



JANUARY NEWS LETTER



WELCOME MESSAGE

What a great start to the new year 2026! Many of our children have begun their new topics with enthusiasm. Year 3 visited the Royal Mint as part of their immersion into Mighty Metals, including a special visit from Mr Bounds and his metal detectors. Year 2 have also started their Movers and Shakers topic, exploring people who inspire us.

The children are also getting involved with Welsh traditions in preparation for our School Eisteddfod at the end of February. We've already heard lots of practising and counting of steps as they enjoy their traditional folk dancing.

The Criw Cymraeg will be holding a special Welsh Coffee Morning with Year 2 and Year 3, along with some of the Eisteddfod winners. More details have been sent out in the flyer produced by the committee (please see below) – we hope you can come along! The children are very excited about planning and organising the event.

Our school's after-school clubs will begin next week! If any parents have skills or coaching experience and would be interested in running a club, we would love to hear from you. Clubs would run once a week for a 6-week block and provide our children with even more exciting opportunities to learn and explore. If you are able to help, please get in touch with the school office.

Lastly, there is a new date for the TT Rockstar event (please see below). This will now include the whole school! Years 2–6 will be taking part in the times tables challenges, while the younger children will enjoy fun number activities.

Once again, thank you for all your support in everything we do as a school. Your involvement makes a huge difference, especially in helping our children learn, grow, and enjoy their time at school.
Yours faithfully

J Bayliss

Mrs Jo Bayliss
Headteacher



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- Fri 6th – TTRockstars event
- Sun 8th – Year 3 Church contributions at St Peter's Church (10.15am)
- Fri 13th – INSET DAY
- Mon 16th – Fri 22nd HALF TERM





OUR VALUE

We're excited to announce that our new value for next half term is Courage!

Over the coming weeks, we'll explore how to show bravery, confidence, and resilience – in the classroom, around school, and in our wider community. Let's celebrate those moments when we step out of our comfort zone and face challenges with courage!



CHURCH VISITS



Thank you to Year 1, who I've heard did a brilliant job with their singing and in showing what it means to have courage. My apologies for not being able to attend the service this time, but I would like to extend my thanks to all the families who took the time to support the children and be part of our St Peter's Church community.

A special thank you to Miss Smith and Mrs Fleet, who always do an amazing job preparing the children for the service. Diolch!

CLASS WORSHIP

Year 4 did an amazing job in their class worship last week! Their enthusiasm for exploring the topic of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings really shone through, especially in their acting skills (all battles were injury-free – hooray!) and their singing.

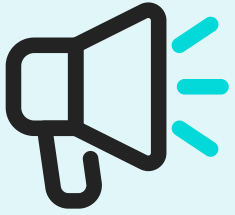
Their fantastic artwork was also on display, bringing their learning to life. Their visit to Cardiff Castle really connected to their belonging, helping them explore the history and heritage of their local area.

Thank you, Year 4 – we all enjoyed it so much, and it was clear how much you enjoyed it too!



ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Each week, attendance awards are given to the class with the highest attendance. This month, Year 6 have been amazing with 97.06% – 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 5 with 98.33 %

WEEK 2 - Year 2 with 99.3%

WEEK 3 - Reception with 98.2%



SCHOOL COMMUNICATION



Our New School Website is Live!

After many months of planning, we're excited to announce our new website! Our aim is to provide parents with an even better way to stay up to date with school news, access important information, and celebrate all that happens at St Andrews Major.

We are very proud of this new resource, and we hope you find it useful. Check it out here: www.standrewsweb.com

New photos will be added in the Summer Term when we have a fresh photo session, so stay tuned!

PTA NEWS

Our PTA shed, located in the school playground, has developed a leaky roof. We've cleared away a lot of heavy, wet moss, but it still needs some repairs. If anyone is able to help us fix it, we would be very grateful! In return, we can offer some free advertising for your business or services.

If you can help, please get in touch with the PTA members or Mrs Green in the school office.

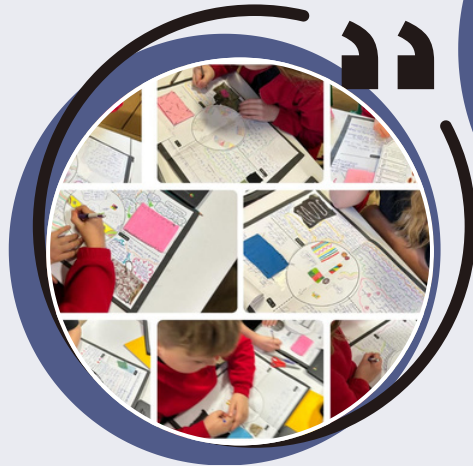
Thank you so much for supporting our school community!




Sign up to
easyfundraising



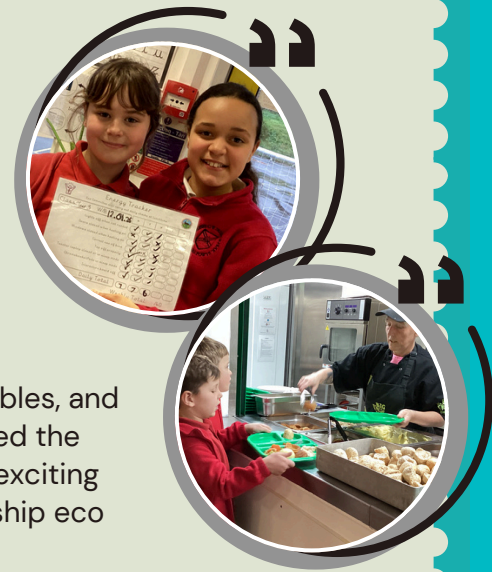
CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS



COMMITTEE NEWS

Our **Eco Committee** has had a super busy start to the year! They've been tracking energy use in every class, with the winning class each month earning the **Energy Savers Award** to proudly display. We've already seen a big drop in food waste now that pupils are lining up and choosing their own dinners. Also, thanks to an idea from Year 4, recycling has stepped up a notch with used plastic pens and glue sticks now being collected in every classroom.

Some of our raised beds have already been freshly planted with vegetables, and Year 3 have been litter picking every playtime! Year 5 and 6 have entered the prestigious Climate Challenge Cymru 2026 competition, working on an exciting project to help restore the world's oceans as part of our Global Citizenship eco target. Fantastic teamwork from everyone! 🌱🌍



LANGUAGES WEEK

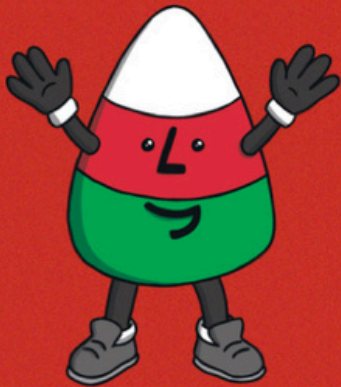
We had an amazing Languages Week, celebrating the diverse languages and cultures in our school community, including Spanish, Thai, Mexican, German, New Zealand, Hungarian, and Brazilian Portuguese.

A huge thank you to visitors and parents who shared their language, culture, and experiences, helping make the week truly memorable. With Mrs Stamp, the children also explored a variety of global cuisines, planning and making many exciting dishes.

Thank you, Gracias, Danke, Köszönjük, Obrigado, ἰσχαρη, Kia ora!

Save the date *St David's Day* *showcase*

Wednesday 4th
March
9:15 in school
hall



twinkl.com



Come and see yr 2 and yr 3
perform, winners of the
Eisteddfod competitions
and enjoy a coffee and a
Welsh cake.

DRESS LIKE A ROCKSTAR DAY



Friday 6th February 2026

COME TO SCHOOL DRESSED UP AS A ROCK STAR FOR THE DAY
TO RELAUNCH TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS AND TO JOIN IN WITH
OUR WHOLE SCHOOL MATHS AND TIMES TABLES ACTIVITIES.

**CASH
PRIZE!**

St Andrew's Major C/W Primary School PTA

invites you to

Quiz Night

**TICKETS
£5**

FUNDRAISING FOR YARD
MARKINGS & PICNIC BENCHES

FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY

7:30 PM

Lee Hall, Dinas Powys CF64 4AL



←
**BUY TICKETS & PREBOOK A
GRAZING BOARD HERE.
LICENSED BAR ON THE NIGHT.**





PLEASE COME!

3:15 - 4:15 PM TUESDAY

in the School Hall

more info from The Values Committee



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.

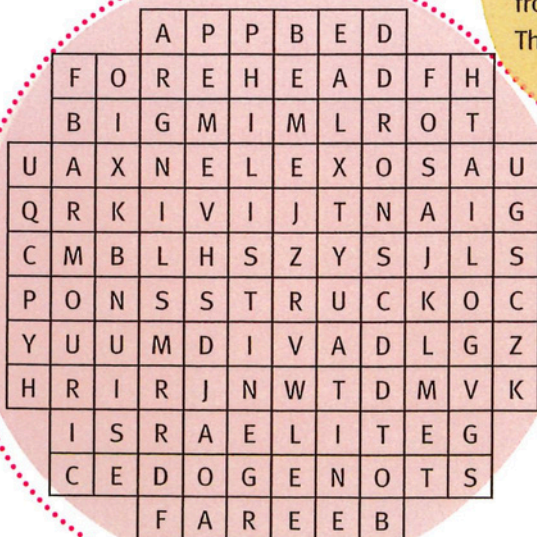
The giant laughed scornfully at the small boy and shouted curses at him. David did not flinch. "This very day you will be defeated and everyone here will see that the Lord does not need swords or spears to save his people."

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

