

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

Weekly Newsletter



Dear Parents,

Friday 23rd November 2018

Admissions for Reception 2019 (Repeated message)

Applications for Reception 2019 are now being received via the Vale of Glamorgan Admissions portal. All current Nursery children will have received information regarding this but if you know anyone who wishes to apply for a place for September please tell them to register via the Vale of Glamorgan website. The closing date for receipt of application is Friday 11th January 2019.

Covering Teachers

School staff are more exposed to germs, bugs and illnesses than most other jobs (with the possible exception of hospital jobs) however, it is impossible to predict when staff illness will occur. All teachers have protected non-contact time (PPA) and senior/middle leaders receive 'management time' which we cover with school staff. However, in addition, staff take part in other activities as part of their professional role. These include Performance Management and pupil progress meetings, monitoring activities and training activities related to Continuing Professional Development (CPD). We do not have 'spare' teachers to cover classes although Learning Support Assistants will help out in an emergency to ensure the safety of pupils – e.g. if a member of staff is suddenly taken ill or we are unable to get any supply cover. We therefore rely on the services of supply agencies. All the teachers who come to us from the agencies are fully qualified, registered and have had all safeguarding (DBS) checks done. However – I would like to make it clear at this point that if we are not happy with the performance of a supply teacher we will always inform the agency and not have them back in school. Wherever possible, we try to book the same people that the children are more familiar with which has been the case with Miss Nation in Y2 whilst Miss Halse has been off. Whenever we need to use supply teachers, my priority is always to get the best person possible.

Staffing

I am delighted to inform you that Miss Halse has officially returned to school today and the children and staff were so happy to see her. I would like to thank Miss Nation for doing such a good job of covering for Miss Halse and wish her well as she looks for a more permanent post. Miss Case has decided to take a sabbatical for 2 terms starting in January. Rather than leaving the school completely, governors have suggested that she returns in September 2019. However, she will not be with us from January until the end of the school year. I am pleased to announce that Miss Jenny Bush, has been offered the post of Year 5 teacher for 2 terms. Please note, all appointments of this nature follow a rigorous appointment process including teaching observations and formal interviews with myself, Mrs Bayliss and Governors. We always ensure we get the best possible person for the job.

Persistent lateness

It has come to my attention that a number of children are regularly late for school and the situation seems to be getting worse. On some days this week, 10 or more children were late arriving. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of being in school on time. It can be very unsettling for the child to walk in to a class that has already settled into work. The interruption is also disruptive for the rest of the class. I will be monitoring the lateness closely and if necessary may need to contact the Education Welfare Service if individual children are persistently late for school.

Children in Need / Autumn Fayre

Well done and thank you to everyone who contributed last week. We raised £260 which will be split equally between Children in Need and the Parish Fayre fund which supports a number of local and national charities. The Autumn Fayre is taking place this Saturday at 2pm in the Parish Halls and I hope many of you will be able to attend. Please see flyer also emailed.

The 'Big Wrap'

Last year, we collected presents for the 'Big Wrap' campaign which is linked to Vale Foodbank and supports families and children for whom Christmas is a very difficult time. We were extremely grateful for the generosity of our school community and are hoping to continue this link this year. However, we are aware of how expensive this time of year is and how this puts pressure on you, our school's families. We have therefore decided that we will collect selection boxes, so if you would like to add one to your shopping basket in the next few weeks, and send them in that would be great. Please note, they **must not** be wrapped and need to be in school by 12th December.

Upcoming Dates

I sent out an updated list of dates for the rest of term which I hope you received. Dates for the next 2 weeks are as follows:

w/c 26.11.18 LAST WEEK OF CLUBS except sewing and netball which will continue.

Sun 2nd Dec Year 3 Contribution to Family Service (Please make sure the children know whether they are taking part or not)

Mon 3rd Dec No Morning Nursery / Trip to the Sherman in the afternoon
Willow Sale after school

Weds 5th Dec Y6 attend dress rehearsal at St Cyres

Wishing you all a great weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Gen Hallett



(Headteacher)