

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

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

As we come to the end of another busy half term, it has been wonderful to see pupils enjoying their outdoor learning and playtimes together. There has also been lots of other topic work going on. Year 6 have come to the end of their Hola Mexico topic making masks and enjoying their own Mexican festival. Year 4 have been busy gardening and also spreading the power of friendship and kindness. Year 3 have been showing such great team work as they build dens using the kits purchased by the PTA. Year 2's well-being sessions have been all about human connections as part of our Rainbow Curriculum. Today, years 5 and 6 have been involved in virtual workshops with 'Show Racism the Red Card'. Please do look at Twitter for photos of these and other activities.



### Message from the PTA

Please remember the SAMS PTA Healthy Hearts Appeal, to help raise funds for a new defibrillator for the school, a skipping workshop, skipping kit and CPR training for the children.

Check out our Localgiving page for more information and watch this space for more on our Skipathon and other fundraising activities which will take place.

Please share far and wide to help us reach our fundraising target. Thanks for your continued support. <https://localgiving.org/appeal/samshealthyhearts/>

### Lateness and Parking

Our current arrangements for arrival mean that learning starts in all classes at 9am – the children often do activities during registration. We do have a handful of children who are regularly arriving after 9am and not only is this unsettling for them, it causes disruption to the rest of the class. Therefore, please can I ask that you ensure your child is in school by 9am?

Parking or dropping children off in the area by the school car park entrance/ Arbor Vale private road is not permitted. Cars stopping in this area and sometimes reversing etc. is potentially dangerous and could cause a serious accident. Thank you for your cooperation with both of these issues.

### **INSET Days for September (repeated message)**

I have previously shared the remaining INSET days for this academic year as indicated below. We have a Local Authority designated INSET day on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**. I have therefore decided that we will also take an INSET day on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**, rather than children returning on a Friday. This may also help some families when booking holidays. This will mean that children from Year 1 to Year 6 will return on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Please note, Nursery and Reception pupils will have different start dates from 6<sup>th</sup> onwards as always and this will be shared before the end of the Summer Term. The remaining INSET Days for 2021-22 will be shared in the Autumn. The current planned ones are as follows:

- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

### **Pupil progress**

I hope you found the recent parent/teacher consultation meetings useful. The children's annual reports will be coming out at the end of term but in the meantime if you have any queries or concerns, please do get in touch with your child's class teacher. Whilst things are tricky due to the current restrictions, we will always find a way of speaking/meeting with you if necessary.

I have been very impressed to see the progress the children have been making. Following the periods of lockdown, we have been ensuring literacy and numeracy skills are our main focus and that any gaps that may have come about are being addressed. The results of our internal reading and numeracy tests are indicating that the work going on in class as well as in our intervention groups is having a very positive impact on pupil outcomes. This is not to say we have not covered other areas of learning but without these basic skills, children cannot access the wider curriculum. Pupil well-being continues to be at the forefront of everything we are doing and the children are happy and therefore fully engaged in their learning.



### **Pentecost**

In our virtual worship on Wednesday, we explored Pentecost and the idea of us being filled with the Holy Spirit in the way that the disciples were. We reflected on how to recognise the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and discussed how in Paul's letter to the Galatians he calls these qualities 'fruits'. Just as we can tell that a tree is good because it produces good fruit, in the same way, we can tell that we are allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us, by the way we behave towards other people. Paul says, "The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness and gentleness." Please discuss these qualities with your children and also how we can ensure they are reflected in our behaviour towards others.

## Reminders/Dates:

w/c 7<sup>th</sup> June – Rec to Y3 hot lunches.

9<sup>th</sup> June – Skipping Workshop – all children may wear PE kit and trainers to school for this.

21<sup>st</sup> June – Class Photos

23<sup>rd</sup> June – INSET day

I would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Harrington who has worked so diligently alongside Mr Mason in Year 5 since September. We are very grateful for the consistency this has given the children. It has been wonderful to welcome Mrs Owen back to our school but we will definitely miss Mrs Harrington. We also say a sad goodbye to Annwen in Year 1 who is moving back to England and starting a new school. We wish you lots of luck Annwen – your friends and teachers will miss you very much!

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half term – fingers crossed for the good weather we've been promised. See you all on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett  
Headteacher

