



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

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SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – 31 January 2024

Our Value this half term is **HEART FOR THE EARTH**

Playground Development



You may have noticed that there have been some exciting developments in the playground earlier this week – we have some new creative playground markings in Early Years and new chessboard markings in the main playground to accommodate some new supersized draught pieces!

Our new Big Board Games Zone is now open!



Parent Teacher Consultations New Online Booking System

We are looking forward to meeting with you at the Parent Teacher Consultations on Tuesday and Wednesday, 13 and 14 February 2024. All appointment bookings must be made via the new online booking system *SchoolCloud* <https://standrewscepri.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Changes to data

Could you please let the school office know if there have been any recent changes to your data; new telephone, new email address etc. Parents and carers can also check and let us know for any changes at PTCs. Thank you.

Year 3/4 BSP Level 2 Football Tournament

Year 3 and 4 played a football tournament at Leventhorpe on Wednesday.

They were absolutely incredible and made us all so proud. They led the way at the end of each match, initiating the shaking of hands with each of their opponents, regardless of the score.

They played 5 games - They won three and lost two. Our teamwork was outstanding and we had smiles on our faces from start to finish.



The two top teams tied on equal points... so technically, we were 2nd!! A superb event.

Well done Team St. Andrew's

Maths at St Andrew's from Miss Broomfield

As maths subject lead, I recently had the privilege of being able to see the wonderful maths learning that has been taking place across the school.

This year, as a whole school focus, we have been exploring the different ways children can use concrete materials in maths (we sometimes call these manipulatives). These play a key role in developing visualisation and understanding of number.

It was lovely to see EYFS exploring number through the song 'Five Little Speckled Frogs' (we even met some frogs sitting on a log in their classroom).



In key stage 1, children were developing their understanding of odds and even numbers, and of addition, using cuisenaire and tens frames.

In lower key stage 2, children were learning about continuous and discrete data by collecting real data and constructing and interpreting graphs.



In upper key stage 2, place value counters were being used to deepen understanding of formal short division.



We strongly encourage the use of real everyday objects and/or visual images in supporting home learning, as these can really help children continue to develop and deepen their understanding of maths.

Playtime role play zone

Thank you so much to those families who have donated items for our new calm room. In addition, we are looking for the following items for our upcoming role play zone in the playground:

- play shop items eg till, food, money etc
- play doctors items eg stethoscope, bandages, dressing up etc
- any children's dressing up clothes and accessories
- old handbags
- large pieces of fabric
- bean bags.

Reminder - Polite Parking on Tower Hill at Drop Off and Pick Up

Please remember to park carefully on the road outside school. Please do not park across our neighbours' drives as they get very cross and upset when they cannot get in or out of their drives.

School lunches

School lunches are provided free of charge for children in Reception and KS1. For children in KS2 lunches cost £3.20 per day and payment is online via the School Gateway. Please can we remind parents that lunches must be paid for in advance (**pay as you go**) and your account may be frozen if it is in arrears. Thank you.

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

The school is aware that with the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) programme automatically providing all children up to 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>

Important: Measles cases are rising in the UK

Measles cases in the UK have been rising since November 2023. While Hertfordshire has no outbreaks at the moment, we are close to London and the West Midlands where there has been a large rise in cases. The UK Health Security Agency has declared the increase in cases of measles a national incident (19 January 2024). There is the potential for cases and outbreaks in Hertfordshire as uptake of the Measles Vaccination (MMR) in the county is lower than recommended.

Measles is a highly infectious viral disease that can have serious and sometimes fatal consequences. Measles spreads quickly from person to person, especially in schools. Spending more than 15 minutes in direct contact with someone infected with measles is sufficient to transmit the virus. A child with measles will infect almost all unprotected children they have contact with.

Measles is spread through coughing and sneezing, close personal contact or direct contact with infected nasal or throat secretions. For more information about measles and the symptoms, see Measles - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

If someone thinks they have measles they should not come into school or work for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. Your school could be impacted if unvaccinated staff or children contract measles. Unvaccinated individuals are at risk of contracting measles and, if identified as a close contact of someone with measles they may be asked to self-isolate for up to 21 days.

Hertfordshire Public Health are asking us all to be alert to signs and symptoms of measles and to check that your children are fully vaccinated. If anyone has missed one or both doses of the MMR vaccine, it is not too late to catch up. Please contact your GP practice to book an appointment as soon as possible if children have missed either dose. The MMR vaccine is free on the NHS, whatever your age. Our best protection against measles is MMR vaccination and this will help stop outbreaks occurring in the community.

Further advice and guidance can be found here:

[MEASLES - Protect yourself, protect others \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

[MMR \(measles, mumps and rubella\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

[What to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://blog.gov.uk)

UK Health Security Agency

NHS

think measles

It's not just a kids' problem

Teenagers, young adults and anyone who has missed their MMR vaccination can get measles.

Symptoms such as:

- high fever
- rash – sometimes starting around the ears
- sore red eyes
- cough
- aching and feeling unwell

Remember, if it could be measles – they need to be in an area where they cannot pass the infection to vulnerable patients such as the immunocompromised and pregnant women.

For more information go to www.nhs.uk/vaccinations

i mmunisation
Helping to protect everyone, at every age

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Our School Development Plan

School Development Priorities – St Andrew's three main priorities 2023-2024:

- 1 For pupils to play a more active role in their learning journey – including a greater awareness of their own progress towards the end points for each subject.
- 2 To improve children's emotional literacy across the school, to help them articulate their feelings positively.
- 3 To improve the school's carbon footprint and the children's understanding of creating a more sustainable future.

Mrs Dimond looks forward to sharing our progress against these priorities at the end of each term.

News from the Friends of St Andrew's School

Many thanks as always for your continued support.

The Friends

friendsofstandrewsmh@gmail.com

Diary Dates 2024

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

Friday, 02/02/2024 – Little Bracelet Company (Y4) stall after school

Monday, 05/02/2024 – Friday 09/02/2024 Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday, 06/02/2024 – Year 4 Parents invited to Collective Worship (9.10 – 9.40)

Wednesday, 07/02/2024 – Y6 School Nurse

Tuesday, 13/02/24 and Wednesday, 14/02/2024 – Parent Teacher Consultations

Tuesday, 27/02/2024 – Year 3 Parents invited to Collective Worship (9.10 – 9.40)

Tuesday, 05/03/2024 – Year 2 Parents invited to Collective Worship (9.10 – 9.40)

W/C Monday, 11/03/2024 – Y6 Bikeability week

Tuesday, 12/03/2024 – Year 1 Parents invited to Collective Worship (9.10 – 9.40)

Tuesday, 19/03/2024 – Year Reception Parents invited to Collective Worship (9.10 – 9.40)

Wednesday, 20/03/2024 – YR School Nurse

Tuesday, 26/03/2024 – Year Nursery Parents invited to Collective Worship (9.10 – 9.40)

Thursday, 02/05/2024 – Photographer - whole class photographs

W/C Monday, 13/05/2024 – Key Stage 2 SATS week

03/06/2024 – 07/06/2024 – Brenscombe Week straight after half term (Monday is the INSET day)

02/10/2024 and 03/10/2024 – Photographer – individual and sibling portraits

Term Dates for 2023/2024

Autumn Term 2023	
Friday, 1 September 2023	<i>Inset - school closed</i>
Monday, 4 September 2023	Term begins
Monday, 23 October – Friday, 27 October 2023	Half term
Friday, 24 November 2023	<i>Occasional day – school closed</i>
Tuesday, 19 December 2023	Term ends 2pm
Wednesday, 20 December 2023	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
Spring Term 2024	
Thursday, 4 January 2024	Term begins
Monday, 19 February – Friday, 23 February 2024	Half term
Thursday, 28 March 2024	Term ends 2pm
Summer Term 2024	
Monday, 15 April 2024	Term begins
Monday, 27 May – Friday 31 May 2024	Half term
Monday, 3 June	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
Friday, 19 July 2024	Term ends 2pm
Monday, 22 July 2024	<i>Inset – School closed</i>
Monday, 23 July 2024	<i>Inset – School closed</i>

Term Dates for 2024/2025

Autumn Term 2023	
Monday, 2 September 2024	<i>Inset - school closed</i>
Tuesday, 3 September 2024	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
Wednesday, 4 September 2024	Term begins
Monday, 28 October - Friday 1 November 2024	Half term
Friday, 29 November 2024	<i>Occasional day – school closed</i>
Friday, 20 December 2024	Term ends 2pm
Spring Term 2025	
Monday, 6 January 2025	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
Tuesday, 7 January 2025	Term begins
Monday, 17 February to Friday, 21 February 2025	Half term
Friday, 4 April	Term ends 2pm
Summer Term 2025	
Tuesday, 22 April 2025	Term begins
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>
Wednesday, 23 July 2025	Term ends 2pm

Hertfordshire Music Service Inclusive Choir (Soundabout associate member choir)

An inclusive contemporary style choir in association with the music charity Soundabout.

- For anyone Year 5, 6 and secondary age, with a focus on giving a voice to those with SEN and complex needs.
- Sessions are twice a month, online, with an end of term, in-person, get-together at Mid Herts Centre for Music & Arts.
- Starting April 2024 with a **free taster session** on Friday 15 March 2024 (5.00pm - 6.00pm).

soundabout
make music change lives

Scan the QR
code to see
Soundabout's
music videos.



Starts Friday 19 April 2024 (March taster session)



5.00pm - 6.00pm



**Online with an end of term get-together at
Mid Herts Centre for Music and Arts**



£35 per term



Scan me for more



01438 844851



www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk



**Hertfordshire
Music Service**

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ENGLAND**



Free Trial Session and £40 discount at Perform

Popular children's drama and dance school Perform is offering a Free Trial Session and a **special introductory discount of £40 for members of St Andrew's C Of E Primary School** if they sign up by Saturday 4th May. Parents should quote SLAG040524 when they book their free session by going to perform.org.uk/try or calling 020 7255 9120.

You can find out more about the classes at perform.org.uk/try. Alternatively, pdf flyers can be downloaded from [here](#).

The nearest classes to St Andrew's C Of E Primary School are as follows (please click for a map and further details):

Perform Bishops Stortford (Drama for 4-7s)
(4.9 miles)
Mondays at 4pm

Summerville Primary School
Plaw Hatch Lane,
CM23 5BJ

Perform Bishops Stortford (Drama for 7-12s)
(4.9 miles)
Mondays at 5.15pm

Summerville Primary School
Plaw Hatch Lane,
CM23 5BJ

Perform Stansted (Drama for 4-7s)
(6.4 miles)
Thursdays at 4pm

Stansted Quaker Meeting House
71 Chapel Hill,
CM24 8AE

Perform Stansted (Drama for 7-12s)
(6.4 miles)
Thursdays at 5.05pm

Stansted Quaker Meeting House
71 Chapel Hill,
CM24 8AE

Perform Hertford (Drama for 4-7s)
(7.6 miles)
Saturdays at 9.30am

3rd Hertford Scout Group
Port Vale,
SG14 3AF

There are others too. Click to find all the nearest [here](#) or view a list of [all areas](#).