

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

St Andrew's Road, Dinas Powys,

Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 4HB

Tel: 029 20513089

www.standrewsweb.com

standrewsmajorps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday 18th December 2020

Final weeks

We have had a very busy final couple of weeks. We filmed our concert which has been shared on YouTube and Twitter. The children and staff had a delicious Christmas Lunch, thanks to Charmaine and Nicola in the kitchen for this and all their hard work this term. The children have also had parties in their bubbles and watched a virtual Pantomime thanks to the PTA. They were also busy with craft activities, outdoor learning and still found time for Numeracy and Literacy!



The Vale Food bank collected over 190 selection boxes on Monday and they were very grateful for the donations. Thank you.

Well done for engaging with your home learning activities this week. We are having very positive feedback about see-saw and I hope the children (and parents) are now more confident in its use.

Message from the PTA



As you may know the PTA launched its Muddy Faces Appeal at the start of December to raise funds for additional outdoor learning resources. We're pleased to say, with Gift Aid, to date we have raised over £1,500 which is amazing! Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. 2020 has definitely been a tough year but if there is a positive, it has been the joy in seeing the children outside

playing and learning on their well-being days. The Appeal is still open but we'll transfer the funds raised to date to the school so they can purchase much needed waterproofs ready for the New Year. We were also delighted to resource the panto which the children enjoyed this week. The link to donate is <https://localgiving.org/appeal/samsmuddyfaces/>

Have a safe and peaceful festive season everyone. SAMS PTA

TTP over Christmas Period

The school email standrewsmajorps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk will be monitored once every day over the Christmas Holidays. Schools are helping the TTP to deal with any cases that arise in our school community. We need to know about any cases of pupils and staff that emerge in the next week in case a potential contact situation arises with others who were in school this week. It

would obviously also be useful to know of any cases prior to our return in January too. If you are unsure, please do email us – better to be safe than sorry. Ignore any ‘out of office’ message as we will pick your email up. Please include the following information:

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Year Group
- Address
- Contact Number
- Preferred email
- Symptoms
- First date of symptoms
- Date of confirmed test

Please also include confirmation of the positive test, which would have been sent via NHS Test, Trace and Protect. This can be sent as an attachment or a photograph, where it has been sent to you via text. Please do not worry about disturbing us. Mrs Green and I are happy to monitor the emails. However, as of the end of today, please do not email the rest of the staff until our return on the 4th January. They need and deserve a break!

January

You will no doubt have heard about the plans for schools in Wales from January. Please see the attached letter from the Vale of Glamorgan’s Director of Education Paula Ham. Headteachers in The Vale met with Paula yesterday and although we were given the same message from WG as other LAs across Wales, there was a unanimous opinion amongst Vale Heads that if we could, we would open on Wednesday 6th rather than wait until 11th. Obviously this all depends on staffing availability which is impossible to predict with the ever-changing situation. Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th are designated planning days in order to schools to carry out and share further risk assessments etc. and as such there will not be remote learning on these days. I therefore, hope we will see you all on Weds 6th. All being well, this will also include Breakfast and After School Clubs.

Final message

As we come to the end of term, I would like to say a huge thank you and goodbye to two very important members of our school. Mrs Maria Weber has decided to step down from her role at the school and Mr Angus Dunphy ends his term as a Foundation governor. I would like to thank them both for their care, commitment and hard work during their time with us at St Andrew’s. We will miss them both!



There is no denying it has been a tough term but at every step of the way, we focus on the reason we are all there doing the job we love. It has been so rewarding seeing the children in school, learning, laughing and having fun with their friends (albeit in their bubbles). They have worked hard and made very good progress since September. As well as the most important focus on well-being and outdoor learning, we have focused very much on literacy and numeracy skills to make up for the period of lockdown

earlier in the year. The data emerging from the interventions is also extremely positive and these have already been organised in order to start again immediately in January. A huge thank you to all the staff for their unwavering commitment to the pupils. There have been times of real anxiety and exhaustion, but working together, we have supported one another through difficult times and I am so proud of each and every one of them. We have been blown away with the heartwarming messages of gratitude and praise from you our families - you have no idea of the important part this plays in keeping up morale. Thank you for all of your support, but most importantly thank you for entrusting your special children to our care every day.



I will update you before the children return, but in the meantime, please remember that in line with the Director of Education's letter, the first planned day for pupils is **Wednesday January 6th**. As we look with hope and prayers towards a better year, may I take the opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2021.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'G. Challett'.

Headteacher

