

## St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

It has been a busy week with the first of our summer trips! I went with Year 6 to Crucial Crew on Tuesday where the pupils learned about staying safe when out and about without their parents. This included workshops from the RNLI, The Food Standards Agency, St John's Ambulance and The Fire Service. They also learned about the dangers of trespassing on the railways and also risks associated with electricity sub stations etc. It was a very informative morning and Year 6 behaved very well. Year 4 went to Technquest yesterday to begin their Science based topic of 'Burps, Bottoms and Bile'. Mrs Bounds and Mrs Squire were very proud of the children's behaviour but also their focus during the activities and the special show.



We were delighted to welcome Welsh artist Rhiannon Roberts to school yesterday. The school council devised a list of all the places, symbols and words the pupils wished to be included. Rhiannon then worked with 60 pupils from all classes to create the masterpiece which will take pride of place in the hall. The 60 included all the winners and runners up from the art competition on St David's Day. The rest were picked at random.

Curriculum News - An overview of the term is now available on the website under 'Classes'.

Teachers will also place a PDF on Seesaw.

### Attendance and Punctuality

There is a proven correlation between good attendance and success in school. You may be aware that as part of the lifting of covid restrictions, Welsh Government have this week resumed the focus on attendance and have reintroduced fines for parents whose children have poor attendance. Whilst this would only be a last resort and not something I would ever wish to see in our school, it does highlight the seriousness of this issue. We do have a number of pupils where attendance falls well below the 95-97% target and whilst we are aware of the impact of covid on attendance, we are

hoping this will now be less of an issue. I am also concerned by the number of children arriving at school after 8:50 – 29 children today! Punctuality is really important for the individual child to start the day but also to avoid the disruption that pupils entering a class late causes. With this renewed focus from Welsh Government, we as a school will be monitoring attendance and lateness closely and where necessary will be making contact with the education welfare team at the Local Authority.

### **Safety at the end of the school day**

It can become congested around the layby at the end of the day, which could potentially lead to an accident, particularly with the school bus leaving. Please can I ask that you do not hang around the layby area and that all parents/grandparents are vigilant with the children when leaving the school site.

### **Upcoming dates (all on the PING)**

<b>16<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Year 5 Swimming
<b>17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Reception trip to The Beach Academy
<b>20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Y5 and Y6 CPR Training with Calon Hearts
<b>20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Nursery places offered
<b>25<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Y3 trip to Technquest
<b>27<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Jubilee Celebration (All Nursery pupils will come to school for the afternoon only)
<b>30<sup>th</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	Half term break
<b>7<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Class Photos
<b>14<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Stanwell transition day
<b>16<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Year 2 and Year 4 visit to Llandaff Cathedral
<b>17<sup>th</sup> June</b>	INSET day
<b>20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Year 6 Manor Adventure Residential
<b>29<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Nursery Sports Day
<b>29<sup>th</sup> June</b>	St Cyres Transition Day
<b>30<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Sports Day (Rec-Y2 morning / Y3-Y6 afternoon)
<b>4<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Reserve Nursery Sports Day
<b>5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Reserve Sports Day
<b>14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Year 6 Diocesan Leavers' Service at Llandaff Cathedral (Pupils only)
<b>14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Reception, Y1, Y2 trip to Mountain View Ranch
<b>20<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Leavers' Presentation in the Parish Hall (Y6 parents can attend)
<b>21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	INSET days

This half term, our focus is 'Friendship'. Christians believe they can call God their friend because of the relationship made possible through Jesus. *'Encourage each other and build each other up.'* (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

You may like to discuss the importance of friendships with your children at home. What makes a good friend? How do we help and support each other? I have asked the children if they would like to write an acrostic poem or a prayer about friendship (or anything they would like to share) which can be shared in worship.

I told the children that I would be looking out for those children who were really proving to be super friends and I gave two Headteacher awards for this today. Well done to Arwen in Reception and Gabriel S in Year 4 who have been very kind and caring friends and I also gave an award to Rowan in Year 3 who was able to discuss with me in detail what makes a great friend. Well done to all of you!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett  
Headteacher

