

Parents' Newsletter

Love, Respect, Honesty, Perseverance



Friday 6th December

Dear Parents

We have had another busy two weeks, and the school community are enjoying hearing the preparations for the nativity performance, with the catchy tunes floating from the hall. Can we remind parents that we will need all entrants to have a ticket for the event and to bring them with them for the performance. We also ask, that if you can, you support our raffles held for the performances as the funds raised help us to pay for the site licences, costumes and props; these raffles mean we don't find the need to charge for the event as they currently cover the costs. Raffle tickets will be sold for £1 per strip.

The classrooms have all become very festive as the season of advent is now upon us. To support the decorations at home, please do see the note about the DT project creations we have available now for each of our classes made by the children.

Just a gentle reminder for those with children entering Early Years in September 2025 that the deadline for applying online for your place is 15th January 2025.

Kind regards and advent wishes

Bridgette Gough

Leaving News

After 20 years at St. Andrew's Mrs Dianne Bryant, the school's Senior Midday Supervisor is hanging up her whistle this Christmas. Mrs B, as she is known by children and staff alike has been a fantastic asset to the St. Andrew's Team and supported the children when they have needed her most as the go to person for lunchtime medical needs. We want to thank her for the enormous contribution she has made throughout her long service, we know she has lots of lovely plans with her family and friends.

Collective Worship Themes to Explore

This week we are focusing on the hope of the season, sharing the traditions and liturgical milestones of advent. We started the week by looking at the evolution of the advent calendar tradition that is now deeply rooted in many household preparations and explored what we could expect to see in church at this time of year. The children were great in their responses to questions and I'm sure many were surprised at the simple picture version of a calendar familiar to many of us from childhood.

Last week we had explored the courage of the saints, choosing those stories that particularly focussed on this. I am sure the children will be glad to share these. The children had some great definitions for courage and together we shaped a final response, with pupils agreeing it wasn't the absence of fear but overcoming of this to reach a goal or complete a task. They spoke of what supported them when they needed courage, sharing the power of trusted relationships. Next week we will build on this theme with the Reflection Area supporting this.

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Pick-up and drop off arrangements

Can we remind parents and carers picking up children from Reindeer and Fennec Fox Classes, to please use the central path through the Reflections area rather than the path next to the Key Stage 2 classrooms. This is to allow the children not to be distracted but also to avoid accidents and congestion when those doors are opened to release classes. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

We still offer the gate service to the Sports Centre car park for parents and carers dropping /collecting children. This eases the parking in the streets around the school and offers parents ease of parking. Please get in touch with the school to add your child's name to this list.

If your child uses our after-school club, can we please ask that when the school office is closed after 4:30pm, that you call through to the school, follow the menu to select ASC and the staff will then buzz you through the gate as they know which children we have in attendance. This allows us to ensure we are maintaining site security whilst we have children with us.

Christmas Crafts are ready for sale – Our DT Project is complete!

We have now completed our DT project work! We have charged the same amount for each craft, despite the different costs associated with each project to make it fair over the whole of your child's school journey. The children have worked incredibly hard and this cross curricular based approach has led to some great work in other subjects too, such as persuasive writing in Year 2.

During the week ahead, I am preparing a books and biscuits session where the children can share what they have learnt and give me an insight into their planning, making and reviewing of their products.

Household Support Fund Winter Payments – For those qualifying for Free School Meals – NOT Universal FSM

We have recently been informed that funding has been made available from the Department for Work and Pensions 'Household Support Fund' which will enable schools to provide a one-off winter payment to eligible FSM pupils for the period to end of March 2025. The payment will be a £50 supermarket voucher per pupil. If you have already qualified for FSM after filling in the necessary form, this voucher will be made available in time for the Christmas holidays. This is in addition to the activity information for the holidays shared with parents already.

Headteacher's Cup

Tiger Cub Class:	W1- Nithi W2-Grace
Reindeer Class:	W1-Jason W2-Ayla
Fennec Fox Class:	W1- Mabel W2-Ethan
Panda Class:	W1- Summer W2-Huey
Snow Leopard Class:	W1- Phoebe W2-Alfie
Turtle Class:	W1- Logan W2-Oscar
Seal Class:	W1- Joshua W2-Delilah



Birthdays in December

Logan	Buddy
Ariella	Oliver
Isabella	Liliana
Isla W	Olivia
Isla H	Jacob
Zara	Darcy
Ivy	Ruby
Callum	Arthur
Carter	
Betty	
Lybbie	
Daniel	
Tyller	



Going For Green

Joe & Mya

Sports Cup

Willow & Betty

Christmas Fayre Success

Thank you to all the wonderful SASHA Committee and Staff for their efforts in making the Christmas Fayre such a success. Thank you to our families for supporting the event the children seemed to really enjoy themselves and we are pleased to announce for SASHA, that £891.72 was raised. These funds are going towards many projects, including a visit from Roots to Food, a cooking workshop, servicing of the school Kiln to allow the children to undertake pottery projects over the year and see the wonder of getting their creations fired. Also, the sponsorship of the Reading Stars initiative meaning children can pick the books they want for their own class libraries and booking the pantomime for next year!!

Music For Schools

The recent performance from Mrs. Stopp's students has inspired children here at St. Andrew's to pursue music, and now it's your child's turn! Unlock their musical potential with instrumental lessons offered by *Music for Schools Foundation*. Enrolment is easy and fully online; this is a much more cost-efficient way of accessing specialised music teaching. For all the details on how to sign up, visit www.mfsf.org.uk/pages/lessons."

Supporting Times Tables Meeting

This is just a reminder that we have a meeting scheduled for our Year 3 and 4 parents to support you in helping your children with learning their times tables facts. This is scheduled for Thursday at St. Andrews and will be delivered by Mrs Ship, our Maths Co-ordinator for the Trust. I encourage you to attend this if at all possible, as knowing their tables really helps pupils with all aspects of maths and especially arithmetic.

Swimming Provision

We have sent home the swimming letter for the upcoming term. This year we have changed the year groups who will be swimming. We will be taking Years 3/4/5. This is largely due to the fact that the vast majority of our pupils in Year 6 can swim the required 25 metres as suggested to meet the requirements of the curriculum. This is less likely to be the case in Y3. Teaching the children earlier, we intend, will ensure they are safe around water earlier. We are still of course offering the same three years of provision.

Tennis Lessons in the local area

On Thursday, "Tennis Tom," from Tennislessons4u came in to deliver tennis taster sessions to Year 1 + 2 ,as well as a talk to the whole school about the sport. Tom (Mr Littlewood) was previously a teacher at St. Andrew's and now delivers tennis sessions to all ages and abilities across 3 local village clubs.

The flyer sent with the newsletter gives you more information, where your child can book a free taster session and give tennis a go. Equipment is supplied for this session, so come and join the fun.

Thursday 12th December - SASHA will be selling drinks and sweets left over from the Christmas Fayre straight from school.

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