loss week. This is a week for everyone in the baby loss community and beyond to come together to remember and commemorate much-loved and missed babies.

As the attached poster states the following activities are on offer:

RIBBON DISPLAY Add your ribbons displaying the names of the babies being remembered to our Memory Tree outside St Andrew's Church, Stanstead Abbots.

The church will be open from 12–4pm on Sunday 15th October for quiet reflection.

RIBBON RUN From 1pm on Sunday 15th October, a team will walk the 5km circuit from St Andrew's to raise funds for Sands. Walkers and runners welcome!

To donate, scan the QR code below or visit <https://tinyurl.com/7jbw2p3t>

Harvest Festival Appeal

We are continuing to collect 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. Thank you for the items which have been donated so far.

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.



Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....



Best Class Attendance Award

Week beginning: 2.10.23

Year 3 with 98 % Attendance!

Times tables Rock Stars

Our Times Tables Rockstars competition is starting next week!



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: Jacob for great listening and learning when to share his fantastic ideas

Reception: Aurelia for working hard in our maths investigation.

Year 1: Ellie for being kind and polite.

Year 2: Bertie for working hard in writing lessons.

Year 3: All of Year 3 for their behaviour at Celtic Harmony

Year 4: Eliana for her brilliant reading in church, and

Logan Go for his effort in maths this week

Year 5: Jude for his excellent contributions in class

Year 6: Emma and Millie F for always producing homework of the highest quality



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	Brooke – for being friendly and living the value
Reception: Teddy chose	Nathan – for living the value of community
Year 1: Valentina chose	Bonnie – for being a kind and helpful member of our school community
Year 2: Jax chose	George M – for being kind and helpful to others
Year 3: Archie chose	Stella – for her community spirit
Year 4: Daisy chose	Rhys – for being a kind member of the class
Year 5: Lilly R chose	Abigail – for being a kind friend and looking out for others
Year 6: Joseph chose	Oscar – for supporting the Year 1 children at church and living the value of community

With kind regards

Mrs H Gillingham

OFFICE UPDATE

School individual and sibling photos

A reminder that the deadline for free delivery of your school photos is 8th October. If you miss this deadline you are still able to order, however a delivery charge will be made to send to your home address.

Dinner money

A reminder to all parents who have received dinner money slips that payment is due and should be made as soon as possible. Thank you.

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.

Reminder: Secondary school applications will close on 31st October

We have been asked by the HCC Admissions Department remind Year 6 parents who are yet to apply for a secondary school place for September 24. The deadline to make an online application is **31st October**. Please contact the School Office if you have any queries.



Local News:

News from our School Crossing Patrol Team at HCC

The '**Stop means Stop**' campaign is run to highlight the ongoing danger the school crossing patrols face every day when cars do not stop, even when they have stepped into the road. Your lollipop man or woman will be wearing a bright 'Stop means Stop' tabard this October. Please show your support for them by stopping for your patrol.

News from the Active and Safer Travel Team at HCC

As Autumn and Winter approach, we ask that you remind your school community of the importance of wearing bright/reflective clothing and making themselves visible to drivers.

The Active and Safer Travel Team's '**Be Bright Be Seen**' campaign resources can be downloaded here:

<https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/BBBS23/>

Community Alliance – Community Day

See flyer attached to this newsletter for a Community Day on Tuesday 10th October from 9am-1pm, giving support and information for families in rural areas.

UPCOMING DATES

OCT

- Wed 11th** Governor Day
- Thurs 12th** Nursery walk to local allotments
- 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

HALF TERM WEEK – Mon 23rd Oct – Fri 27th October

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

