



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

Website: www.standrews236.herts.sch.uk



2025/26 : 16

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – 9 January 2026

Home/School Value – Creation and Creativity

Welcome Back



Welcome back everyone to the Spring Term and Happy New Year! On behalf of all the staff here at St Andrew's, I'd like to say a big thank you for all of your kind and generous Christmas gifts.

School and Home Learning this Spring Term

We are looking forward to an exciting Spring Term of learning with your children. Please look out for an email which includes important information about what your child will be learning in class this term, as well as a guide to the homework that they should be completing each week at home. For each child this involves reading, number bonds and spellings. Thank you for your vital support.

Home/School Value

Our home/school value this half term is 'Creation and Creativity', which we will be exploring through whole school and class collective worship times, and you may wish to explore further at home with your child.



Invitation to Whole School Collective Worship

We would like to invite all parents and carers to join us for whole school collective worship on the following dates, 9.05am – 9.30am.

13th Jan - Y6

20th Jan - Y5

27th Jan - Y4

3rd Feb - Y3

3rd March - Y2

10th March - Y1

17th March - YR

24th March – YN

Outside Learning Requests

Can you help?

As our outdoor learning spaces evolve, we will be able to make good use of the following items, should we be able to get hold of them:

- Strong milk crates
- Strong wooden planks/scaffolding planks
- Wooden pallets in good condition
- Large wooden wire/cable drums

Please let the office know if you can help with any of these. Thank you.

Parenting Course 'Who's In Charge?' starting soon 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.

A Note from Jackie



Dear Parents and Children,

I would like to thank you all most sincerely for my lovely Christmas gifts and especially my cards they were all very special.

I keep all my cards and messages in a special box marked St Andrews, in time to come these will become very special memories that I will look back on with a great deal of fondness and affection, they are memories that I will treasure forever.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the gift token I received. I was overwhelmed by the sentiments and the generosity. I really found it all very touching, and to be honest I don't have the words to express my gratitude for all the kindness I have received since starting my job. It continues to be my pleasure to serve my local community, and honestly I feel blessed that I do a job I love and enjoy so much.

Again, I thank you all from the bottom of my heart, for your kindness, your gifts for all the cards and sentiments, but mostly I would like to thank you all for the joy you all bring to my life every day, while I go about my duties as your lollipop lady.

I wish you all a very happy, peaceful and joyous new year.
My kindest regards and sincere thanks.

Jackie xx

Reception Class Applications 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.

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%	88.8%	88.2%	87.8%
Reception	97.8%	97.4%	96.4%	95.8%	95.4%	95.3%	95.2%	93.9%
Year 1	96.4%	95.6%	95.6%	95.5%	95.4%	94.8%	94.1%	93.7%
Year 2	92.6%	92.6%	92.1%	92.3%	92.3%	92.5%	92.1%	90.5%
Year 3	96.3%	96.4%	96.0%	96.0%	96.0%	96.0%	95.9%	95.3%
Year 4	93.2%	93.1%	93.4%	93.6%	93.5%	93.3%	93.3%	92.8%
Year 5	96.1%	96.3%	96.1%	96.3%	96.4%	96.0%	93.8%	93.4%
Year 6	95.5%	95.3%	95.6%	95.7%	95.9%	95.9%	93.8%	95.1%
Totals	95.2%	95.1%	94.9%	94.9%	94.8%	94.6%	94.0%	93.3%

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 ****

Tuesday, 13/01/2026 – Year 6 parents and carers invited to collective worship

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

Tuesday, 20/01/2026 - Year 5 parents and carers invited to collective worship

Tuesday, 27/01/2026 - Year 4 parents and carers invited to collective worship
 Friday, 30/01/2026 – Parenting Course ‘Who’s in Charge?’ First Session
 Tuesday, 03/02/2026 - Year 3 parents and carers invited to collective worship
 Friday, 06/02/2026 – Lieutenancy visit to Year 6
 Wednesday, 11/02/2026 and Thursday, 12/02/2026 – Parent/Teacher Consultations
 Tuesday, 03/03/2026 - Year 2 parents and carers invited to collective worship
 Tuesday, 10/03/2026 - Year 1 parents and carers invited to collective worship
 Tuesday, 17/03/2026 - Reception parents and carers invited to collective worship
 Tuesday, 24/03/2026 - Nursery parents and carers invited to collective worship

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	
Tuesday, 1 September 2026	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
Wednesday, 2 September 2026	Term begins
Monday, 26 October - Friday 30 October 2026	Half term
Friday, 27 November 2026	<i>Occasional day – school closed</i>
Friday, 18 December 2026	Term ends 2pm
Spring Term 2027	
Monday, 4 January 2027	<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
Monday, 7 June 2027	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
Tuesday, 20 July 2027	Term ends 2pm
Wednesday, 21 July 2027	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
Thursday, 22 July 2027	<i>Inset – school closed</i>

School Noticeboard



Hertfordshire Libraries

Hertfordshire County Council



Free Library Membership for Your Team – A Simple Way to Boost Wellbeing and Productivity

Did you know that Hertfordshire Libraries offer free membership to anyone who lives, works, or studies in Hertfordshire? Joining as a family opens the door to a world of learning, creativity, and connection – all at no cost.

Why join the whole family?

- **Save money:** borrow books, eBooks, and e-audiobooks instead of buying or paying for subscriptions.
- **Enjoy more choice:** thousands of titles for children and adults – from picture books to bestsellers – available to reserve from any library in the county.
- **Expert help:** our friendly staff can recommend great reads for every age and interest.
- **Connect people:** libraries are welcoming spaces with free Wi-Fi, events, community groups, and learning opportunities.



THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may overbalance or trip and fall in.

ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50 % of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank. you may find it easier to roll.

If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for '**HELP**' and dial **999** or **112** if you can

DO NOT walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to '**KEEP STILL**' and offer reassurance.

If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.

StayWise



JOIN US AT

ParkPlay

Make friends, have fun, play more!



Bishop's Stortford – Castle Park

Come and play for free every Saturday from 10am. Find out more and register at park-play.com/register

In partnership with:



#MeetMovePlay