

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

Weekly Newsletter



Dear Parents,

Friday 18th October 2019

This week

What a fantastic turnout to messy church last weekend. It was so lovely to see the harvest bread that the children had made. Well done everyone!

It was World Maths Day on Tuesday and all classes took part in fun and engaging activities. Some of the day was also spent focusing on the maths elements for the enterprise project. Take a look at twitter to see some photos.

Parents' Evenings

As always, we had a fantastic turnout on both days and I hope you found the meeting useful in finding out how your child has settled into the school year, their progress and also any areas for focus. If you were unable to meet your child's teacher for any reason, please do contact the office to make an appointment for after half term.

Questionnaires

Thank you to those who responded to these on Parents' Evening. It is not too late to do so and a copy will be emailed out. We do take the time to read everyone and as parents/carers, we obviously value your opinions. The vast majority of responses are positive and that is extremely pleasing. However, I thought I would respond to a few points that are coming through.

Statements 12 and 13 are around healthy eating and exercise. One of the new Curriculum for Wales Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLE) is Health and Well Being. This is an aspect we will be reviewing and developing over the coming year. During the INSET day in January all staff will receive training on a new resource for PE and Well-being and I am sure this will have a positive impact on the pupils.

Statement 16 'I believe the school keeps me well informed about my child's progress'. A small number disagreed with this. We currently have a number of processes throughout the year as follows:

- Meet the teacher in September
- Parents' evening in the Autumn
- Parents' evening in the Spring
- Annual report in July
- Summer (post report) meeting is offered.
- Showcase day in July.

We also have an open door policy and teachers regularly contact parents if they have any concerns. The reading cafes went down well last year and this is something we hope to extend into Numeracy too. As a school, we go beyond the statutory requirements and due to teacher workload, there are no plans to add anything more formal to this list.

Bug Club - A handful of parents commented that they don't think we should use book club. The use of Bug Club has proven to work in helping our pupils develop reading skills – particularly comprehension through the use of the questions. The scheme is well resourced – far beyond what the school budget could cover in terms of actual books and is also used in Guided Reading group sessions in school. With the National reading test going on-line this year, it is also preparing the children for a future of on-line testing. We are

not saying Bug Club should replace books and I hope you continue to encourage the reading of books for enjoyment at home. However, there are no plans to change the resource and it will continue to be the school home reading scheme.

Feel free to contact me if you have any further comments you would like to raise on any of the above – or indeed anything else. I will make further comments on other responses in future weeks.

Lateness

It is essential that your child is in school in time for the start of the school day – i.e. before 8.50. As well as the disruption it causes to the child and the class, the learning experiences do start immediately – whether it's the Mile a Day, spelling or maths challenges or Read Write Inc. I feel strongly that good habits such as punctuality are formed very early and can impact on success throughout life. Please note, lateness is recorded and persistent lateness can lead to a referral to the Education Welfare team at the Local Authority.

Year 3 Outdoor Learning

It has been good to welcome Mrs Weber back to school this week. This year, she will be covering teachers in Year 3 and 4 for their PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment time). Mrs Weber would like to extend outdoor learning to Year 3 straight after half term. In order for this to be possible, all children in Y3 will need a labelled pair of wellies please (to be kept in school if possible).

Nursery places for January and April (repeated message)

Our current nursery is under-subscribed meaning we may be able to offer early places for children who are not due to start until next September.

If your child is 3 this term (i.e. before Christmas), you are eligible to apply for a place to start in January. If your child reaches 3 before Easter, you are eligible to apply for a place for the Summer Term. Please ask Mrs Green if you need any further information. Also, please pass on this information to any other parents who are not presently linked to our school.

PTA Local Giving

Please remember the links for donations to the pupils' enterprise projects:

Y1, 2 and 3 <https://localgiving.org/appeal/samsfablab/>

Nur and Rec <https://localgiving.org/charity/st-andrews-major-cw-primary-school-pta/project/littlewellies/>

Dates for next week

Friday 18th – PTA Quiz Night

Tues 22nd / Weds 23rd – Year 4 residential at the Urdd Centre

Thurs 24th – Super Ambassador event at Hebron Hall

Fri 25th – Finish for Half Term

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett
Headteacher