



# 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)

## St Andrew's Weekly Update

**Date: 27.9.19**

**Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham**

**Value: Generosity**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We began this week with a very informative recycling assembly led by Ms Koziara from the Hertfordshire Waste Aware team. She explained to the children how we can all have an impact on helping the environment, simply by reducing what we buy and use and reuse or recycle what we no longer want. The children were all very taken with the idea and are now keen to recycle plastic packaging from their lunches. The eco warriors are investigating ways to make this possible.

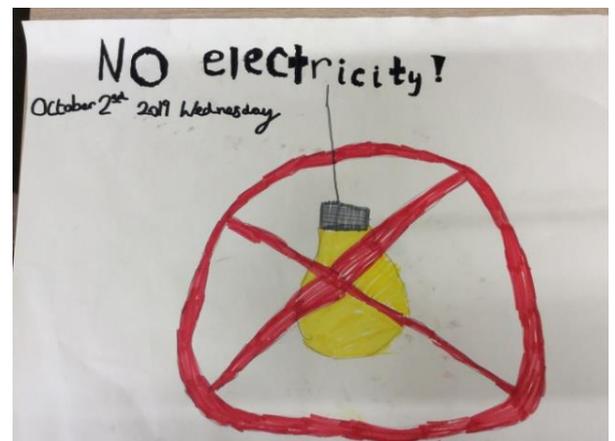


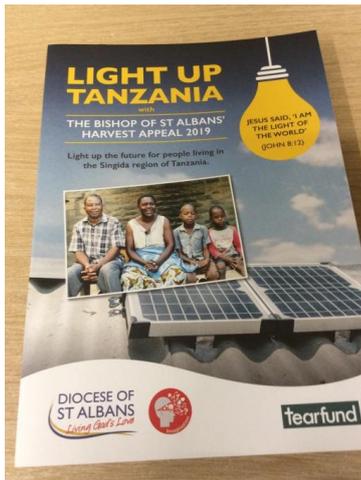
### Taizé Worship

On Tuesday I was privileged to take six children from our Faith Factory to Stevenage to join with other schools to learn about Taizé Worship. Originating in Taizé, France, this form of worship includes prayer, meditative chants and song and periods of stillness. The children came back with lots of ideas about how we could use some of the ideas to develop our own Collective Worship.

### Faith Factory

On Wednesday the Faith Factory introduced the Bishop of St Alban's Harvest Appeal 2019 to the school, which is "Light up Tanzania". The appeal is raising money for families in village areas of Tanzania to buy solar panels from which they can run their households more efficiently. The Faith Factory have asked the children and staff to try to have a no electricity day on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. (The School Office and School Kitchen have been excluded from the ban). We are hoping to show the children (and staff) how often we rely on electricity





without thinking and how simple things become a little more problematic without the easy flick of a switch. The children are very excited about it and I have told the staff to return to my first 1980s teaching days when interactive whiteboards were but a dream! They, perhaps are not quite so excited! If you would like to donate to this cause then we would be pleased to receive any donations on that day. We are also beginning to collect dried and tinned food stuff for the local food bank.

### Goodbye Revd. Anne

We said a sad farewell to Revd. Anne on Thursday, when she came into school to lead her last Collective Worship for us. The children then presented her with her presents and cards. She was absolutely thrilled with them all and spoke of her love of the school. We will sorely miss her, not only for the Spiritual guidance she has provided over her nineteen years as a School Governor, but also for the help and leadership she has provided supporting us with our Collective Worship and teaching of Religious Education. We wish her all of the very best in her retirement.



### Great Homework

I am always amazed with the effort that many of our children put into their homework, especially when given open ended tasks. The Great Fire of London topic in Year 2 always seems to fire (no pun intended) their imagination and creativity. Here are just a couple of wonderful examples from Rebecca and Millie – although many of the biscuits had been sampled before the photo was taken!



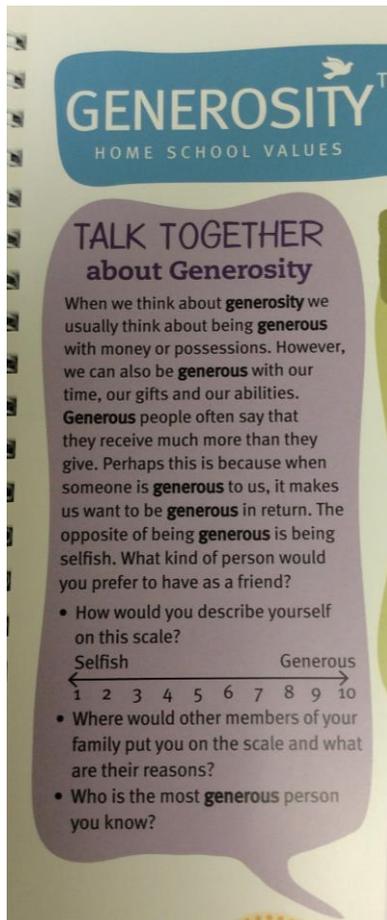
### Holidays during term time

Unfortunately at present we are receiving a number of requests for holidays during term time. All such requests are marked as unauthorised and the time taken off will have an impact on your child/ren's learning.

Our Attendance Policy very clearly states that parents whose children are registered at a school are responsible for ensuring that their children attend and stay at school. The Government determines an acceptable level of attendance to be 95%. At St Andrew's we aim for 96%, even though that still equates to seven and a half days off for the whole school year. If you take your child on holiday during term time then your child/ren can quickly fall into the category of potential persistent absenteeism (children who have an attendance of between 90-94%) or persistent absenteeism (below 90%), if they also have bouts of illness. Both of these groups are discussed with the Attendance Officer during her termly visit.

Kind regards,

Mrs H. Gillingham



*“God loves a cheerful giver.”*

2 Corinthians 9.7

Our Values Advocates met with Mr Price and have selected the following children who have shown a good example of our value.

**Year 1: Abigail** for helping others with their work

**Year 2 : Mia W** for giving her time to work as a “Yellow hat” and help other children.

**Year 3: Ella** for giving her time to others in the classroom.

**Year 4: Esme** for helping others when she had finished her work.

**Year 5: Caitlin** for giving her time to the younger children on the playground.

**Year 6: Laura** for being generous with her actions and helping others on her table.



This week's **You Can, Toucan** awards, chosen by the staff, go to:

**Reception: Robyn** for working hard on writing her name.

**Year 1: Jack** for his excellent reading and writing, **Bela** for her kindness and **Sebastian** for his positivity at school.

**Year 2 : Joseph** for his bravery and resilience.

**Year 3: Alina** for her great presentation of her work

**Year 4: Ruby** for being a positive role model to others.

**Year 5: Jodie** for showing perseverance and determination in her learning.

**Year 6: Darcy** for fantastic effort in her maths.



## Top Table

The following children sat with Mr Price and myself to have their lunch, chosen by the Supervisors for their excellent playtime behaviour. They are:

**Year 2: Blessing** for always setting a good example.

**Year 4: Jasmine** for helping a friend and **Nuru** for being kind.

**Year 5: Sid, Caitlin, Lyla and Luca** for their continued

help with the play equipment at lunchtimes.

**Year 6: Sammy-George** for great behaviour during break times.

## House Points

Ash 70

Mill Stream – 44

Stort – 48

Lea - 75

**Attendance Award: Y5**

**Tidiest classroom: Y1**

**Well done to these classes.**

## Office Update

- **FOSTA AGM** has taken place on Friday afternoon. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and offer their enormously appreciated support. If you were unable to attend but are interested in finding out more about how FOSTA runs – (with no pressure!) – please feel free to contact the committee via the School Office if you are unsure who they are. The FOSTA committee will be circulating their plans for the coming months in due course.
- Our final '**Meet the Teacher**' session for Years 1-6 will take place in your child's classroom next **Thursday, 3rd October from 6.30 – 7.30pm**. Please feel free to pop in if you were unable to attend the first date.
- **Parent Governor Elections:** The deadline for the Governor parental election has now passed. Our Chair of Governors, Mr Dan Berryman will be pleased to announce the results shortly. Thank you.

- **Year 6**
  - Parents are reminded that the **online application for a secondary school** place from September 2020 is now open via [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions). **Please note the deadline to apply is in half term – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.** Please let School Office know if you have any queries.
  - If parents do not wish their Year 6 child to take part in the NHS height and weight programme run by the School Nurse team on 24th October, the ‘opt-out’ letters previously circulated must be returned to the School Office ASAP. Thank you.
  
- Parents are reminded that **half termly dinner payments** were due by the end of last week, Friday 20th September. If you have yet to make payment, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.
  
- **Free School Meals Service** - a reminder that any parents who have a child in Year 3 or above could be eligible for their child to receive school meals for free if they are in receipt of certain allowances – please visit the website below for full details: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>
  
- **Aldi – Kits for Schools** – Aldi are running a Sports promotion for schools in store, from which St Andrew’s can benefit with your help! Please collect a ‘Team GB’ sticker when you spend £30 in any Aldi store. Bring the stickers into school, where we will add them to our school poster. We have the chance to receive free sports kits and possibly funding too! Please see the attached flyer for details.
  
- **Parking at school** – We ask all our parents to please park considerately and safely when dropping your children off and collecting them from school. We have received two complaints this week from our neighbours, who have been frustrated by cars parked very inconsiderately outside their houses at these busy times of day. Thank you.

### Diary Dates

#### September 2019

30<sup>th</sup> Yr 2 Infant Agility Festival – Wodson Park

#### October 2019

3<sup>rd</sup> Meet the Teacher Evening Yr 1-Yr 6 classes- 6.30 -7.30pm – in classrooms - *All welcome if you were unable to join us for sessions held during the school day.*

4<sup>th</sup> Yr 2 - Great Fire of London Day (*all day in school*)

7<sup>th</sup> Yr 6 - Shakespeare workshop (*in school pm*)

9<sup>th</sup> Fruit workshops for all classes provided by Herts Catering Ltd

10<sup>th</sup> Fruit workshops for all classes provided by Herts Catering Ltd

- 17<sup>th</sup> Harvest Festival Service – 9.30am- St Andrew’s Church – ALL WELCOME  
18<sup>th</sup> Yr 5 trip – Stem Discovery Centre, Stevenage  
22<sup>nd</sup> Parent Consultation meetings - 3.30-7.00pm – School Hall  
24<sup>th</sup> Yr 6 – School Nurses – Lancaster Model & Height and Weight Assessment  
24<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultation meetings 3.30-7.00pm – School Hall  
25<sup>th</sup> **Inset day**

## **HALF TERM**

### **November 2019**

- 4th School returns after half term break  
6th Yr 5 Stibbington Residential trip launch meeting - 3.15pm - Y5 classroom  
7th EYFS Reading Evening – 6pm – 7pm in School Hall - for Nursery and Reception parents  
8th Whole School Remembrance Day Assembly – School Hall  
12th Nursery Show ‘n’ Share – 11.15am in Nursery classroom  
Reception, Yr 1 and Yr 2 Show ‘n’ Share – 2.30pm in your child’s classroom  
14th Yr 6 – Wyllyotts Theatre – Young Shakespeare trip  
**Yr 1 – Yr 6 Curriculum Evening – writing – in school – *further details to follow***  
15th Non uniform – in exchange for sweets for the Christmas Fayre  
Yr 1 trip – The Royal Gunpowder Mills  
18th Yr 4 trip – The British Museum  
20th Yr 6 trip – The Globe Theatre  
22nd Non uniform – in exchange for bottles for the Christmas Fayre  
28th Yr 3 trip – Celtic Harmony Camp  
29th Non uniform – in exchange for cakes or £1 for the Christmas Fayre  
FOSTA CHRISTMAS FAYRE – 5.30pm – 8.30pm