



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

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SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – 7th December 2023

Our Value this half term is **HOPE, LOVE AND LIGHT**

Year 6 Carol Service at St Michael's Church

Mrs Dimond and Miss Broomfield were so proud of our Year 6's who sang and read beautifully as part of the Year 6 Carol Service at St Michael's Church on Monday evening. Thank you to the many parents who supported the children during this very festive event!

EYFS Nativity – A Miracle in Town

What a pleasure it was to see so many parents, carers, friends and relatives at the EYFS performance earlier this week. So much hard work goes into putting on such a show. Huge thanks to everyone who made it a roaring success.



Beat the parking rush in the mornings!

At our recent Parent Forum meeting, the issue of parking outside school during pick up and drop off times was discussed. This is an issue we will be looking at as a school, as part of our School Travel Plan this academic year.

Can I please take this opportunity to promote our Daily Mile club which runs most mornings from 8.30am. As well as a super active start to the school day, the early start gives parents and carers the chance to beat the rush for car parking spaces outside school in the morning.



Key Stage 2 children must be taken down to the track to be signed in by an adult (unless they are in Years 5 or 6 and walk to school themselves). They can then be left with the staff member present, thus freeing up parking spaces for others. After the daily mile, these children are trusted to walk into school sensibly themselves. Key Stage 1 parents and carers are asked to stay during the daily mile session and then take their child(ren) to class please.

Thank you for your support in driving and parking considerately during the school run times.

Year 4 Cricket Competition

A little round-up of last Thursday's competition. The children had a fabulous morning of cricket and played really nicely as a team. All pairs had to sit out for one fielding session and one batting session, but I would like to give a special mention to Miia and Libby as they volunteered to sit out for a second time for the last game.

It was so close in our group with St Andrew's and High Wych coming top with 6 points each, both schools having won 2 of their matches and losing one - it's worth noting that High Wych lost against St Andrew's but it all came down to point difference in the end with only 34 points in it!

Thank you to Mrs Daniell for taking the children and to all our parent drivers. It was a great day and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



Christmas in Church

There are two ways that you can celebrate Christmas in Church with your families this year:

- **A Journey To Bethlehem Children's Service:**
All are invited to the ecumenical Journey to Bethlehem children's service. A short service led by Fr Peter Harris will be followed by fun craft. Saturday 16th December 2023, 3 pm at St Andrews with Holy Cross Church.
- **Christmas Eve Crib Service:**
Please also bring your family to the Crib Service at 4.30 pm on Christmas Eve December 24th in St Andrew's with Holy Cross, Much Hadham. Please ask your children to dress up as either Mary or Joseph or an angel or a King or a shepherd (etc) and expect to join in with actions and responses throughout the service and sing their and your hearts out! Mark Stephens, our Collective Worship Governor, will be leading the service supported by two Archangel Mums who will conduct the actions.

Both services promise to be an uplifting and fun way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Lunch on 13 December 2023

We are very much looking forward to our Christmas Dinner Day on Wednesday 13th December 2023

All children are invited to wear a 'Christmas Hat' or headwear on the day. A piece of tinsel would work, or maybe you have some festive 'deely boppers' lurking at the bottom of your Christmas box?

Please let the office know asap if your child will NOT be having a school Christmas lunch this time. Many thanks.



Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2) – a government-funded scheme through East Herts Council

Families struggling to pay energy bills could get free home energy improvements. HUG2 is a government-funded scheme for low-income households open to homeowners and private tenants in:

- Homes not heated by mains gas which includes oil, coal, LPG or only electric heating.
AND
- Households with a combined annual income of less than £31,000; receiving an income-related means-tested benefit such as Universal Credit or there is a child living at the premises eligible for free school meals due to low income.
AND
- Hard to heat homes – this is based on your home Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). Families will be helped with this part of the assessment.

If you think you may be eligible for a Home Upgrade Grant, please call the Energy Saving Trust on **0808 196 8255** or visit hugapply.co.uk



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Peripatetic Music Lessons

We are pleased to be able to offer piano and now also drum lessons in school. Mr Clempson will be starting drum lessons after Christmas. This is in addition to the two teachers in school at present providing piano lessons, Mrs Cross (private teacher) or Mr Medhurst (via Herts Music Service).

The billing and administration of music lessons takes place directly with the individual teachers.

- If you would like to sign up for lessons with Mrs Cross please contact the school office and we can forward your details.
- If you would like information about Hertfordshire Music Service and lessons with Mr Medhurst please follow this link to Herts Music Service:
<https://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/music-lessons-in-hertfordshire/music-lessons.aspx>
- If you are interested in drum lessons with Mr Clempson, please see flyer at the end of this newsletter for more information/contact telephone 07714 775462

Applying for a School Place September 2024

The Hertfordshire County Council deadline for online applications for a Reception class place is Monday, 15th January 2024. www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

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

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>

Our School Development Plan

School Development Priorities – St Andrew's three main priorities 2023-3024:

- 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.

Toy Donations

Each year St Andrew's Church collects toys on behalf of local Social Services to be distributed as Christmas gifts to children in care. To support the Church during the interregnum, the collection this year will take place via St Andrew's School.

We would very much welcome donations of any new (or pristine/nearly-new) toys or gifts, suitable for gifting, for both boys and girls of any age from birth to seventeen years old.



Please bring your donations to the school office anytime from today until the final collection date of 15th December 2023. We will then ensure these are passed on for wrapping and distribution in time for Christmas. Thank you for your support in helping to bring some much needed Christmas cheer to disadvantaged children in the community.

News from the Friends of St Andrew's School

Advent Film Night

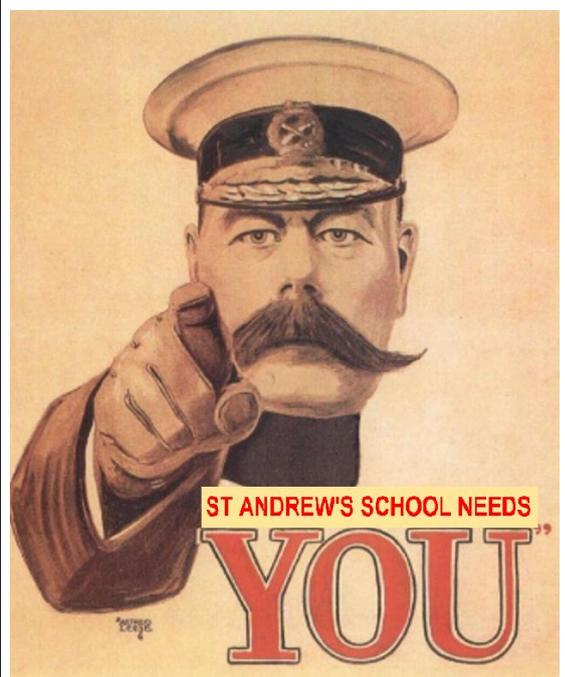
We hope everyone enjoyed the Festive Film Night last Friday after school. It was very well attended. Thank you as always to our Friends of St Andrew's who work so hard to raise funds for our school.

Friends of St Andrew's School 100 Club

Get ready to win a monthly prize fund, whilst (and more importantly) helping raise funds to support our local children with their education.

It costs £3 per month to join to have a chance to win 50% of the monthly prize fund up to £150. The remaining 50% goes directly to support the school in buying additional learning resources for the school.

To enter or find out more please contact Iain Nuttall at IainDNuttall@yahoo.co.uk who has recently taken over as the Club's organiser.



Many thanks as always for your continued support.

The Friends

friendsofstandrewsmh@gmail.com

Diary Dates 2023/2024

Friday, 08/12/2023 – Y5 Anglo Saxon Day

Monday 11/12/2023 – Cinderella Pantomime trip to South Mill Arts Centre

Tuesday, 12/12/2023 – PTA Christmas Shp - Elfridges

Tuesday, 12/12/2023 – Year Reception Collective Worship 9.10am

Wednesday, 13/12/2023 – Whole School Christmas lunch (All children are invited to take part in a traditional Christmas lunch. Lunches are £3.20 for KS2 children and free of charge for all Reception and KS1 children) – Wear your 'Christmas Hat'

Thursday, 14/12/2023 – KS1 Nativity Play (Performances at 2.15 pm and 5.30 pm for KS1 parents and carers) and Year 1 and Year 2 Cake Bake after school

Friday, 15/12/2023 KS2 Carol Service at St Andrew's Church at 2 pm

Monday, 18/12/2023 – Class Christmas Parties (children can wear their own clothes) and Puppets Galore 'A Special Star'

Tuesday, 19/12/2023 – Term ends at 2.00 pm

Return to school on Thursday, 04/01/2024

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

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

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

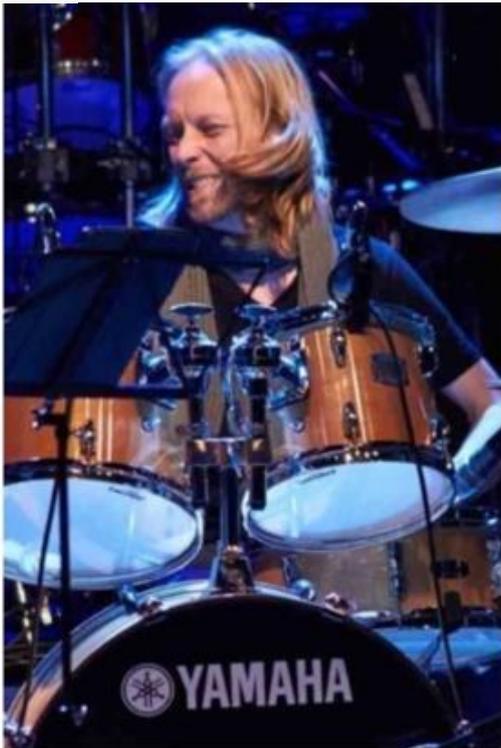
03/06/2024 – 07/06/2024 – Brenscombe Week straight after half term (Monday is the INSET day)

Term Dates for 2023/2024

Autumn Term 2023	
<i>Friday, 1 September 2023</i>	<i>Inset - school closed</i>
Monday, 4 September 2023	Term begins
Monday, 23 October – Friday, 27 October 2023	Half term
<i>Friday, 24 November 2023</i>	<i>Occasional day – school closed</i>
Tuesday, 19 December 2023	Term ends 2pm
<i>Wednesday, 20 December 2023</i>	<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
<i>Monday, 3 June</i>	<i>Inset – school closed</i>
Friday, 19 July 2024	Term ends 2pm
<i>Monday, 22 July 2024</i>	<i>Inset – School closed</i>
<i>Monday, 23 July 2024</i>	<i>Inset – School closed</i>

Term Dates for 2024/2025

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



INDIVIDUAL DRUM-KIT LESSONS WITH JOEL AT ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL

SPRING TERM £150



Joel currently teaches drums for Barnet Music Service, Herts Music Centre and privately. He teaches all ages and abilities.

He started playing drums at the age of 3 when Cozy Powell put him on his drum-kit and it's been a strong passion ever since!

As soon as he left school, he started touring around the world and played in lots of live situations and sessions for many artists, including Elton John and Akala and most recently Robben Ford and Krissy Matthews.

In addition to this, he had a 4 year residency in the West End.

Teaching drums is a huge passion of his which he has been doing for over 15 years.



**CONTACT JOEL CLEMPSON
07714775462**



The River Ash Churches

Advent and Christmas Services



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

Sunday 3rd December

9.15am at St Andrew's, Much Hadham – Benefice Holy Communion
with collection of toys

6.00pm at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham – Carol Service
followed by wine and mince pies

Sunday 10th December

11.15am at St Mary's, Albury - Family Carol Service
followed by mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies

Saturday 16th December

3.00pm A Journey to Bethlehem at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

Sunday 17th December

11.15am at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham – Benefice Holy Communion

6.00pm at St Andrew's, Much Hadham - Carol Service
followed by wine and mince pies

Sunday 24th December - Christmas Eve

9.15am at St Andrew's, Much Hadham – Benefice Morning Prayer

4.30pm at St Andrew's, Much Hadham - The Big Nativity

6.00pm at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham - Christingle Service

Sunday 25th December - Christmas Day

11.15am at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham – Benefice Family Communion