



**St Andrew's CE Primary School and Nursery**  
Tower Hill, Much Hadham  
Hertfordshire SG10 6DL

Headteacher: Mrs Caroline Dimond

Tel: 01279 842626

Email: [admin@standrews236.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@standrews236.herts.sch.uk)

Website: [www.standrews236.herts.sch.uk](http://www.standrews236.herts.sch.uk)



## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – 20 December 2024

Our Value this half term is **REMEMBRANCE**

### KS1 Nativity

Our Year 1 and Year 2 classes put on a fantastic show this week at their two performances of The Big Little Nativity. The singing was amazing! Thank you so much to everyone who came along and supported this fabulous event and of course to the teachers and staff who have worked so hard to make it happen.



### Year 6 - Christingles

This week as part of their RE learning, Year 6 made Christingles. They learned about the meaning of each part as they were being created. They have kept them to enjoy at home (although the sweeties might need to be replaced!)



### Year 6 Carol Service at St Michael's Church

On Tuesday evening, our Year 6 class attended a carol service at St Michael's Church in Bishop's Stortford. The children sang carols with other schools and also performed their own individual song 'Love Shone Down'. Mrs Small and Miss Broomfield were so proud of our children, they all sang beautifully and were such a joy to hear. A huge thank you to the parents who assisted with transporting our children to and from the rehearsals in the afternoon. We could not have taken part without your help.

## Year 4 – Egyptian Day

On Wednesday this week, as part of their History topic, year 4 enjoyed a visit from 'Those History People' for an Egyptian day. The morning was packed full of interactive activities, such as making clay amulets or canopic jars, making a mummy, writing in hieroglyphs, and making bread. The children even had the opportunity to learn how to act like an Ancient Egyptian slave or soldier! In the afternoon, they enjoyed a feast as part of the Pharaoh's royal court. The children were fully engaged all day and learnt lots. A huge thank you to all the staff and parents who helped make the day such an enormous success.



## Primary Maths Challenge



Congratulations to Nathan, Imogen and Ernie in Year 6 who have made it through to the next round of the Primary Maths Challenge.

The Maths Challenge is aimed at children aged 9-11 and takes place in November. The highest scoring children from this round are then invited to take the Bonus round.

**Good Luck Nathan, Imogen and Ernie!**

## Pantomime Trip

We are very excited about our whole school trip to the Pantomime to see Robin Hood:

- Please can children wear full school uniform and a warm coat (even if it is your class PE day).
- We are having an early lunch in school before leaving and children will also be provided with a snack during the interval (school provided).
- When the coaches return at about 4.15/4.30 pm it will be very dark. Therefore, please allow **all** children to be taken back to their classrooms to be counted in and then children can be collected from there as usual.

The school office will send out a Schoolcomms message if there are any major delays to the coach return time. Thank you everyone.

## Working Set of Walkie Talkies

We are still on the look-out for a working set of walkie talkies. Please can you let the school office know if you have some that you would be willing to donate to the school. Thank you.



## Attendance This Half term

	Total last H/T	w/e 8/11	w/e 15/11	w/e 22/11	w/e 29/11	w/e 6/12	w/e 13/12	w/e 20/12
<b>Whole School</b>	<b>96.2%</b>	<b>96.2%</b>	<b>96.1%</b>	<b>95.8%</b>	<b>95.8%</b>	<b>95.7%</b>	<b>94.9%</b>	
Year 6	95.1%	94.9%	94.7%	93.8%	94.1%	94.3%	93.6%	
Year 5	98.2%	98.3%	98.2%	98.0%	97.9%	97.8%	96.5%	
Year 4	98.8%	98.6%	98.8%	98.7%	98.5%	98.2%	97.4%	
Year 3	95.2%	95.3%	95.1%	94.7%	94.4%	94.5%	93.9%	
Year 2	94.9%	95%	95.2%	95.2%	95.2%	95.4%	94.5%	
Year 1	97.2%	97.7%	97.5%	97.6%	97.4%	97.3%	96.5%	
Reception	96.3%	95.7%	95.5%	95.5%	95.4%	95%	94.2%	
Nursery	90.1%	90.7%	91%	89.9%	90.3%	90.4%	89.5%	

## Important Reminder - School Lunches

As a reminder to children in KS2 who have school lunches, school meals are pre-paid. If your child has school meals parents have a legal obligation to pay in advance. Accounts on the School Gateway must always be kept in credit.

## No Nuts

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/Free School Meals – Reception, Y1 and Y2

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. Please see link below to check eligibility:

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

## **The Friends of St Andrew's School Christmas Raffle**

A chance to win a host of festive Christmas Hampers. The final draw takes place next Thursday morning and prizes will be distributed on that same Thursday afternoon.

Please visit the raffall.com website on the link below to get your tickets. Good luck everyone!



Enter Raffle to Win Christmas 2024 hosted by  
Friends of St Andrew's School Much Hadham  
[raffall.com](https://raffall.com)

<https://raffall.com/372537/enter-raffle-to-win-christmas-2024-hosted-by-friends-of-st-andrews-school-much-hadham>

## Christmas Church Services

### The River Ash Churches Advent and Christmas Services



We warmly invite you to join us for our special  
Advent and Christmas Services:

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

9:15 am at St Mary's, Albury – Benefice Holy Communion

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

9:15 am at St Andrew's, Much Hadham – Benefice Holy Communion  
with collection of toys

6:00 pm at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham – Carol Service  
followed by wine and mince pies

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

3:00 pm A Journey to Bethlehem at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

9:15 am at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham – Benefice Holy Communion

6:00 pm at St Andrew's, Much Hadham - Carol Service  
followed by wine and mince pies

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

9:15 am at St Mary's, Albury - Family Carol Service  
followed by mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve**

4:30 pm at St Andrew's, Much Hadham - The Big Nativity

6:00 pm at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham - Christingle Service

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day**

9:15am at St Andrew's, Much Hadham – Benefice Family Communion

## A Journey to Bethlehem



We would like to invite you to our ecumenical Journey to Bethlehem  
children's service.

A short ecumenical service followed by fun craft.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 3.30pm  
at St Andrews with Holy Cross Church.

## Diary Dates 2024-2025

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

Monday, 16/12/2024 pm – Pantomime Trip to South Mills Arts Centre – Robin Hood

Wednesday, 18/12/2024 – School Christmas Lunch and wear a Christmas jumper

Wednesday, 18/12/2024 – Talent Show after lunch

**Thursday, 19/12/2024 – KS2 Carol Service at Church at 9.30 am** \* note time amended

Friday, 20/12/2024 – Last day of term – school finishes at 2.00 pm

Monday 02/06/2025 – Friday 06/06/2025 – Y6 Brenscombe Trip

(Collective Worship in the Main Hall and starts at 9.10 am and lasts approximately 30 minutes)

## Term Dates for 2024/2025

<b>Autumn Term 2024</b>	
Monday, 2 September 2024	<i>Inset - school closed</i>
Tuesday, 3 September 2024	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
<b>Wednesday, 4 September 2024</b>	<b>Term begins</b>
Monday, 28 October - Friday 1 November 2024	Half term
Friday, 29 November 2024	<i>Occasional day – school closed</i>
<b>Friday, 20 December 2024</b>	<b>Term ends 2pm</b>
<b>Spring Term 2025</b>	
Monday, 6 January 2025	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
<b>Tuesday, 7 January 2025</b>	<b>Term begins</b>
Monday, 17 February to Friday, 21 February 2025	Half term
<b>Friday, 4 April</b>	<b>Term ends 2pm</b>
<b>Summer Term 2025</b>	
<b>Tuesday, 22 April 2025</b>	<b>Term begins</b>
Monday, 26 May to Friday, 30 May 2025	Half term
Monday, 2 June 2025	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
Tuesday, 3 June 2025	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
<b>Wednesday, 23 July 2025</b>	<b>Term ends 2pm</b>

## Term Dates for 2025/2026

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

## School Noticeboard



### School's out!

## ★ Our Festive Holiday Camps are in! ★

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Premier Education are excited to announce we will be offering a Holiday Camp course at St Mary's Junior School during the Christmas break. Our aim is to offer a convenient and affordable service to parents where children can have fun and feel safe. We hope our experience and extensive offering of activities will ensure there is something for every child to enjoy.

Venue: **St Mary's Junior School, Ware, SG12 0RL**

Time: **9:00am – 3.30pm**

Ages: **4 - 12 years**

Prices: **from £11.19 per day** (4 yr olds half day) | **from £17.49 per day** (full day)

Discounts: **30% OFF until Monday 9th December! 15% OFF for siblings too!** \*

#### **MULTI ACTIVITY:**

Dates: **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025**

**BOOK HERE:** [premier-education.com/holiday-camps/](https://premier-education.com/holiday-camps/)



Our Holiday Camps are designed to help your children get active, introduce them to new and exciting activities, and create a fun-filled experience they will remember forever.

*Weekly Timetable including all our festive activities will be released soon...!*

#### **How to book:**

Click the link above or visit [premier-education.com](https://premier-education.com), Book a Course, Postcode: **SG12 0RL**

*Spaces are limited to each course, so book quickly to avoid disappointment!*

Please [aemmerson@premier-education.com](mailto:aemmerson@premier-education.com) with any questions or requests.

We also have camps running in other nearby towns...

22,500+ reviews



Follow Us:



Premier Education is the UK's No.1 provider of sport and physical activity to primary schools.



**SCAN HERE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION**

or visit [premier-education.com/holiday-camps](https://premier-education.com/holiday-camps)

# Christmas Painting and Wreath Making



**WREATHMAKING**

**1/12/24**

**BAUBLE PAINTING**

**2/12/24 AND**

**13/12/24**

**ROBIN PAINTING**

**10/12/24**

Wreath making and robin painting at New Mexico Restaurant, Sawbridgeworth.  
Bauble painting in Sheering

Bookings and more info at  
[www.carolineclarkartist.com](http://www.carolineclarkartist.com)  
or 07847269734



GET CHRISTMAS OFF TO A FESTIVE START WITH A FREE FUN SINGALONG  
OF CHRISTMAS CLASSICS IN AID OF THE FOOD BANK

ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE!



Scan to pay  
Bishop's Stortford Food Bank



MONDAY 23rd DECEMBER AT 5pm!

CASTLE PARK BAND STAND, BISHOP'S STORTFORD

### **Get Ready for the 4th Annual 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree'!**

Bishops Stortford is gearing up for the fourth annual 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree' event, which has quickly become the go-to celebration on Christmas Eve Eve. This beloved community charity event, which began as a simple idea among friends, has blossomed into a festive tradition.

#### **A Community Celebration**

The heart of this event lies in its community spirit. Supported by local talent ranging from 17 years old to more seasoned performers, the event promises a night of music and cheer. The highlight? The entire community shouting "It's Christmas!" to the classic Slade song and rockin' around the Christmas tree.

#### **Growing Stronger Each Year**

Since its inception, 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree' has seen remarkable growth. From its humble beginnings in 2021 to the vibrant celebration it is today, the event has become a staple of the holiday season in Bishops Stortford.

#### **From 2021**



#### **To 2023**



#### **Making a Difference**

Last year, the event raised nearly £1400 for the Bishops Stortford Food Bank. Pippa Boutell Assistant Manager of the Food Bank said 'last year's donations helped us to send out around 1700 food parcels feeding 3400 people. This year we would like to be able to continue to develop our services to be able to cope with the increasing demand, and make sure nobody goes hungry in our local community and surrounding villages. We really are very grateful to live in such an amazing community that continues to support us all year round. We couldn't do it without you'.

#### **Event Details**

- **Date:** Monday 23rd December
- **Time:** 5pm - 6pm
- **Location:** Castle Park Bandstand

Local residents and their visiting families are encouraged to join in the festivities. Bring your voices, torches, light-up Santa hats, and some cash for the collection buckets.

#### **Dress Warmly**

As this is an outdoor event, attendees are advised to dress warmly and wear sturdy footwear.

#### **Join the Celebration!**

We look forward to seeing everyone come together to sing Christmas favourites and spread holiday cheer. Let's make this year's 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree' the best one yet! See you there!

# Statutory Attendance Support Team

## Penalty Notice Fines – Sept 2024



### Helping Parents understand Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance

From 19 August 2024, there is a National Framework for Penalty Notice Fines being issued for unauthorised absences recorded by schools.

#### National Threshold

A single consistent national threshold for when a Penalty Notice **must** be considered by **ALL** schools in England, this is:

- 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.
- These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.
- **For example**, a 5-day unauthorised leave of absence would meet the national threshold.
- The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

#### Who may be fined?

- Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent without authorisation from school.
- **For example**, 3 siblings absent for unauthorised leave during term-time would result in each parent/carer receiving 3 separate fines.

#### Definition of Parent

- Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 states that, in relation to a child or young person, a 'parent' includes any person who is not a parent (from which can be inferred 'biological parent') but who has parental responsibility for or care of the child.
- Parent refers to a person who typically has care of a child or young person if the child lives with them either full or part time and they look after them, irrespective of what their biological or legal relationship is with the child.

#### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, the fine amount will be:

- £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.
- If not paid within 21 days, the fine will increase to £160 per parent, per child, payable between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> day.

#### Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, a reduced rate is not available. The amount therefore will be:

- £160 per parent, per child – payable within 28 days.

#### Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed, a Penalty Notice WILL NOT be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court:

- Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.
- Cases found guilty in a Magistrates Court can show on the parent's future DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) certificate (Disclosure and Barring Service) due to a 'failure to safeguard a child's education'