

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

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

What an amazing week we have with this glorious weather – long may it continue! The children have been especially enjoying their well-being days and all the fantastic outdoor learning that has been taking place. We even had a UFO landing on the school field which I asked Year 1 to investigate for me. With the warmer weather, please can I ask that you send your child to school with a reusable water bottle. Also if your child wears a sun hat, please ensure it is labelled. It may also be advisable to apply sun cream before school.

There are a number of repeated messages below as I want to ensure all parents see them.

### **Pupil Support**

Some parents have received letters this week about support their children will be receiving this half term. Our well-trained and experienced support staff will be focusing on supporting Years 4, 5 and 6 at the moment in order for us to adhere to strict requirements about contact groups. These sessions are covering aspects of Literacy and Numeracy that have been highlighted through teacher assessments. Year 6 are also receiving weekly sessions with Mrs Brown on transition activities as we are very aware the usual transition visits may be affected by the pandemic. In all other classes, where there are support staff in addition to the class teacher, there is also a huge amount of work going on in order to help children close some of the gaps that we have identified – particularly with phonics, reading and numeracy.

Whilst we feel strongly that this form of targeted intervention is important in helping children make up for some of the lost face to face learning, we have not reduced our focus on pupil well-being. Any booster groups or interventions take place in lesson time. There are no interventions on well-being days and they do not run at break or lunch times. Where necessary, the support staff are also available to support individuals who may need some form of emotional or social support. I am extremely pleased with the positive benefits we are seeing of the well-being days but there are also many other structured activities, both inside and outside that are helping boost the children's mental and physical health. I really do feel we have the right balance between focusing on well-being and academic progress. I know Mrs Bayliss has spoken to some parents this week but if you do have any questions, please do get in touch.

### **Consultation**

As I said in an email on Wednesday, my apologies for the error on the initial letter that went out about the consultation on changes to the school day. The email to send responses to should have been the usual school email – [standrewsmajorps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:standrewsmajorps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) If you think you may have sent it to the wrong address, please send it again. Originally the deadline for email responses was yesterday but given this error, please do resend your email to the correct address. We will still hold the meeting next Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. I will send out instructions for joining the meeting on Monday and Tuesday.

### **World Book Day (repeated)**

We intend to hold our postponed World Book Day on Friday May 14<sup>th</sup>. We are delighted that Griffin Books in Penarth will be visiting to give every pupil a book in exchange for their World Book Day vouchers. As we are also marking World Maths Day, we will be having additional activities such as Maths through story. Children are welcome to come to school dressed as a character from a favourite book. We are aware that this may be tricky with the current situation, so if your child just wishes to come dressed in non-uniform that is fine. Please be mindful of not including props due to cross contamination and also difficulties with all in one style costumes. Your child must be able to manage their costume independently, especially when going to the toilet.

### **Parents' Evening consultations (repeated message)**

We intend to hold these meetings over the telephone again as this worked well last term and ensured we could engage with the majority of families which is not necessarily the case with video conferencing.

The meetings will be held from 3.30 until 6 and will be held during the following weeks:

Nursery to Year 2 = week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> May

Year 3 to Year 6 = week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> May

The office will send out texts for you to book meetings in the next few weeks.

### **INSET days (repeated message)**

Given the days of face to face learning the pupils have missed, we have always aimed to get children back in to school as soon as possible. With the exception of days that we were instructed to remain closed – e.g. planning days and the days prior to Christmas, we have opened to all pupils with minimised staggering in of year groups etc. The 4<sup>th</sup> January became a planning day but we still classed it as our planned INSET day. I had already shared the planned INSET days with you but I have now had it confirmed that we do have an additional INSET day to be taken before the end of term. As we move towards Curriculum for Wales and the current reforms that are taking place, training for staff is essential. However, in an attempt to minimise disruption, I have decided to place this day at the end of the term. Staff will therefore be spending the last 3 days of the year on Curriculum planning and preparation. The remaining INSET days will be:

- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July (Newly added)
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July

### **Reminders:**

w/c 26<sup>th</sup> April – Y4 to Y6 hot lunches.

Tues 27<sup>th</sup> at 5pm – Consultation meeting (virtual due to covid restrictions)

I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Headteacher