

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

Weekly Newsletter



Dear Parents,

Friday 5th October 2018

NSPCC

The children took part in the NSPCC sponsored activities this week. They demonstrated great enthusiasm and resilience and a lot of fun was had by all! Thank you for all the donations so far. Please make sure all money is in by Monday morning at the latest as the NSPCC will be returning to collect our contribution.

Intervention and Booster Groups

Letters came home with some pupils from Mrs Bayliss this week with regards to interventions and booster groups. Some parents have since raised queries about this so I thought I would clarify for all parents. As a school, we feel strongly that short programmes of intervention can have a very positive impact on a learner's attainment and this has been proven by results over the last 3 years. Whilst some of these sessions are aimed at supporting those with additional learning needs, many of the groups we run are booster groups which target a variety of pupils of all abilities in order to raise attainment and in effect give their learning a 'boost'. These programmes are all run by our own trained Learning Support Assistants and include:

- Rapid Writing
- Rapid Reading
- Nesy spelling
- ELSA (Emotional Literacy)
- Thrive (Well-being)
- Read Write Inc. Phonics (1 to 1)
- Rapid Maths
- Elklan Speech and Language

Whilst in some schools it could be that the only pupils in receipt of support are those with specific needs, we are trying to ensure every child gets the best possible chance to reach their full potential. We currently have 90 places in these groups and I thank Mrs Bayliss and the LSAs for their hard work in setting up and running the groups.

Bug Club

A reminder that the school provides all children with access to this amazing resource for home reading. The scheme covers basic reading skills but also helps develop comprehension skills through questions (the bugs) – these are especially effective in supporting the children prior to the National Reading tests taken in May. I know that some parents are not keen on their children reading online, however, the Welsh Government are this year moving the National Procedural Numeracy tests online and no doubt the Reasoning and Reading tests will follow suit at some point. With this in mind, Bug Club will also help prepare children for online testing. In Foundation Phase, the children do bring home paper books from the Rigby Star scheme but they can also access additional books on Bug Club. Miss Frangoulis has now added all Reception children on the scheme and will send home log-ins next week and she will then

allocate the books. Nursery will be added to the system later in the year when individual children are ready. In KS2, this is the only home reading scheme we provide and we hope you will recognise the importance of your child using the scheme. If you have any problems with logging in, please see the office. If you have any issues with allocation of books, please contact your child's class teacher.

Harvest Festival

This will be taking place this Sunday at St Peter's Church at 10.30. Some of the younger children will be decorating the church and children from Year 1 to Y6 will be singing, presenting and leading the prayers. We ask that the children wear school uniform (Y1 to Y6). We hope as many families as possible will join us. Please note, as in recent years we would like to support those in the local community via The Vale Foodbank. We had visitors from the Foodbank in Worship last week who asked us to collect tinned tomatoes, tinned fruit and UHT fruit juices. Please ensure the items are within the 'Best Before' date. Thank you to those who have already brought in donations, feel free to bring them to church on Sunday and we can also still accept contributions on Monday. Thank you for your support.

Upcoming Dates

Sun 7th Harvest Festival at St Peter's 10.30
Thurs 18th Cross Country Trials (Y5 and Y6)
Fri 19th PC Emma to work with Y6
Mon 22nd Y3 and Y4 Trip to Caerleon
23rd and 24th Parents' Evening
w/c 29th Half Term

Value this half term

This half term, our focus value is 'Thankfulness'. Christians believe that God loves and cares for them in many different ways in all aspects of their life. They know that their response to this provision should be one of thankfulness and praise. You might like to discuss as a family what we are thankful for and how we can show our appreciation in practical ways. Encourage the children to write a prayer or poem about thankfulness which we can share in school worship.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend. I look forward to seeing many of you in church.

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett (Headteacher)