



DECEMBER NEWS LETTER



WELCOME MESSAGE

It has been a wonderfully festive month at St Andrew's, full of exciting events and celebrations. This year, we tried something new, with each progression step taking part in retelling the Christmas story using our new stage, purchased with the support of our PTA.

Nursery and Reception (Progression Step 1) began with a fantastic first Nativity, singing confidently and delivering their lines beautifully. Year 1 to Year 3 (Progression Step 2) then wowed us with Prickly Hay, where every child played an important role, supported by our excellent percussion group!

Our celebrations concluded with Year 4 to Year 6 (Progression Step 3) leading a lovely Carol Service at St Peter's Church. The singing and actions were excellent, and it was a particularly special moment for our Year 6 pupils as their final Christmas celebration at St Andrew's. It was wonderful to see so many parents and grandparents joining us for these events.

This final week has also brought some exciting news. With the support of Mr Stacey, one of our parents at 3SixtyCreates, our Year 6 pupils were given a fantastic opportunity to visit the team at their workplace and see real-life Design and Technology in action. Building on work Mrs Stamp has been developing with the children since last year, this has led to the production of shields for our new school houses. These have been professionally produced and supplied to the school and are a wonderful addition to our school hall. We are extremely grateful for this 3SixtyCreates.

If there are any parents who work for a company that may be able to offer opportunities to inspire our children or support their aspirations, please do get in touch. Experiences like this have such a positive impact on our pupils.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a joyful New Year spent with loved ones and friends. I look forward to what 2026 will bring for us at St Andrew's. Thank you, as always, for your continued support – it really does make a difference. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Tuesday 6th January**. Nadolig Llawen!

Yours faithfully

J Bayliss

Mrs Jo Bayliss
Headteacher



UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

- Mon 5th - INSET DAY
- Tues 6th - TERM STARTS
- Thurs 8th - Year 2 Pottery trip
- Sun 18th - Year 1 Church contributions at St Peter's Church (10.15am)
- Wed 21st - PTA Film night (Y3-Y6)
- Fri 23rd - Year 4 Class Worship (Y4 parents/carers invited)
- Fri 23rd - Nursery applications open
Reception applications closing date





OUR VALUE

Our next school value for the coming half term is Courage – encouraging children to try new things, speak up, persevere when something feels challenging, and show bravery in their learning and everyday choices. Activity sheets are included at the end of the newsletter, which you are welcome to discuss and complete at home if you wish to do so.



CHURCH VISITS



This month, our Year 4 to Year 6 pupils attended St Peter’s Church, where we enjoyed a wonderful Advent service led by Father Andrew. The children learned about the meaning of the Advent candles, representing love, hope, faith, and joy, which helped them reflect on the true message of the season.

CHURCH CLUB

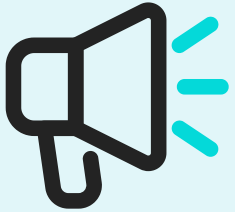
We would also like to say a big thank you to Reverend Steve, who has been running our after-school church club over the past half term. It has been wonderful to see the children blossom through their involvement, as well as the support and engagement from parents who have attended.

We are very fortunate to welcome Reverend Steve back next term, where he will be running the club for one final term.



ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Each week attendance awards are given to the class with the highest attendance. Overall this month, Year 3 have won the highest attendance again with 96.2% — well done to them! Thank you for ensuring children are in school and on time; it makes a big difference to their learning.



WEEK 1 - Year 4 with 96.7 %

WEEK 2 - Year 2 with 96.3%

WEEK 3 - Year 3 with 95.4%

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION



In the New Year, we are delighted to be launching our brand-new website — exciting, fresh, and packed with useful information to help you stay up to date with everything happening at school. You'll be able to easily find key information, updates, and reminders all in one place.

In the meantime, we'd love you to check out our Instagram page, if you haven't already. It has received great feedback from parents who are enjoying staying connected through it.

Please follow us at @standrewsmajor to stay up to date with all the exciting activities and events taking place at St Andrew's!

PTA NEWS

A huge diolch to our wonderful PTA, who have had an incredibly busy month. They have worked hard organising the Christmas card designs, and we hope you are all pleased with them. We are also looking forward to holding another PTA film night for Year 3 to Year 6 in the New Year.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has signed up to Easy Fundraising. The total has quietly grown, and we are delighted to share that we have now upto £1143.40 — an amazing achievement! Every penny makes a real difference and helps us provide valuable resources and extra learning opportunities for our children.

We are extremely grateful for all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes and for your continued support.



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS



COMMITTEE NEWS

The Criw Cymraeg have been working with the School council to launch our Four Castles Challenge. We looking forward to seeing your photos – please send them in to go on the board.

We have started handing out Siaradwr yr Wythnos certificates in Friday worship. These are for children (and teachers) who speak the most Welsh during the week. Llongyfarchiadau (Congratulations) to our winners so far.

After Christmas we will be starting our Brawddeg y Mis – sentence of the month. Everyone will be encouraged to use it – look out for the video on Instagram.

If you or anyone you know can speak Welsh and would like to come into school on a regular or irregular basis to speak and read with us, please contact the Office or Mrs Day. Diolch.



HOUSE TEAM NEWS

I'm delighted to announce that the winning house team for this half term – for always going above and beyond and collecting the most house points – is Ty Caernarfon (Blue House)!

Your amazing effort and teamwork have truly stood out this term. As a special reward, the Blue Team will have the chance to wear their own clothes to school on **Friday, 9th January**.

Da iawn pawb! We're so proud of you all – keep up the fantastic work!

COURAGE

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value COURAGE. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK TOGETHER about Courage

Being **courageous** can mean different things to different people. For example, one person may think it easy to speak in front of a large audience, whilst another would need to find lots of **courage** to do this. Everyone faces challenges from time to time, and we have to find **courage** to overcome them.

Talk together about:

- The different challenges that each family member faces
- Who or what helps us find **courage**?
- Is there someone that we admire because of the **courage** that they have shown?

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"**Courage** is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to overcome that fear."

Nelson Mandela



READ TOGETHER...

The Courage of David the Shepherd Boy

One day as David the shepherd boy was carrying lunch to his older brothers in the Israelite army he heard an angry booming voice thunder across the fields. "I am Goliath, and I dare you to pick someone to fight me."

The voice was coming from the Philistine ranks and went on taunting the Israelites and their God. As David grew closer he could see the giant Goliath strutting up and down. He could also see the terrified faces of King Saul and his soldiers. This made David very angry and more than a little ashamed. He decided he must go and see the king.

"I will fight that bully Goliath!" David announced.

It was all that King Saul could do not to laugh out loud. "You are just a boy David, a small boy. Goliath has been a mighty soldier all his life."

"But when the wild animals attack my father's sheep," protested David, "I fight them off with my sling and staff. I have killed many lions and bears and I will do the same to this wicked Philistine. Do not fear for God is on our side."

King Saul was taken aback. "Well, I suppose you should be given a chance. At least let me lend you some armour and a sword." But the armour was heavy and David was not used to it. He returned the armour to Saul and instead picked up five smooth stones from the stream and marched out **courageously** to face Goliath.

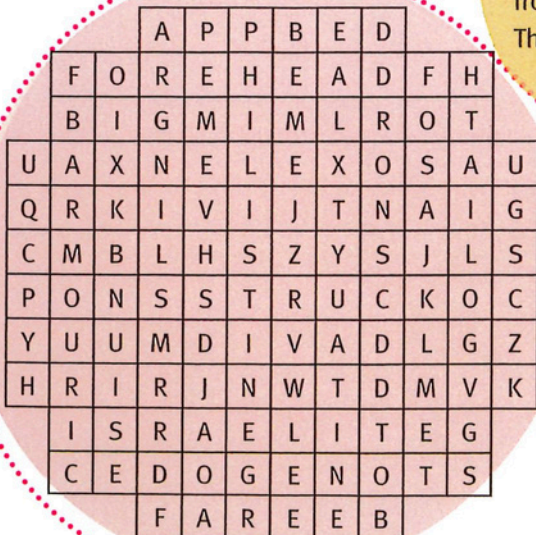
The giant laughed scornfully at the small boy and shouted curses at him. David did not flinch. "This very day you will be defeated and everyone here will see that the Lord does not need swords or spears to save his people."

As Goliath lowered his shield and aimed his spear at the boy, quick as a flash, David loaded a stone into his sling, spun it around above his head and sent it spinning through the air towards Goliath. The stone struck the giant on his forehead and he crumpled to the ground. Goliath was dead. There was a moment of stunned silence before the whoops and cheers from the Israelite army echoed around the hillsides.

This was a day no-one would forget, when the **courage** of a shepherd boy saved a nation.



Bible story based on 1 Samuel 17



QUIZ Wordsearch

Find the words from the story in the grid on Goliath's shield.

ARMOUR

BOY

DAVID

COURAGE

FOREHEAD

GIANT

GOLIATH

GOD

ISRAELITE

PHILISTINE

SHIELD

SLING

SOLDIER

STONE

STRUCK





FAMILY FOCUS & HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

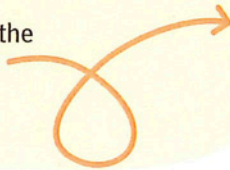


Children of Courage

Each year awards are presented to children throughout the country who have shown outstanding bravery and **courage** in overcoming huge challenges in their lives. (Google 'UK children of **courage** awards' to see some examples.)

Design a nomination for a child that you know and believe should be recognised for their **courage**. Remember, there are different kinds of **courage** and different ways of showing bravery.

The nominations will be displayed in the Challenge Gallery at school.



Example Nomination sheet



Name of child who has shown **courage**

Has shown **courage** by

This bravery should be recognised because

★ HALL OF FAME



Bravery v. Slavery

Harriet Tubman was born nearly 200 years ago in Maryland, USA. Her family were slaves which means that they had to work for the people who 'owned' them. Slaves had no pay and no rights and they could be bought or sold like property. As Harriet grew older she was afraid that she would be sold and sent far away from her family to work for strangers. She decided to try to escape. This needed great **courage** because Harriet knew that if she was caught she would be cruelly punished. After many adventures and with the help of kind people along the way, Harriet managed to escape to Canada, where slavery was banned.

It would have been safest for Harriet to stay in Canada and make for herself a comfortable and easier life, but she was determined not to forget her family and friends who still suffered as slaves in America. She made her way back and forth to Maryland not once, but *nineteen times*, facing great danger and showing amazing bravery as she helped slaves to escape to freedom. By the end of her life Harriet had helped to free around 300 slaves!

After her death Harriet received many honours for her bravery. A ship was named after her, and in 1995 the US government issued a postage stamp to celebrate her **courageous** life.



FASCINATING FACTS

In case of emergency – Dial 999

"Help...my house is on fire!"

"Help....there's been an accident!"

"Help.... burglars are breaking into the house over the road!"

- The emergency number, 999, was introduced in London in 1937.
- In an emergency, phoning 999 will connect you quickly to an 'emergency control centre'. An operator will ask which service you need, fire, ambulance or police. The operator will be able to track your call to discover where you are and soon help will be on its way.
- Firefighters, police and ambulance crew all risk their own lives on occasions to help other people who are in danger.
- Additional emergency services operate in some places such as mountain and cave rescue, coast guards, air sea rescue.
- Over 30 million 999 calls are made each year.
- About half of all calls are hoaxes. Not only do hoax callers break the law, they put people's lives in danger as it takes longer for real emergencies to be dealt with.