

Life in All its Fullness – Come and See



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2025/26 : 12-13

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – 5 December 2025

Home/School Value - Joy!

Visit from our local MP, Josh Dean

We were delighted to welcome our local MP, Josh Dean, to St. Andrew's on Friday 5th December. He first met with our Pupil Parliament to discuss their role in the school and his own role in our community. Each member of our parliament was also presented with their committee badge by Josh and received a handshake. This was followed by an assembly with the whole of Year 5 and Year 6. They were able to ask a whole range of questions about his life before becoming an MP and what his role is now. He was also asked for his views on the environment, free school dinners, the voting age, the jury system and even our Prime Minister, Kier Starmer!

It was a very interesting experience for all involved and we are grateful for the time Josh took out of his busy schedule to visit us.



Early Years Nativity



What a lovely morning we all had watching the Early Years Nativity last week! Our youngest children wowed us with their singing and had learnt their lines beautifully.

Thank you to everyone who came to support the production and of course to our fabulous Early Years team for all of their hard work, putting on the show.

Year 3 Rapid Fire Cricket Competition

On Thursday, eight of our Year 3 children represented the school in a Rapid Fire Cricket tournament at HECC cricket in Sawbridgeworth, competing in five matches against teams from Birchwood Sport Partnership. Despite being the youngest participants, (and for many of them it was their first competition), the team displayed skill, enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout the event. They achieved an impressive combined score of nearly 200 runs. Every player showed great 'green' behaviours and were outstanding ambassadors for our school. We are immensely proud of their performance and the positive example they set. Well done, Charlie, Jack, Dylan, Tadgh, Ariella, Iris, Annabel and Livvy.

Thank you to our parents for their help in driving the children to and from the event.

Save the Date - Parenting Course 'Who's In Charge?' starting 30th January 2026 at St Andrew's School

The 'Who's in Charge?' Course is a 9 week programme run by Rivers Behaviour Team. The course has been run successfully in several schools in Hertfordshire. The course is delivered face to face and is for parents and carers of children 4 years and over.

This is for parents or carers who may be facing difficult or distressing behaviour from their children and are looking for help to feel more supported and regain a sense of calm and control.

The group aims to:

- Provide a supportive environment to share experiences and ideas
- Reduce the guilt and shame which most parents feel
- Offer ideas to help you develop individual strategies for managing your child's behaviour
- Explore ways of increasing safety and well-being
- Help parents feel more in control and less stressed.

All are welcome. Please contact Mrs Small for further details. More information about this course to follow in the new term.

Y5 Anglo Saxon Day

This week, Year 5 stepped back in time to explore life in an Anglo-Saxon village. The children fully immersed themselves in the experience, taking part in a variety of hands-on activities. They braided wool to create bracelets, shaped and decorated clay pots, and practised writing authentic Anglo-Saxon runes with charcoal.

They also explored food; preparing traditional flatbreads, churning butter, and grinding wheat and herbs. At the end of the day, everyone gathered around a real fire pit to enjoy their homemade bread and butter with an Anglo-Saxon story.

A big thank you to all the parent helpers who generously gave their time to make this day so special—we couldn't have done it without you!



Equal Access in Schools



Congratulations, St Andrew's has been granted the 2025 Equal Access in Schools Award. This award is given by Hertfordshire Barclays Girls Football Partnership for making provision equal for all in Football.

Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to all who wore their Christmas Jumpers to school last Monday in support of Isabel Hospice. A total of £260.20 was raised in online and cash donations for the charity. Thank you.



St Andrew's Got Talent Christmas Show



We are delighted to share the news that our in-house 'St Andrew's Got Talent Christmas Show' will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday, 17th December, after our school Christmas Dinner.

Mrs Dimond has spoken to the children today to share the following news:

- Children in Years 2-6 may enter the talent show should they wish
- Children may only enter one act, either individually or as a member of a group
- Acts should be 'show ready' and well-rehearsed before the big day
- Any links to music, props or costumes must be provided by the act and brought into school on the day please.

We will endeavour to get through as many acts as possible on the day, but some acts may be 'rolled forward' into the New Year.

Important Safety Notice

Over the last few weeks, we have had several messages from parents and neighbours about inconsiderate or unsafe parking and driving near the school.

Whilst I understand that pick up and drop off times are inevitably busy, can I please draw everyone's attention to the following:

- Parking by the bottom field gate on Oudle Lane MUST still allow for a fire engine or ambulance to pass through AT ALL TIMES PLEASE. We have children and staff on site at all times of the day and unsafe parking puts them at risk.
- If you are parking at the recreation ground or on the side of the road on Tower Hill, please park considerately. Headlights from parked vehicles can be blinding for both traffic and pedestrians.
- Please drive slowly past the school and be aware of small children.
- Please do not park in front of neighbours' driveways, even for a short time.

East Herts Council are looking into possible improvements to the area as part of their Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

The map on display in the school office window shows some of the improvements that have been suggested. If you would like to comment further, please email

eastherts.lcwip@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Thank you for helping to keep everyone safe around school.

Applying for a Reception place for September 2026

The online application process to apply for a Hertfordshire reception class place is now open. Parents must submit an online application through the [Hertfordshire County Council website](#) by the **15th January 2026** deadline for September 2026 entry. Parents will also need to complete a separate [Supplementary Information Form](#) and return this directly to school. Thank you.



Winter HAPpy Camps 2025



Bookings for winter HAPpy Camps are now open!

HAPpy camps are running across Hertfordshire this festive period, available from 22 - 31 December (selected dates). Camps are for children and young people (Reception to Year 11) who attend a Hertfordshire school and are in receipt of benefits-related free school meals.

The programme, funded by Hertfordshire County Council and the Department of Education (DfE) via the government's Holiday Activity and Food programme, is co-ordinated by Herts Sport and Activity Partnership and the Hertfordshire Community Foundation

Get your child's booking code from their school office and book your free place.

Places can be booked from 10am on Thursday 27 November via the Herts Sport and Activity Partnership's website: <https://bit.ly/BookHAPpyWSN>

Attendance Autumn Term 2

	Autumn 1 Totals	w/e 07/11	w/e 14/11	w/e 21/11	w/e 28/11	w/e 05/12	w/e 12/12	w/e 19/12
Nursery	92.0%	92.2%	92.4%	91.1%	89.9%			
Reception	97.8%	97.4%	96.4%	95.8%	95.4%			
Year 1	96.4%	95.6%	95.6%	95.5%	95.4%			
Year 2	92.6%	92.6%	92.1%	92.3%	92.3%			
Year 3	96.3%	96.4%	96.0%	96.0%	96.0%			
Year 4	93.2%	93.1%	93.4%	93.6%	93.5%			
Year 5	96.1%	96.3%	96.1%	96.3%	96.4%			
Year 6	95.5%	95.3%	95.6%	95.7%	95.9%			
Totals	95.2%	95.1%	94.9%	94.9%	94.8%			

We are a Nut-Free School

St Andrew's is a 'No Nut' school. Please do not bring any foods containing nut or sesame into school (including pesto and hummus). Thank you.



Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

The school is aware that with the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) programme automatically providing all children up to the end of Year 2 with a free meal every day, many families do not apply for means-tested free school meal provision until their child reaches Year 3. **This could mean parents are missing out on other sources of support they are entitled to,** linked to household income and the benefits of associated pupil premium funding.

When your child reaches year 3 school meals become chargeable.



What is a Free School Meal? A KS2 school meal costs £3.50 per day. Multiply this by 190 (days in a school year) and **Free School Meals are worth £665 a year!**

Please see link below to check your eligibility:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

Useful links

St Andrew's School Website... did you know?

We aim to make our school website a 'one stop shop' for information about our vibrant school.

<https://standrews236.herts.sch.uk/>

Here you can find information about your child's learning in all areas of the curriculum, a number of useful school policies, information about school uniform, upcoming events, links to outside school support and so much more! *If there is anything extra that you would like to see on our school website, do drop Mrs Dimond an email via the school office and we'll see what we can do.* Please find other useful links below:

Much Hadham Preschool

<https://www.muchhadhampreschool.co.uk/>



In School

Amazon – Buy a Birthday Book Suggestion List



Nursery and Reception: <https://amzn.eu/al6WYEG>

Year 1 and Year 2: <https://amzn.eu/fBRhfZI>

Year 3 and Year 4: <https://amzn.eu/jbNTsjQ>

Year 5 and Year 6: <https://amzn.eu/aQO9ylu>

School Gateway

<https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login>

Hertfordshire Catering Ltd Special Dietary Menu Application (now called Citrus) [Special Diet Application - HCL](#)

Hertfordshire Catering <https://www.hcl.co.uk/parents/primary-school>

School Uniform

AVM Schoolwear: [Schoolwear – AVM Workwear and Embroidery Ltd](#)

E-squared/Top Form Uniform: [About Us - Top Form Schoolwear](#)

Second Hand Uniform – from Friends of St Andrew's school

Please email requests to : friendsofstandrewsmh@gmail.com

External/other links

Hertfordshire Free School Meals

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

DSPL Website

[Developing Special Provision Locally \(DSPL\) 3 - Home](#)

Hertfordshire Families First

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst

Pharmacies First

[How pharmacies can help - NHS](#)

East Herts Council – Keeping Safe Online

[Get Safe Online | The UK's leading Online Safety Advice Resource](#)

Diary Dates 2025-2026

**** Parents and carers are invited to the events that are highlighted ****

**** PTA Events ****

Monday, 08/12/2025 Y6 Carol Service at St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford in the evening (rehearsal in the afternoon)

Tuesday, 09/12/2025 and Wednesday, 10/12/2025 – PTA Elfridges Christmas Shop

Thursday, 11/12/2025 – KS1 Nativity Performance

Friday, 12/12/2025 – Y4 Egyptian Day

Tuesday, 16/12/2025 – YN – parents/carers invited to Collective Worship

Tuesday, 16/12/2025 – Whole school pantomime trip

Wednesday, 17/12/2025 – Christmas Lunch

Wednesday, 17/12/2025 – In-House 'St Andrew's Got Talent Show'

Friday, 19/12/2025 – KS2 Carol Service in Church 9.30 am

Friday, 19/12/2025 – Last Day of Term – School finishes at 2 pm

Thursday, 15/01/2026 – Herts Application deadline for Primary School Reception Class 2026

Friday, 30/01/2026 – Parenting Course 'Who's in Charge?' First Session

Friday, 06/02/2026 – Lieutenancy visit

Monday, 01/06/2026 – Friday, 05/06/2026 – Y6 Brenscombe Trip

Tuesday, 22/09/2026- Thursday 24/09/2026 – Y5 Aylmerton Trip

Term Dates for 2025/2026

Autumn Term 2025	
Wednesday, 3 September 2025	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
Thursday, 4 September 2025	Term begins
Monday, 27 October - Friday 31 October 2025	Half term
Friday, 28 November 2025	<i>Occasional day – school closed</i>
Friday, 19 December 2025	Term ends 2pm
Spring Term 2026	
Monday, 5 January 2026	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
Tuesday, 6 January 2026	Term begins
Monday, 16 February to Friday, 20 February 2026	Half term
Friday, 27 March 2026	Term ends 2pm
Summer Term 2026	
Monday, 13 April 2026	Term begins
Monday, 4 May 2026	May Bank Holiday – School Closed
Monday, 25 May to Friday, 29 May 2026	Half term
Monday, 1 June 2026	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
Tuesday, 21 July 2026	Term ends 2pm
Wednesday, 22 July 2026	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
Thursday, 23 July 2026	<i>Inset – school closed</i>

Term Dates for 2026/2027

Autumn Term 2026	
<i>Tuesday, 1 September 2026</i>	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
Wednesday, 2 September 2026	Term begins
Monday, 26 October - Friday 30 October 2026	Half term
<i>Friday, 27 November 2026</i>	<i>Occasional day – school closed</i>
Friday, 18 December 2026	Term ends 2pm
Spring Term 2027	
<i>Monday, 4 January 2027</i>	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
Tuesday, 5 January 2027	Term begins
Monday, 15 February to Friday, 19 February 2027	Half term
Thursday, 27 March 2027	Term ends 2pm
Summer Term 2027	
Monday, 12 April 2027	Term begins
Monday, 3 May 2027	May Bank Holiday – school closed
Monday, 31 May to Friday, 4 June 2027	Half term
<i>Monday, 7 June 2027</i>	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
Tuesday, 20 July 2027	Term ends 2pm
<i>Wednesday, 21 July 2027</i>	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
<i>Thursday, 22 July 2027</i>	<i>Inset – school closed</i>



School Noticeboard

