



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

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## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023

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



### Whole School Pantomime Trip

We enjoyed a wonderful trip to see the pantomime 'Cinderella' on Monday.

This is one of the few events that we do together as a whole school and so it is always such a treat.

The production of Cinderella this year was a very entertaining show and as you can see, the children had a great time experiencing the enjoyment of audience participation.

### EYFS Nativity – 'A Miracle in Town'

EYFS put on a wonderful production of 'A Miracle In Town'. They worked so hard and we are very proud of them. Thank you to parents and carers for the huge turnout. A big well done to Nursery and Reception for their singing, dancing and speaking.



We are looking forward to welcoming Y1 and Y2 parents and carers to our KS1 Nativity production of 'A Magical Christmas Journey' performance this Thursday. Then on Friday we have our KS2 Carol Service at St Andrew's Church.

## **Anglo-Saxon day in Y5**

Last Friday, Y5 travelled back in time to the Anglo-Saxon period. The children were immersed in the daily life of an Anglo-Saxon villager and enjoyed taking part in a range of activities. These included, braiding wool to make a bracelet, moulding and decorating clay pots and writing in charcoal using Anglo-Saxon signs and symbols. They also enjoyed cooking traditional Anglo-Saxon flat breads, making butter and grinding wheat and herbs. The whole room smelt amazing! We concluded the experience by eating our bread and butter around a real fire pit on the court. A huge thank you to all of the parent, carer and governor helpers, who gave up their time to support the day. It would not have been the same without you.



## **Crochet Club News**

Dolly in Year 5 has created a beautiful Post Box Topper in Wareside. Dolly attended Crochet Club last year and has continued to develop her skills, making most of this without a pattern. The topper has been shared on Facebook and received over 1000 likes and complimentary comments from around the world! Crochet Club leader Aimee Nuttall is very proud of Dolly and can't wait to see what she produces next.



## **School Kitchen News**



Huge congratulations to Holly and her kitchen staff following a Quality Assurance Check from Hertfordshire Catering Limited. A Quality Assurance check is an on-the-spot, rigorous check of all aspects of the kitchen including hygiene and cleanliness and food preparation knowledge. Holly passed with flying colours!

We are all looking forward to enjoying our festive Christmas lunch in school today. A big thank you to Holly and her team who have been busy all week, preparing stuffing balls and delicious biscuits shaped as reindeer, Christmas trees and stars.

## **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 are pre-paid (**pay as you go**). All credits are carried over from term to term and money will be refunded if your child stops having school lunches. Your account may be frozen if it is in arrears and you will need to provide packed lunches. 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 2023-2024:**

- 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.

## **Toy Donations**

Thank you for all the generous donations of toys for the St Andrew's Church collection on behalf of local Social Services to be distributed as Christmas gifts to children in care.



Your gifts have now been passed on for wrapping and distribution in time for Christmas. Thank you all so much for your kind 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

### **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](mailto:IainDNuttall@yahoo.co.uk) who has recently taken over as the Club's organiser.



The Friends' Christmas Update Newsletter is attached.

Many thanks as always for your continued support.

The Friends

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

## **Diary Dates 2023/2024**

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**

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <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>                  |



*MERRY CHRISTMAS from  
The HECC*

**18th – 21st December  
Christmas Cricket Drop-off Camp**

**Just imagine - you could be child-free just before  
Christmas!!!**

**Drop them off and we'll look after them with all sorts of  
cricket from nets, bowling machines, power hitting  
bowling and fun games - All ages from 6 + catered for.**

**Time: 10:00-16:00**

**Cost: £35/day, £100 - 3 days, £130 - 4 days**

**TO BOOK email [lauren@heccsport.com](mailto:lauren@heccsport.com)**

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