

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

St Andrew's Road, Dinas Powys,

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday 17th September 2021

All classes have been making the most of the sunshine this week with lots of outdoor learning – fingers crossed it continues for a while yet. As the weather will sadly change, please ensure your child has a sensible coat with a hood in order for us to continue with our focus on using the outdoors as much as possible. We have been working hard to enable all children to come to the hall for their lunch whilst keeping everyone safe. Today we successfully held 2 sittings enabling our oldest children to finally return. It was lovely that Father Andrew visited the children yesterday. This was the first time he has been here in person since March 2020 and the children were very pleased to see him.



Home Learning

We value the contribution that parents, carers and grandparents can provide in terms of supporting the children's learning from home. As such, the teachers have prepared some information on '*Meet the Teacher*' and '*Curriculum News*' for each class which is available on the website under the heading 'Classes'. You can also access through the following links:

[Nursery](#)

[Reception](#)

[Year 1](#)

[Year 2](#)

[Year 3](#)

[Year 4](#)

[Year 5](#)

[Year 6](#)

For those who are new to the school, we use an app/website called See-saw for home learning. There is further information on the website. Teachers will be sending out links/QR codes for all pupils to access their See-saw home learning account. Please note, last year's accounts are now archived so everyone will need to use the new link.

We have reviewed the use of our online reading scheme, 'Bug Club' and a decision has been made to use it with older children only. It will now be used from Y3 to Y6 (with Y2 joining the scheme in the Summer Term). Please do encourage your child to engage with the Bug Club books as they are chosen to match your child's reading ability and offer invaluable comprehension practice through the questions which go alongside the books. Spellings will continue to be shared on See-saw. With

younger children, physical books and phonic/number key rings will be the focus for home learning. More information on this to follow in the weeks ahead.

If you do have questions or concerns about your child's learning then teachers can be emailed on the addresses below. Please note the following:

- I do not expect teachers to reply to emails outside of normal 'office hours' or weekends/holidays. In a job-share class, it could be either teacher who responds, depending on their contracted days of work.
- Teachers are teaching all day and may not pick up an email until after school. Anything urgent should therefore be directed to the school email address.
- Anything to do with admin **must** be directed to the school email account. This includes illness, absence, anything covid related, medication, allergies, changes of contact details, uniform, parentpay etc.

School Office / Mrs Hallett	standrewsmajorps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Nursery Miss Jewell	jewellS14@hwbcymru.net
Reception Miss Frangoulis	frangoulisS1@hwbcymru.net
Year 1 Mrs Day / Mr Walters	dayL20@hwbcymru.net waltersG@hwbcymru.net
Year 2 Miss Bush	bushJ21@hwbcymru.net
Year 3 Mrs Williams	williamsB1037@hwbcymru.net
Year 4 Mrs Lewis/Mrs Bounds	lewisK56@hwbcymru.net halseR2@hwbcymru.net
Year 5 Mrs Owen / Mr Mason Weds	owenH32@hwbcymru.net masonP2@hwbcymru.net
Year 6 Mr McNicol	mcnicola@hwbcymru.net

Covid-19 Update

The Welsh Government Covid-19 guidance for schools is now replaced with the *Local Covid Infection Control Framework*. I have updated the Risk Assessment (on website) and internal guidance for staff. At present we are in a level zero area and as such certain restrictions have been removed including the use of contact groups. However, as a school we are taking a steady approach to this, intending to monitor the impact, if any, this has on any spread of the virus. We have gradually reintroduced all pupils back in to the hall for lunch (managing to maintain distance between classes). We are also allowing pupils to mix across certain year groups when outdoors. We are hoping this will provide the children with some feeling of normality. We are however, remaining in classes with limited movement around the inside of the school. Interventions and Read Write Inc. sessions are also only carried out within year groups.

Sadly there are a few local schools who have seen a significant rise in cases with pupils and staff this week (we have had 1 case this week) There are also concerns around the pressure on supply agencies to cover those staff who themselves who have tested positive with the virus. It is essential that we do everything we can to keep our school and the community safe. If your child has any of the three main symptoms of **a temperature, a new continuous cough or any change in taste or smell** you are required to book a PCR test **with your child self-isolating until the result comes back**. If the result is negative then they can obviously return to school. If they have any of the **extended**

list of symptoms, **fatigue, myalgia (muscle ache or pain), a sore throat, a headache, a runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhoea**, the Local Health Board also advise that a PCR test is booked. However, in this instance, if they are well enough, they can remain in school whilst you wait for the result. **Please note**, Lateral Flow tests (LFT) are not suitable for anyone displaying symptoms and should only be used to test someone who is asymptomatic (displaying no symptoms).

As a school we are keeping our COVID safe Risk Assessment under constant review and regularly liaising with the Local Authority. Staff are rigorous in supporting good hygiene practices and in following school guidance / expectation. As parents / carers you can help by continuing to wear a face covering and social distancing when on site.

Message from the PTA

SAMS PTA – AGM, Wednesday 29th September 2021, 8pm, online on zoom (e-mail for joining link)

The PTA at the school would like to welcome all new parents and carers to the school community, and welcome back returning parents. We'd like to invite everyone to an online meeting on Weds 29th Sept at 8pm.

All parents, guardians and carers of pupils or teachers currently at school can attend as Members of the PTA.

In this last year, due to the pandemic and the restrictions, all our activities have run online. However we have still been able to raise funds for the school. Come along to hear more about our work last year, and help shape what we get up to in the next academic year.

In addition, we are looking for new volunteers to help with the running of the PTA, from any class, in a range of key areas.

Ways to contact us:

We have a Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/158387884190510/events>

We are on twitter: @SAMS_PTA

You can e-mail us at sams_pta@yahoo.co.uk

Information on Safeguarding of Children

If you have serious concerns about the safety or well-being of a child in our school, you are encouraged to report your concerns. The Designated Safeguarding Officer for the school is myself whilst Mrs. Bounds is the Deputy Safeguarding Officer. If you feel unable to talk to us, the Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding is Mrs. Amy Hurst. Every member of staff has had relevant training and will deal with issues sensitively and appropriately. There is information on the board next to the office about Safeguarding contacts which also includes the contact number for Children's Services. If ever you were unsure, you can always phone the police too. This information/policy is also available on our website.

Information on Complaints Procedures

A complaint is defined in our school policy as '*serious concern, grievance or dissatisfaction*'. If you do have a complaint, the first point of contact where possible should always be the class teacher. If you feel your complaint has not been dealt with then obviously you can speak to me or a governor. If you are still not satisfied, then a written complaint can be submitted to the governing body. This information/policy is also available on our website.

Free School Meals (Repeated Message)

If you think your child may be eligible, please speak to the office in order to get a form. Eligibility also means extra funding to enable your child to access any extra support they may need in school. Rest assured this will obviously be dealt with confidentially.

Nursery (Repeated Message)

Given quite low numbers across the Vale, It is very likely that we will have spaces in Nursery in January 2022. If your child will be 3 before this date and you would be interested in them attending Nursery, please contact the office. We are also keeping a waiting list for places for September 2022. If your child will be 3 before Sep 1st 2022, please let us know.

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett
Headteacher

Our Focus Value this half term is Generosity. We will be discussing this in our Worship and in class.

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

(2 Corinthians 9:6-8)