



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

Headteacher: Mrs Caroline Dimond

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SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – 19th December 2023

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

Merry
Christmas
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

It has been a very busy last few days in school and we've made it to the final day of term.

Can we take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Please enjoy a restful break. Spring Term begins on Thursday, 4th January 2024.

KS1 Nativity – A Magical Christmas Journey



Year 1 and Year 2 put on a fabulous production of *A Magical Christmas Journey*. The children worked hard on this wonderful performance. Thank you to parents and carers. The link for the free download of the recording has been emailed to parents and carers, but please note that the link expires on 24th December. We hope you enjoy the show!

KS2 Carol Service

We had our KS2 Carol Service in Church last Friday. It was a joyous occasion and the children all sung beautifully. The songs that each class had chosen were all festive and uplifting. Thank you to parents for joining us and also a huge thank you to Mr Mark Stephens.



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.

Progress against school priorities so far - Academic Year 2023/2024

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.

Progress towards this target:

- Following our excellent OFSTED reading 'deep dive', teachers have chosen to strengthen the link between the children's reading and writing. High quality, engaging texts have been purchased so that children can proactively apply the techniques used by authors into their own writing. We are very pleased with the progress children are making in their writing as a result of this.
- In maths this term, teachers have focused on the use of 'hands on' manipulatives and how they importantly support learners' understanding of number. The children have appreciated more opportunities to use these resources independently before using more pictorial or abstract representations.
- Enrichment Days, school trips, sporting events and performances continue to be enjoyed by all the children, giving them a chance to use their knowledge and skills in a variety of applications.

To improve children's emotional literacy across the school, to help them articulate their feelings positively.

Progress towards this target:

- Two members of staff have been trained as ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) and a Nurture Room has been set up in school to welcome children who may require emotional support after the Christmas break.
- Work on our No Outsiders project continues through a series of No Outsiders assemblies and age appropriate picture book based lessons in class.

- Mrs Dimond and Mrs Small have started working towards the Healthy Minds Accreditation, which involves considering all aspects of pupil and staff mental health and wellbeing. Mrs Small is the school's Senior Mental Health lead.
- Initiatives such as Streets of Light, Remembrance Day, Harvest Festival and Children in Need have all encouraged the children to consider those less fortunate than themselves and to recognise we have much to be grateful for.

To reduce the school's carbon footprint and the children's understanding of creating a more sustainable future.

Progress towards this target:

- School has used their Sustainability Grant from the government to replace all lighting around school with LEDs and to replace some broken panes of glass in the hall to improve energy efficiency.
- School has started to work towards a School Travel Plan – considering more active, safe, healthy and sustainable travel to and from school. The Pupil Parliament has been active in initiatives such as 'Be Bright Be Seen' and the Daily Mile Club has been promoted to help alleviate some of the morning traffic around school.
- Mrs Steel, our Chair of Governors, has undertaken an audit of home addresses to see how far pupils travel to school: Nov 2023 - 210 children on roll - 52% live within the Parish (46% village and 6% hamlets) and 48% live outside the Parish. With so many families coming from a fair distance to school each day, the issue of travel and parking will be looked at further next term.

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 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

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 |



THE SECRET ART CLUB

Christmas Activities: With Artist Caroline Clark

Parents can
drop off or
stay and relax
with a cuppa

Saturday 16th December - Sparkly Bauble Painting at 9.15am,
Saturday 16th December - 'Cheeky Snowmen & Cute Robins' Bubble Painting at 12 noon
Sunday 17th December - Christmas Bag Painting at 10am
Monday 18th December - Christmas Pencil Case Painting at 10 am
Monday 18th December - Wreath Making at 5pm
Tuesday 19th Dec - Christmas Bag Painting 10 am
Wednesday 20th December - Wintry Sketchbook Making at 9.30 am
Wednesday 20th December - 'Sparkly Baubles' Watercolor Painting at 3pm
Thursday 21st December - 'Cheeky Snowmen and Cute Robin' Bubble Painting 9.15 am
Friday 22nd December - Christmas Printing Workshop - Card Making too! - 1.30pm and 4pm
Saturday 23rd December - Christmas Bag Painting at 9.15 am
Saturday 23rd December - Christmas Pencil Case Painting at 12 noon
Tuesday 2nd Jan - tbc - please see website for further details
Wednesday 3rd Jan - Abstract Painting Workshop (child) at 9 am and (twins and teens) at 11.30 am
Thursday 4th Jan - Fun Printmaking Workshop - using lego, plants, stencils at 9am and 11.30 am
Friday 5th Jan - Snazzy Sketchbook Making Workshop - cute animals, pikachu or minecraft covers optional! - at 9.15 am and 2 pm
Saturday 6th January - Pet or Favourite Animal Portraits on Canvas 9 am and 12 noon

To Book

Go to www.carolineclarkartist.com
or 07847 269 734 - Caz Clark
(Caroline)

Address

Secret Art House
Sheering
Bishops Stortford
CM22 7LX



Workshops for
children aged
5-11 years
(plus tweens/
teens in Jan)



Club Fee
£7.50 a week

THE SECRET ART CLUB

With Artist Caroline Clark

Activities:

- Painting
- Printing
- Drawing
- Pottery
- Collage
- And more!

Date:

Weekly, starting on
Wednesday 10th January
2024, 3.15 - 4.30 pm

To Book

www.carolineclarkartist.com
or Caroline Clark (Caz)
07847 269 734

Address

St Andrews School
Much Hadham





*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

Providing expert support for individuals, schools & clubs

01279 724782
www.heccsport.com



Tharbies Farm, Rook End, High Wych, Sawbridgeworth CM21 0LL