



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 – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

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

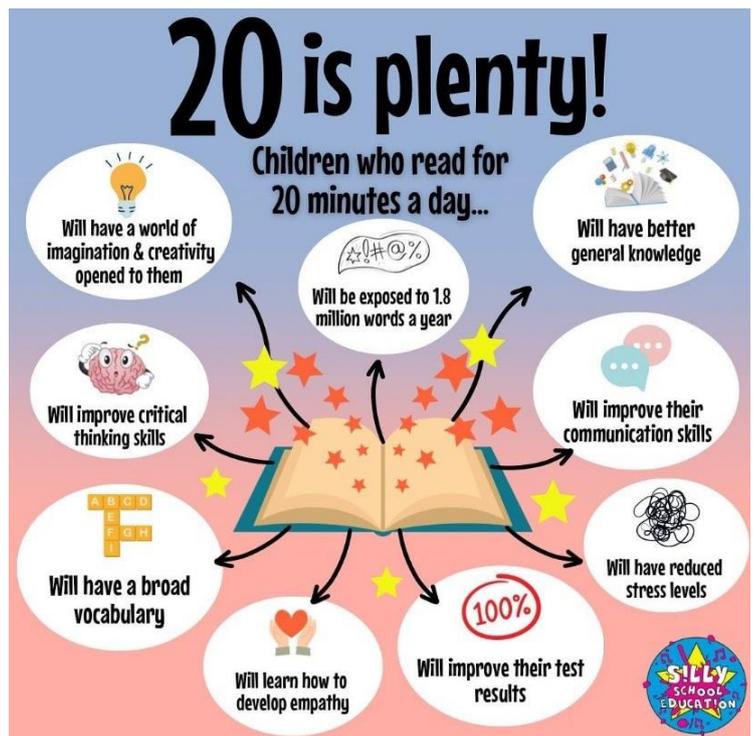
### Police Drone Visit

Last week, Year 6 were treated to a visit from Herts Constabulary and their drone. PCs Leon, Jack and Rich explained to the children how the police use drones to help them locate missing people, possible perpetrators of crime and even missing snow leopards! The children then had an opportunity to use the drone themselves to look for their missing classmates within the school grounds. Thankfully, all were found safe and sound.



### Daily Reading

At St Andrew's, we love books and to celebrate reading. We have worked hard over the past couple of years to expand our children's reading horizons through the introduction of class libraries and more diverse texts. But we still need your help! There is a proven link between regular, daily reading and a child's academic success... across all subjects, not just English. Children who read more are exposed to more complex vocabulary, have reduced stress levels and will have a higher level of general knowledge than their peers, who do not read regularly. Whilst we understand that people's lives are busy outside of school with clubs and family commitments, we would encourage you to prioritise reading activities as regularly as possible. Thank you so much for your support with this.



## World Book Day – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

World Book Day will take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. We would love to celebrate this year, with a ‘*Read Your Own Way*’ competition, where



the children take a photo of themselves reading in the most unusual way or in the strangest place! Photos can be submitted by emailing them to [admin@standrews236.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@standrews236.herts.sch.uk) for the attention of Mrs Cole. **There will be a prize for each phase (EYFS, KS1, LKS2 and UKS2) of a £5 voucher** to spend at the Scholastic Book Fair

the following week (see below for more information on this).

Children are also invited (if they wish) to come to school dressed as something book related on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March.



## Scholastic Book Fair

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March, Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

We are delighted to be welcoming back the Scholastic Book Fair, after school in the hall on the above dates. There will be a wide range of books on offer, suitable for EYFS, KS1 and KS2 children. In addition, the school receive a percentage of all sales, in vouchers, to purchase new books for the pupil libraries. We know in the past, there has been a real buzz around this event and children have loved the opportunity to choose and buy their own book.

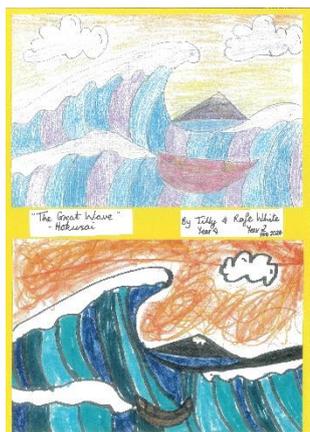


Please note: Payment will be accepted in cash or through card payments. Scholastic DO NOT accept Apple Pay and you will need your actual bank card to make payment. Payments via credit/debit card involve scanning a QR code with your phone and inputting your card details into the online Scholastic payment system.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Supervision of Children before the School Day Begins

Please do not leave children at school unsupervised if you arrive too early for registration. All children in school between 8.30 am and 8.45 am should be taking part in the daily mile. Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.

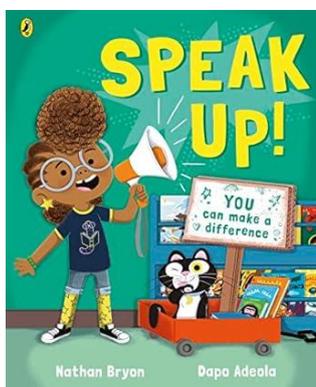
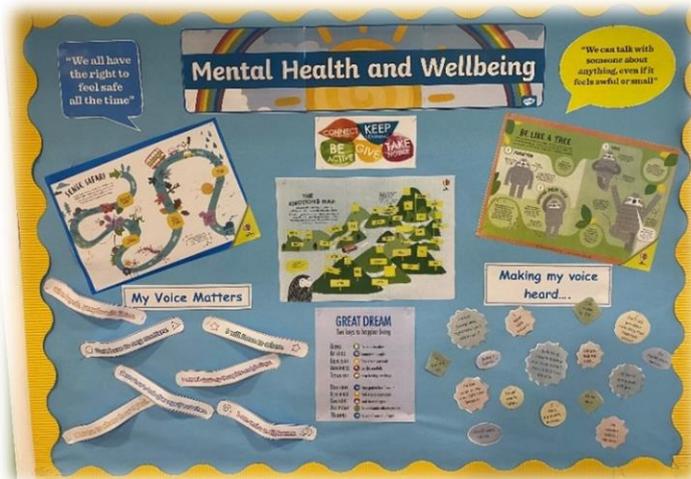


### **“The Great Wave” – Hokusai**

I would like to share the lovely Hokusai inspired artwork that Tilly and Rafe have produced at home. If any other children have excellent work that they have done at home, please bring it to Mrs Dimond. Thank you.

## Children's Mental Health Week

This week is national Children's Mental Health Week. This year the focus is 'My Voice Matters' and how you can use your voice to make positive changes, not just in your own life but in the lives of all those in your community. Mrs Cole kicked off the week, with a worship focusing on how all children have the right to be heard. We talked about how that right extends to children listening to other children and how they can work together to speak up and make a difference. We heard the story of how the determination of a little girl, prevented her local library from closing and looked at role models, such as Marcus Rashford, who have used their influence to prevent child hunger. Mrs Small has also created a beautiful mental health display for the children to look at and reflect on.



## Parent Teacher Consultations New Online Booking System

We are looking forward to meeting with you at the Parent Teacher Consultations next week. All appointment bookings must be made via the new online booking system *SchoolCloud* <https://standrewscepri.schoolcloud.co.uk/> 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 of any changes at PTCs. Thank you.

## 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>



As part of our ongoing effort to become more environmentally friendly we are starting a 'reduce, reuse and recycle' section here in the newsletter. Please consider donating your items to school if you have a clearout.

In particular, this week we are hoping to find:

- a low bookcase

Thank you so much to those families for all the fabulous donated items we have received this term for our new role play zone and calm room.

### **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.

### **News from the Friends of St Andrew's School**

Many thanks as always for your continued support.

The Friends

[friendsofstandrewsmh@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstandrewsmh@gmail.com)

## Diary Dates 2024

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

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

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

Monday, 04/03/2024 – KS2 Young Shakespeare

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

Thursday, 07/03/2024 – World Book Day (wear something book related)

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

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

Book Fair – Friday, 15/03/2024 and Monday, 18/03 and Tuesday 19/03/2024

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)

W/C Monday, 22/04/2024 – Y3 Swimming

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)

Wednesday, 25/09/2024 – Friday, 27/09/2024 – Y5 at Aylmerton

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

## Term Dates for 2023/2024

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

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

School Noticeboard



**HAVE FUN**

**LOL**



The perfect way  
for girls aged 5-11  
to get involved  
with football



Scan to book

Birchwood High School  
3G Pitch - CM23 5BD

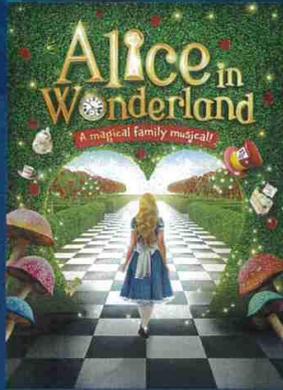
Wednesdays 5 - 6pm

£3 per session  
with Lead BSCFC Coach Hugo!





# February WHAT'S ON... Half Term



## Alice In Wonderland

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Feb  
2pm | £15 | £13 Concs.  
£52 Family

Follow Alice and the White Rabbit as they set off on a colourful, topsy-turvy adventure and meet a host of outlandish characters!



## Kids Craft - Dragons

Tue 20<sup>th</sup> | Wed 21<sup>st</sup> &  
Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb | 10am -  
2pm | 4+ | £1 per child

Make a Chinese Dragon  
Celebrate the new Chinese year of the Dragon. Drop in between 10am and 2pm. No need to book tickets.



## Exciting Science

Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Feb  
11am & 2pm | £16.50  
4+

This Brand New, Exciting & Educational show will amaze & astound all ages from 4 years & upwards, as we put the "Exciting" back into "Science"!

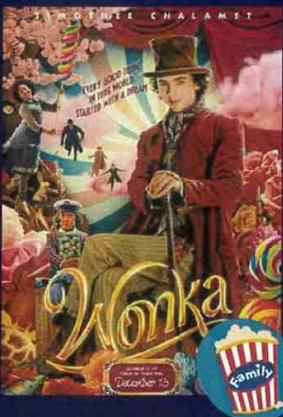


## The Amazing Bubble Man

Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb  
2pm | £16.50 | £14.50  
Concs. | £58 Family

"It's a fantastic show. Louis Pearl playfully forms bubbles beyond imagination, and engages the audience with his easygoing slapstick."

Family Cinema



## Wonka

Tue 20<sup>th</sup> Feb  
11am & 2pm | £8 | £6  
Concs. | PG

An impoverished chocolate-maker with big dreams befriends a young orphan. Wonderful and vivid prequel to the much loved classic.



## Aquaman and The Lost Kingdom

Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Feb  
11am & 2pm  
£8 | £6 Concs. | 12A

Aquaman battles Black Manta who threatens his family and undersea kingdom in this action packed adventure sequel.

To book your tickets please visit  
**southmillarts.co.uk**  
or call our Box Office: 01279 710 200



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\*Not to be used in conjunction with other codes

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- Book by **11th February** to guarantee our \*lowest weekly rates!



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or call 01480 467 567



SCAN ME & LEARN MORE!

\*Not available at February half term