



OCTOBER NEWS LETTER



WELCOME MESSAGE

What a wonderful month October has been – it has flown by with so many exciting events already taking place this term!

Our school committees are now up and running, including School Council, Criw Cymraeg, Eco Committee, Values Committee, Super Ambassadors, Health and Wellbeing, Digital Leaders, and Librarians. We are also delighted to have appointed our new House Captains.

Our Year 5 and Year 6 Eco Committee members have been very busy too, representing St Andrew's pupil voice at the Vale Fairtrade Breakfast. We are so proud of how confidently they spoke and represented our school.

Across the school, classes have enjoyed taking part in their Immersion Days – special days designed to launch their new topics. During these sessions, pupils explore what they already know, what they would like to find out, and develop “big questions” to guide their learning for the term. For example, Year 2 had a fantastic start to their topic “Muck, Mess and Mixtures,” full of creative and messy learning!

It was great to see many of you at our Parents' Evening this week. I hope the meetings were useful and supported you in understanding how your child has settled in, as well as the next steps in their learning journey. In the Spring Term, we look forward to setting up some parent workshops, starting with RWI (Read Write Inc.) and spelling, to support your child's learning further.

A huge thank you to everyone for supporting “Wear Red to School Day” last Friday in support of Show Racism the Red Card. It's such an important message for our children – about celebrating difference, welcoming everyone, and understanding that each person is unique and valued.

As we reach the end of this busy half term, I want to thank you all for your continued support. I hope you have a restful and happy break, and we look forward to all the exciting learning and events still to come in the months ahead.

Yours faithfully

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J Bayliss

Mrs Jo Bayliss
Headteacher

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

27th Oct – 2nd Nov HALFTERM

Wc 10th – School clubs finish

Tues 11th – Year 6 Remembrance Class Worship
(Y6 parents/carers invited)

Sun 16th – Year 2 Church contributions at St Peter's Church (10.15am)

Wed 19th – PTA Disco

Fri 21st – Closing date for secondary applications

Fri 28th – Year 5 Class Worship (Y5 parents/carers invited)

Fri 28th – Reception applications open





OUR VALUE

We're pleased to share that our new value for next half term will be Compassion.

Throughout the coming weeks, we'll be exploring what it means to show care, kindness, and understanding to others – both in school and in our wider community.

CHURCH VISITS AND CLASS WORSHIP



We are so pleased to share that we held our very first Welcome Service at St Peter's on Sunday for our Nursery children – and they were absolutely amazing!

It was wonderful to see the confidence and enthusiasm the children brought to their first time meeting together as a whole class, with our morning and afternoon Nursery groups joining forces. They performed songs they have been learning in class and showed their special book – the Bible.

A huge thank you to our wonderful Nursery team, Mrs Day and Miss Matz, for making this happen!

HARVEST TIME

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our Food Bank collection. It is a wonderful cause, and it's so important that we continue to work with charities like this and help our children understand the importance of giving and supporting others.

This year, we are delighted to share that we collected an incredible 109kg of food!

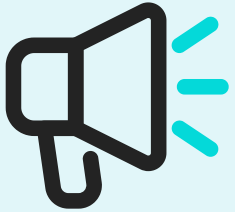
Our School Council Year 6 representatives helped deliver the donations, along with the beautiful Thank You cards that Year 6 pupils designed and wrote for all the amazing volunteers.

Thank you once again for your kindness and generosity.



ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Each week, attendance awards are given to the class with the highest attendance. This month, Year 2 have been amazing and really set the bar high — 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 2 with 100 %

WEEK 2 - Year 2 with 97.3%

WEEK 2 - Year 2 with 99.3%

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION



After listening to feedback, we have reviewed how we communicate through social media. It has been decided that, after half term, we will be closing our Twitter (X) account and moving to Instagram instead.

We believe Instagram offers a safer and more effective platform to share the wonderful things happening across our school — not just in classrooms, but throughout our whole school community.

Please follow us at [@standrewsmajor](https://www.instagram.com/standrewsmajor) to stay up to date with all the exciting activities and events taking place at St Andrew's!

All existing social media consents will automatically transfer over to Instagram. If your preferences are different, please contact the school office to let us know.

PTA NEWS

We're so grateful for all the wonderful work our PTA does to raise money for the school — their efforts make such a difference for our children!

One of the ways you can help is through Easy Fundraising. I mentioned this to some classes during our Meet the Teacher sessions, but for anyone who missed it — it's a simple and free way to support our school every time you shop online. All you need to do is sign up to Easy Fundraising and select our school as your chosen cause. Then, whenever you shop online with participating retailers, a small donation is made to the school — at no extra cost to you!

With the festive season coming up, it's a great opportunity to raise funds while doing your usual shopping. If you'd like any help setting up your Easy Fundraising account, please get in touch — we'll be happy to guide you through it.



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS



COMMITTEE NEWS

Our Values Committee has been working closely with Reverend Steve to set up a brand-new After-School Church Club! The club will run every Tuesday from November 18th until December 16th, offering a wonderful opportunity for families to come together and explore faith, fun, and friendship.

The committee has been busy planning and organising the sessions, and they proudly introduced the club to everyone during this week's whole school worship.

This special club is open to both parents and their children, so we warmly invite families to join in and take part.



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 Castell Caerffilli (Green Team)! ❤️

Your amazing effort and teamwork have truly stood out this term. As a special reward, the Green Team will have the chance to wear their own clothes to school on Friday, 7th November.

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



PLEASE COME!

3:15 - 4:15^{PM} TUESDAYS

in the School Hall

more info from The Values Committee





After School Church

Starting 11th November 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians

The Values Committee is very excited to announce that we are going to start After School Church after half term.

- What? Games, Crafts, Songs (Dances), Prayers, Drama, Stories, Snacks
- Where? After School Church will be held in the school hall
- When? After School (!) 3:15 to 4:15
- Why? 'Coz Sunday's are really busy and we want families to learn about Values and God.

We would love you to join us and experience fun at our After School Church.

Hope you consider our offer

from the *Values Committee*