

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

St Andrew's Road, Dinas Powys,

Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 4HB

Tel: 029 20513089

[www.standrewsweb.com](http://www.standrewsweb.com)

[standrewsmajorps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:standrewsmajorps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)



Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Despite all the preparations and hard work going into the Christmas concerts, classes have still been very busy with other activities.

Nursery picked the perfect day last week, to go on a 'Winter Walk' which introduced the children to their new topic 'Where Does Snow Go?' Mrs Erickson said, 'We wrapped up warm and headed for the Emerald Forest, ticking things off our checklist as we went along. We found frosted grass, icy puddles and even spotted our own breath! Many of us wrote letters in the frost that we found on the benches.'



As part of their current topic, Reception went on a walk to a village shop and chose and paid for their own fruit snack. Miss Jewell was very pleased with how sensible the children were and also how well-behaved and polite they were in the shop. We are very grateful to those parents and

governors who supported us in keeping the children safe as they walked through the village. Without our volunteers, we would be unable to provide experiential activities such as this, which are such an important part of children's learning.



Year 1 have been very busy doing many activities with Mr Allen. As part of their well-being work, they carried out an experiment to learn all about the importance of keeping our hands clean in order to get rid of germs. They also did some lovely work all around the history and traditions of The Christingle. They then made their own Christingle orange pictures.





A few weeks ago, Year 2 took part in the service at St Peter's Church sharing ideas and prayers around our current focus vision of Compassion. I know that Miss Bush was extremely proud of the children who took part and we are grateful for families' support with this important link with our Church. Year 2 have also been leading the way with our eco activities. Last week, they worked with a local group called 'Wild about Nature, Dinas Powys', to carry out a litter pick on The Common. They did a brilliant job and collected an amazing 8 bags of rubbish. Da i awn Blwyddyn 2! A big thank you to

one of our parents Dr Downing who came in today and talked to the class about her job as a GP.

Year 3 went on an amazing trip to Cardiff Museum on Wednesday this week. They went on the train which is an adventure in itself, and then spent time looking at the exhibitions and taking part in some very informative and fun workshops. This was such a great way to end their 'Rocks, Relics and Rumbles' topic. Mr Mason and Mr Walters were so proud of the children – especially with how sensible they were on a busy train coming back to school. Ardderchog Blwyddyn 3! Thanks again to volunteers who accompanied the class.



Year 4 attended Llandaff Cathedral earlier in the week. They went to see the exhibition on Climate Justice which included work from our own school. They also had a tour of our wonderful Cathedral. Mrs Squire and Mrs Goddard told me how respectful and engaged the children were. Bendigedig Blwyddyn 4!

Year 4 and Year 5 recently took part in inter school cricket competitions at Sophia Gardens. Both classes had 2 teams and both classes came first and second place – Llongyfarchiadau i chi i gyd! Unfortunately, the Year 6 competition was cancelled due to other schools pulling out. We hope that this will now take place in the new year along with the Year 4 and Year 5 finals.



We are lucky to have such fantastic links with our local High Schools. Recently we have had visits from St Cyres' Drama department where students demonstrated and then coached our pupils in a workshop of High School Musical. We also had a visit from one of their Physics teachers who provided the children with a practical and very engaging lesson. On both occasions, Year 6 were a credit to our school. Diolch Blwyddyn 6 a Ysgol St Cyres.



This week, the PTA put on Christmas Discos for the children and much fun was had by all (including the teachers!). We are very grateful to the PTA for their hard work in raising much needed funds for the school. They also held a very successful wreath workshop this week too. Diolch yn fawr!

### **Christmas Concert Arrangements for next week**

The infant nativity concerts take place in the hall. For safeguarding reasons, we ask that all adults queue at the gate. After morning drop off on Wednesday morning, parents will need to leave the playground after saying goodbye to the children - there will be no queuing on the playground. At the end of Tuesday afternoon's performance, please do not ask to take children home early. Also, please remember your tickets as we use these to count how many are in the hall. Please note – for safeguarding reasons, there is strictly no photography or filming during the concert. Staff will be taking class photos of all the children in their costumes on stage.

The juniors will be walking to church on Tuesday morning for their concert practice and then again on Wednesday afternoon for the concert. Please make sure they have a warm coat – a school fleece is not sufficient. We are asking all the children to wear their school uniform please. Parents will need to queue outside the church until the children are ready. Please note, although we are following the permitted numbers for the church in terms of health and safety, there is usually not quite enough seating and some parents stand. Please can I ask that we are considerate of those who may be more in need of a seat than others. All children will be walking back to school to be collected as usual. For strict safeguarding reasons, please do not ask to take your child/ren from the church.

We don't feel it appropriate to charge for the church service, but we will be taking a collection during the service to split between the church and charity. Please remember your tickets and some change.

**Please note, there will be no Well-being days in any classes next week due to concerts etc.**

### **Lunch changes / Christmas lunch**

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>, the Juniors will need to leave school by 12.45 in order to walk to church. They will need to eat their lunch in classrooms due to the infants being in the hall. As a result, the kitchen will only be providing baguettes. Alternatively, your child can bring a packed lunch.

### Christmas Lunch:

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> – Reception to Year 2 will be having their Christmas lunch. Year 3 to Year 6 will be offered sausage baguettes (or the usual cold baguettes) with a pudding.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – Year 3 to Year 6 will be having their Christmas lunch. Reception to Year 2 will be offered sausage baguettes (or the usual cold baguettes) with a pudding. Please note, for Friday, ParentPay will list the option as a Fish Finger Baguette. Please select this but it will be a sausage baguette the children are given.

### Christmas Parties

School provides the food and treats and we ensure any allergies are catered for. All you need to provide are your children dressed in their party gear (although please remember they still go outside so need to be warm and have sensible shoes and a coat). All parties will take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Please note, there is no morning Nursery on this day as all Nursery pupils will attend one session – 12:40 – 3:10.

### Big Wrap/Foodbank

Again, this year, we would like to support the Vale Foodbank. Please do not feel obliged, but if you would like to send in a selection box or box of chocolates, we will then pass them on. Please do not send them in before Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> as we will not be able to store them in the foyer until the concerts have finished.

### Finally

We say a sad goodbye to Finley in Year 5 today. We have loved having Finley in our school and we will miss him very much. Good luck in your new school Finley!

Year 3 to Year 6 walked down to St Peter's Church on Tuesday. Father Andrew led us in a special Advent service in which 4 children were chosen to light the candles which represent Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. At this start of the Church New Year, we prepare for the coming of The Lord.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend. We look forward to welcoming everyone to our concerts next week!

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett  
Headteacher



“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” **Micah 5:2**

**DATES (Recently added dates in red)**

<b>December</b>	
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	Nativity in hall (Nur to Year 2) at 1:30pm
Weds 13 <sup>th</sup>	Nativity in hall (Nur to Year 2) at 9:30am
	Junior Carol Service at St Peter's at 1:30pm
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	Infant Christmas Dinner (Usual uniform please)
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	Junior Christmas Dinner (Usual uniform please)
<b>Mon 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Class Parties (Christmas outfits can be worn)</b>
<b>Tues 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 3 visit St Peter's Church for Christmas workshops</b>
<b>Weds 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 2 visit to Bethesda Church for 'Christmas Unwrapped'</b>
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup>	Term ends
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b>

<b>SPRING TERM</b>	
<b>January</b>	
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	Start of term (No INSET day)
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	Year 1 Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30am
Weds 24 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Film Night (Y3 to Y6)
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Class Worship (Y4 parents/carers invited)

<b>February</b>	
Weds 7 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Coffee Afternoon at 2pm
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>INSET DAY</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>INSET DAY</b>

<b>March</b>	
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup>	St David's Day
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 4 Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30am
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Class Worship (Y3 parents/carers invited)
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Class Worship (Reception parents/carers invited)
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Term ends
Mar 25 <sup>th</sup> – Apr 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>EASTER HOLIDAY</b>

<b>SUMMER TERM</b>	
<b>April</b>	
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	Start of term (No INSET day)
8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Llangrannog Residential
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	Year 5 Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30
Weds 24 <sup>th</sup>	Film Night (Rec to Y2)
29 <sup>th</sup> April to May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 6 Manor Adventure Residential

<b>May</b>	
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 2 Class Worship (Y2 parents/carers invited)
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	SPORTS DAY (Rec to Y2 am / Y3 to Y6 pm)
Weds 15 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery Sports Day (Usual session times)

Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Class Worship (Y1 parents/carers invited)
27 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>HALF TERM</b>

<b>June</b>	
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	Class Photos
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30

<b>July</b>	
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Leavers' Service at St Peter's at 10:30
Weds 17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Leavers' Show at Parish Hall at approx. 10am
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	Term Ends
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>INSET DAY</b>

#### SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2023/2024

Term	Begin	Half term		End	No. of School Days
		Begin	End		
Autumn 2023	*Monday 4 Sept 2023	Monday 30 Oct 2023	Friday 3 Nov 2023	Friday 22 Dec 2023	75
Spring 2024	Monday 8 Jan 2024	Monday 12 Feb 2024	Friday 16 Feb 2024	Friday 22 Mar 2024	50
Summer 2024	Monday 8 April 2024	Monday 27 May 2024	Friday 31 May 2024	*Monday 22 July 2024	70
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195</b>

#### SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2024/2025

Term	Begin	Half term		End	No. of School Days
		Begin	End		
Autumn 2024	*Monday 2 Sept 2024	Monday 28 Oct 2024	Friday 1 Nov 2024	Friday 20 Dec 2024	75
Spring 2025	Monday 6 Jan 2025	Monday 24 Feb 2025	Friday 28 Feb 2025	Friday 11 Apr 2025	65
Summer 2025	Monday 28 April 2025	Monday 26 May 2025	Friday 30 May 2025	*Monday 21 July 2025	55
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195</b>

\*Designated INSET day