



St. Andrew's C.E. Primary School Newsletter

Tuesday 24th February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

On 29th January, 28 excited children (plus many excited staff and parents!) went to the O2 Arena in London to take part in the Young Voices concert. As part of a choir of over 8000 children, the St Andrew's choir sang along with the incredible vocal talents of Beau Dermott (BGT), Basement Jaxx lead vocalist Sharlene Hector and the legend that is Tony Hadley, as well as busting some moves with Andy Instone and Urban Strides. Taking part in events like this is a great experience helping us to improve our singing and performance, seeing music professionals at work as well as overcoming our own nerves and enjoying being part of a group. I know from all the 'thank yous' from parents to the staff involved (Mrs Ludlow, Mr Gibson, Mrs Pillinger and Mrs Ray) that the children had an amazing time.



As you know creativity is one of the many areas of the curriculum we value. Over the past few weeks all the children have been creating artwork inspired by 'Woodland'. This artwork will be exhibited at our popular annual Craft Day Saturday 2nd March 11.00 am – 2.00 pm. If you should like to come along with family and friends, it is a great occasion for the community to spend time together and be creative. There will also be refreshments and food available. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday 2nd March.



I am delighted to be able to update you on Haddy's progress. We are sponsoring Haddy in the Gambia. Her school recently had an awards ceremony and she won an award as a School Ambassador. She also won the Regional Championship for spelling and represented the school in several debate competitions in the region. We are delighted Haddy is really making the most of every opportunity.

Building on the success of our links with the Gambia. I am delighted to inform you Mrs Ludlow has also secured a bid to connect to a school in South Africa. She will be visiting the school in October and we will also receive a visitor from South Africa in the summer.

Annette Mashru - Headteacher

School Improvement

On January 21st we had a 'Mocksted' visit in school. This visit consisted of three inspectors from the diocese and was requested by the governing body to evaluate any areas for development in school. It was very helpful and validated what we had already identified in our school development plan. I have listed the key findings below for your information.

- Leaders at St Andrew's seek to be "restless and visionary" for their pupils. They are determined to ensure that they continue to deliver strong provision for all pupils
- Changes to leadership in the school have provided fresh opportunity to consider the provision, and how the school's articulation of its vision can ensure that all stakeholders understand and can contribute to continuing improvements
- Relationships between pupils and adults are strong. Teachers and other adults are kind and respectful, children feel safe, and any issues are handled in a calm and measured manner
- Attainment at KS2 in Reading, Writing and Mathematics (RWM) combined is well above the national at Expected +; and at KS1 in R, W, and M attainment is high. GD combined at KS2 is only slightly above national and average point scores for reading and mathematics at KS2 are not significantly above the national. Progress from KS1 to KS2 is average, all above 0 for the 2018 cohort
- Governors are committed to supporting the school to be the best that it can be, and to ensure that they are equipped with the right information to take strategic decisions

Health and Safety

Arriving and leaving school

It appears to be busier than ever outside the school gates. Please be mindful when driving near the gates, there are children riding bikes and scooters in to school and walking across the road.

Allergies

On another note please could you ensure your children do not have nuts in their lunchboxes we do have children in school with severe nut allergies. Some of the children are also bringing snacks other than fruit and vegetables for snack time. On some occasions children have brought in chocolate bars. Please support school by reminding children what the healthy options are.

Absence

A number of children are being taken out of school before the end of term for holidays. Please note holidays during term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. If parents take their child out of school without permission the absence must be recorded as unauthorised.

Dates for your Diary Term 3 and Term 4

Please remember we like to take opportunities as they arise for the children. An event may appear on the calendar without much notice because it is too good to miss.

- March 2nd – Craft day 11-2pm
- March 5th – Kingswood presentation to Year 5 parents
- March 6th – Writing presentation for EYFS parents
- March 7th - Youlbury presentation to Year 4 parents
- March 7th – World Book Day - dress up as a book character
- March 7th – Y2 to the Rainforest
- March 8th – RE day
- March 19th – Year Y1 Natural History Museum
- March 22nd – Y2 Cake Sale
- March 26th – Year 4/5 Production
- March 27th – Year 4/5 Production
- April 2nd - Y5 to Millennium Stadium
- April 3rd - Y3 to Lincolnsfields
- April 4th - Mufti Day
- April 5th – Term ends 1.30pm
- April 23rd - INSET DAY

