

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday 2nd July 2021

A wonderful week

The children have all taken part in their class sports this week and what great sports they have all been. Although you must have been disappointed not to see them take part, I assure you they all put in so much effort and had great fun (including a treat of an ice lolly). We will collate all the results and announce the winning house next week. Please see our twitter for many photos and videos! Wednesday felt like such a special and happy day! All the children had a fantastic skipathon and much fun was had. We were so proud to see the children try so hard to beat their previous totals and it really didn't matter whether they beat them or not – they all tried their best. See a separate message from the PTA below thanking everyone for the financial contributions made. Thank you also for supporting our Rainbow day to mark Pride month. The children engaged so well in the RSE lessons that took place on the day. They learned about some very courageous people from the LGBT community and were extremely thoughtful and respectful in their discussions and responses. The rainbow is also a sign of hope and I do have great hope in the future when we have such amazing children in our community. I am very proud of our school 😊

Induction Zooms

Thank you to those who attended our special zoom meetings for our new Reception and Nursery pupils who will be starting in September. Mrs Green has now emailed out a copy of the presentation along with a link to an induction video. These are also available on the website under SamsTV. I hope you found the sessions useful – thanks to those who have been in touch to say how useful they found it. We look forward to meeting Nursery children with their parent (or grandparent) on 12th or 13th July.

Message from the PTA

This week we held our sponsored Skipathon at school, in aid of the PTA's Healthy Hearts Appeal. The whole school community has got behind this from parents, to grandparents, to teachers and local businesses. The support has been fantastic. Thank you kindly to all who have donated. A reminder that we've had a grant from Magic Little Grants from the People's Postcode Lottery, and donations from Welsh Hearts, Dinas Powys Rotary Club and confused.com towards the Appeal as well as the sponsor money. The grand total from the Skipathon currently stands at £942.50 including Gift Aid, which makes up



part of the larger appeal total of £2,461 including Gift Aid so far. We are also eagerly awaiting news from another possible sponsor which we hope to tell you about before the end of term. All in all the Healthy Hearts Appeal has been really successful and we have secured enough funding to install a new defibrillator at school, and cover the costs of CPR



training for the children, and more activities in future (like the skipping workshop and equipment) to keep the children active and healthy. As the wooden store for play equipment was stolen a few weeks ago from the front playground, we'll use any extra funds to also purchase a new replacement one to store our new skipping ropes and equipment

in. The fundraising link is still live for those who have not been able to support the Appeal yet: <https://localgiving.org/fundraising/sams-skipathon/> There are also lots of videos and photos on the school Twitter feed of the Skipathon itself. SAMS PTA

Classes for September

A separate letter came out on Wednesday outlining staffing plans. It is available on the website if you missed it.

End of year reports

We will be emailing the children's reports to you via the parent pay email system from next week. This is a time consuming process and will take at least the next week. We will issue them one class at a time so please be patient. Once a class' reports have all gone out, we will send a text to ensure you have received it.

I hope you are pleased with the progress your child/ren made over the last year. Despite the periods of closure, we feel the pupils have made good progress and we are very proud of them. Again, this year, there has been no **formal** teacher assessment, moderation or verification. Therefore in line with Welsh Government guidelines there are no official end of phase results in Year 2 and Year 6. There have still been the usual on-going assessments that teachers make and this information has been shared with the relevant high schools for our Year 6 leavers and next year's teacher/s for all other pupils. The information will be used by teachers to assist in planning the learning needs of the pupils next year.

Whilst we never use ranking to compare children, the school reports will hopefully give you a clear picture of your child's successes and areas for development. Please take the time to respond on the feedback sheet (which will come out separately) and **email back to school** (please **do not** send them in with your child). We welcome any comments about the report itself and anything else that you feel would be useful for us to know going forward into a new academic year. We do appreciate the feedback as it all helps us to get a full picture of the school and plan improvements for the future. Rest assured I do indeed read every one and parents' comments have resulted in many changes over the years.

Thank you to the staff for all their hard work throughout what has been a very strange year and especially the teachers for the production of these reports. If you have any queries about the report, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance to

arrange a mutually convenient time to discuss (via telephone only). I would also like to thank you, the parents and carers who work hard to support your children with remote learning, homework and reading. This partnership ensures the best outcomes for all pupils.

End of term gifts and cards (Repeated message)

A few parents have asked me about gifts from the children for their teachers/LSAs. Please remember, we do not need gifts and really don't want you to feel obliged/pressurised into doing this. However, for those who would like to do so, please can I ask you to adhere to the following:

Whilst the evidence is indicating there is very minimal risk of the virus being transmitted via surfaces/touch, we are still following the Welsh Government Operation Guidance for schools. As such, items brought in from outside school need to be quarantined for 72 hours. As you can imagine, storing and then distributing potentially 100s of gifts would be extremely challenging. Please can I request that there are class collections instead and then 1 card/voucher/gift is bought for the member of staff. These would then need to be in school by **Mon 12th July** for the office staff to quarantine. I really appreciate your support with this.

ParentPay accounts (Repeated message)

Please ensure accounts are kept in credit and that all outstanding payments are cleared as soon as possible and definitely before the end of term. Thanks for your cooperation with this.

Reminders/Dates:

w/c 5th July – Year Reception to Y3 hot lunches.

7th July – Year 6 Leavers' Llandaff Cathedral

8th July – Year 6 visit Llandegfedd

9th July – Year 6 Footgolf

13th July – Year 6 visit St Fagans

Mon 12th and Tues 13th July – Meetings for New Nursery parents and children.

Thurs 15th July – Last day for pupils

16th, 19th & 20th July – INSET days

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett
Headteacher

Our focus value for this half term is Truthfulness.

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (John 8:32)