

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

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022

To begin, I would like to thank you for your kind words and messages since the death of my father. It has been a challenging time for our family but the kindness and compassion shown by the whole school community has been very comforting. It has been lovely to be back in school this week to see staff and pupils who always put a smile on my face. It has simply affirmed what I already knew – I love my job! A huge thank you to the staff who have worked tirelessly during unprecedented levels of staff absence, to ensure wherever possible, school remained open. Special thanks to Mrs Bayliss who returned to us briefly to support the school whilst myself, Mrs Bounds and Mrs Green were all off. We were sorry that we had to close Nursery and Reception but we were left with no option and I thank those families for their understanding.

I was really sad not to be able to join Year 5 on their recent trip to Llangrannog. From what Mr Mason and Mrs Brown tell me, the children had a fantastic time and were very well behaved at all times. Well done to Year 5 – great practice for Year 6 when they will have a full week's residential!

I hope you found the recent phone call parent/teacher meetings useful in finding out how your child is getting on in school. If for some reason you did not manage to speak with your child's class teacher, please get in touch after Easter in order to arrange a mutually suitable time for a conversation.

Congratulations to pupils in Year 6 who were congratulated for their entries into a recent fairtrade competition. Oliver C was runner up in his category and received a certificate from Jane Hutt MS. Noah's entry was also selected for the Youth exhibition online. Other entries from Year 6 are on display in Dinas Powys Library.

Thank you for supporting our 'Let's Go Zero' eco day. We were really pleased that the cluster selected our School Council's nominated charity 'Sustainable Wales' and the proceeds from all the St Cyres cluster schools' collections will be donated to this worthy cause.

### Message from the PTA

Please join us in our Easter Trail around Dinas Powys. The trail will start from Monday 11th April until Monday 18th April. All children have brought home the map & clues sheet and

more will be available at Messy church this Sunday, alternatively they can be sent out via your class rep on request.

There are 11 letters around the village that make an Easter phrase, once you've completed the trail, take a look in St Peter's church porch during Easter weekend to pick up an egg (first come first serve, please take 1 per child) and enjoy getting your step count up with the kids!

### Parent Governor

Congratulations to Mrs Claire Wilson who has been elected as Parent Governor for the school. I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Matt Crouch who has made such a valuable contribution to the governing body over his term, particularly bringing his medical expertise and knowledge to the fore over the last few very challenging years. Mr Crouch will be missed as a governor but we now look forward to working with Mrs Wilson in the years ahead.

### Volunteers

As a school we value the impact that volunteers have on enabling us to carry out activities such as trips and also to support pupils with extra reading practice etc. During the summer we are likely to need helpers for trips and then from September hopefully this will be extended to helpers in school. We are also thinking of starting up 'Wednesday Warriors' again (parents helping to further develop the outdoor areas). If you are interested in helping out, please contact Mrs Green to arrange an enhanced DBS application. In line with Local Authority and school policy, a DBS from another job/role is not accepted and there must be an application specifically for the role of volunteer in our school. If you have previously volunteered, there will **not** be the need to re-apply for a DBS but please let Mrs Green know if you are still interested in helping.

### Upcoming dates (all on the PING)

<b>11<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	Easter Holiday
<b>25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	INSET day
<b>26<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Pupils return to school
<b>6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Rhiannon Roberts, artist to visit school
<b>9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Image Theatre to visit school – Sword in the Stone
<b>16<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Year 5 Swimming
<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>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>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>14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Year 6 Diocesan Leavers' Service at Llandaff Cathedral (Pupils only)
<b>21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	INSET days

It is with great sadness that we say good bye to the Harper-Grosset family this week as they head off for new adventures at their new school. Laurie (year 5), Ruaridh (Year 3) and Dougie (Reception) have all been amazing pupils at our school and we will miss you very much. We wish you good luck and much love and really hope you will forever have fond memories of your time with your friends at St Andrew's.



As the term draws to an end, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone within the school community for their continued commitment to the school. Staff, parents, governors, PTA and members of the wider community, working together to give the best possible chances to each and every one of our learners. Whilst we may sometimes lose sight of the meaning of Easter amidst the chocolate eggs and bunnies, in fact that Easter egg, an ancient symbol of new life, can remind us of the stone that was rolled away when Jesus rose from the dead and the hope that this gives us.

“Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4)

I wish you all a lovely Easter holiday and hope you manage to get some quality family time together. I look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April for the start of the Summer Term.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gen Hallett".

Gen Hallett  
Headteacher

