



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: 8.9.23 Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham

Value: Community

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back from the summer holiday - how quickly it goes. Our children have all settled in well to their new classes and have coped well with the sudden hot Autumn days. I'm sure, like me, you would have preferred to see the sun whilst being rained upon at the beach during the break. The great news for us all is that our building and drainage work will be completed this weekend and that we now have full use of the small playground again. Already we are feeling the benefits of the increased insulation as our hall has been far more bearable during this hot spell.

RAAC

You may well have seen in the news that some schools have been affected by the presence of RAAC in their buildings. RAAC, or Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete, is a lightweight form of concrete which was used in schools and other building construction from the 1950's until the mid-1990s. After some time and in some circumstances this concrete can collapse.

However, I can reassure you that the County Council had our school surveyed by qualified building surveyors in the last few years. We can confirm that there is no RAAC in this school, and no risk to pupils or staff.

New Staff

This new term we welcome two new additions to our teaching school community. Dr Collins has joined the Year 3 team and will be teaching the class for three days a week and Mrs Dear is our new Year 1 Learning Support Assistant. Both new members of staff are very experienced in their roles and I know both will have a big impact on the children's learning.

2023-24 School Objectives

We have a busy planned year ahead led by the main objectives of our School Development Plan. These objectives can be found on the following link to our website, alongside the long term plans for each year group.

<https://standrews323.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/long-term-plans/>



A love of reading is the biggest indicator of future academic success.

OECD (The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)

Our very first objective is improving outcomes for all of our children in reading, writing and maths. Within that huge objective we are drilling down on reading in particular as this is the cornerstone of all learning. In your class pages on our website, you will find explanations on how we teach reading and how you can support your child's progress in this area. There are also recommended reading lists and other helpful information. No matter how confident or able your child is, please do continue supporting their reading by reading frequently at home and recording this in their reading records.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

Our 'Meet the Teacher' dates are listed below. This is an ideal opportunity for you to visit your child's new classroom and ask any questions you may have about your child's new school year. Teachers will talk about homework expectations, home-school agreements and the areas of work to be covered this year. All the meetings start at 2.30pm with the aim of finishing in time for 3.15pm collection. We look forward to seeing you there.

OPAL – Outside Play and Learning



Another area on our SDP which we are continuing to develop is our outside play. We had whole school training on this during part of last week's Inset day and all of the staff are very enthusiastic about it. Over the Summer break

Mr Griffin, our caretaker, built us a wonderful new stage in Copping's Corner - which is now playing host to a variety of dramatic productions each lunch break.



Our intention is that the children will be using all of the grounds throughout the changing seasons so all children will need named, wet weather footwear in school.

Internet Safety

Attached to the newsletter is the HfL termly internet safety newsletter. There is lots of clear guidance covering ways in which you can help keep your child safe, including ways to set parental locks on devices and a child-friendly search engine for your child to use. It is well worth a read.



Attendance Matters



Raising our attendance figures is another objective on our School Development Plan. National data from 2019 shows that 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage.

In terms of our school data – we know that children who are in school less often do not perform as well at all assessment milestones, whether that is in EYFS achieving their Early Learning Goals, achieving their

phonics screening at Year 1, doing well at their Year 4 multiplication test or their end of Year 6 SATs. Attendance really does matter. In the revised 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2023) the government is now classifying repeatedly absent children or children absent for prolonged periods as a clear safeguarding risk.

As a school, we aim to have an overall school average of 96% attendance – it would be wonderful if it was higher by the end of the academic year.



Best Class Attendance Award

Week beginning: 4.9.23

Year 3 with 100 % 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: All of the Nursery class, for settling in to school life so well.

Reception: All of Reception class, for such a great first week together as a class.

Year 1: Grace for having a fantastic first week and settling into her new class so well.

Year 2: Maddy for her dedication and positive mindset, and Isla for being an excellent role model for behaviour and learning.

Year 3: Lottie for always doing the right thing.

Year 4: Robyn for her enthusiasm this week.

Year 5: Alex for settling brilliantly into life at St Andrew's.

Year 6: Mia for her great start to Year 6 and her contribution to class discussions.





Our Half Term Value: Community

"Live in harmony with one another."

Romans 12.16

Our new Value Advocates for this term are:

	Class Value Advocate
Nursery	AJ
Reception	Teddy
Year 1	Valentina
Year 2	Jax
Year 3	Archie
Year 4	Daisy
Year 5	Lilly R
Year 6	Joseph

With kind regards

Mrs H Gillingham

OFFICE UPDATE

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

Fundraising

One of our members of staff, Mr McNaughton, is doing a 25k walk on the 9th September in aid of the WWF-UK. Please see the following link for information:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Damien-McNaughton?utm_source=Whatsapp&utm_medium=email_social&utm_campaign=LFCFRUK_Day1_NewSport

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.



UPCOMING DATES

SEPT 2023

- Mon 11th** Individual piano lessons start
Reception Meet the Teacher meeting - 2.30pm
- Tues 12th** Individual guitar lessons start
Year 1 Meet the Teacher meeting - 2.30pm
- Wed 13th** Year 3 Meet the Teacher meeting - 2.30pm
- Thurs 14th** Year 4 Meet the Teacher meeting - 2.30pm
- Fri 15th** Year 5 Meet the Teacher meeting - 2.30pm
- 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
- Mon 25th** Coram Life Tent in school for all classes PSHE
- Wed 27th** International Language Day
- Fri 29th** Year 3 trip - Celtic Harmony Camp

OCT

- Thurs 5th** Church Service – Harvest Festival
- Wed 11th** Governor Day
- Tues 17th** Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30pm – 7.00pm
- Thurs 19th** Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30pm – 7.00pm
- Tues 31st** Y2 trip – Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

NOV

- Wed 8th** Y5 trip – STEM Discovery Centre, Stevenage
- Mon 13th** Y4 trip – The British Museum, London

