

## 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](http://www.standrewsweb.com)

[standrewsmajorps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:standrewsmajorps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)



Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

### This week

Another busy week in SAMs and although a little chilly, it has been so great to have some sunshine to make outdoor learning and playtimes even more enjoyable. Our newest and youngest pupils have settled well into Nursery and are already making friends and getting used to their new routines. We are all very proud of them. Work is now beginning on practicing folk dances in preparation for St David's Day which this year falls straight after half term.

This week, the children in Year 2 to Year 6 have been electing their class reps for the School Council. I am really pleased to announce that **Avah W** and **Ollie G** join our ambassadors Rose and Alex in Year 6; Year 5 reps are Isobelle and Eve; Year 4 elected **Flynn** and **Hope**; Una and Olli received the most votes in Year 3 and the Year 2 reps (who have a very important job of representing all of the younger children) are Robyn and George. I would like to say congratulations to them all and I look forward to working with them in the months ahead. We hope to be able to reintroduce our other pupil committees soon.

### Spelling from Year 3 onwards

Following the success of the Read Write Inc. phonics programme which we have been using for a number of years, we have made a decision to extend the scheme into Y2 to Y6. The spelling programme is a natural follow on from the phonics work done up to Year 1 and the methods and approaches are very similar and therefore familiar to children as they move through the school. (Please note, some children in Year 2 will continue on the phonics scheme until they are ready to move on to the spelling scheme). The scheme is very structured and fast paced and all classes will have a 15 minute session **every day**. Please note, the timetabling of this means that some classes begin their 15 minutes at 9am. Another reason not to be late for school. The scheme is very much based around patterns, rules, root words, prefixes and suffixes etc. It also involves children in identifying their tricky words to work on. There will not be the traditional lists coming home.

### Residential visits, swimming and trips

Over the last 2 years, residential visits have not taken place which is a real shame as they are such a valuable experience for children. I know how disappointing this has been (my youngest son missed out when he was in Year 6 last year) and so we are very keen to reintroduce them. We have already planned for Year 6 to go to Manor Adventure in June. I am now really pleased to announce that we are in the process of arranging for Year 5 to go to Llangrannog for 2 nights in March. When this is confirmed, we will hold a meeting for parents of Year 5 pupils.

We are also communicating with The International Pool to arrange swimming lessons for both Y4 and Y5. In addition to this we are looking to have more day visits for other year groups during the second half of the school year. Fingers crossed we are in a position for all these activities to take place!

### Communication with parents/carers

In order to make communications simpler and all in one place, we have now signed up to use an app called 'SchoolPing'. Next week you will receive an email with a personal login. Please download the app onto your smartphone and sign in. As with most apps etc. you will be prompted to change your password to one that is memorable for you. The app will include a calendar, any letters (including the newsletter) and other messages from the office, the school leadership team or your child's class teacher.

### Term dates

**21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> February** – HALF TERM

**11<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April** – Easter Holidays (Note INSET day on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April)

### INSET days

- Weds 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July
- Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022

This term, our focus value is 'Courage'. We have been talking about this in Worship - this week I told the children the story of Moses and the burning bush and how Moses and his brother Aaran had the courage to go to Egypt and lead the Israelites to the Promised Land. Often Seren yr Wythnos and Headteacher Awards may be linked to this too. This week, my Headteacher awards go to Isobelle in Year 5 and Avah W in Year 6 for always working so hard and for showing great courage when presenting to the class. Da iawn merched!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett  
Headteacher



*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.  
(Deuteronomy 31:6)*