

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

standrewsmajorps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



Dear Parents,

Friday 24th November 2023

As always, our school has been really busy over the last few weeks and things are now ramping up as we head into Christmas concert season!

Emily and Will in Year 6 did a brilliant job as part of the St Cyres Joint School Council meeting where they took part in discussions around equality within our curriculum; pupil voice in our school; and ideas around Year 6 transition. Mr McNicol was very impressed with their knowledge and their confidence. Da iawn both!

Mrs Squire arranged for visitors from City of Sanctuary to speak with Y3 to Y6 classes last week. The children had prepared some fantastic questions to the 2 refugees who have made Cardiff their home. We are very proud of the respect and compassion our pupils show and I am very grateful to Mrs Squire for providing such real life experiences as part of our mission to become a School of Sanctuary in the near future.



On Monday, our Eco-Committee delivered an informative worship to the whole school. They shared targets and ideas for the year ahead, along with an eco-code for everyone to follow. As a school we have been participating in 'Switch off Fortnight', trying to reduce the amount of energy we use and also 'Oceans of Plastic' where the children have been learning about the environmental crisis of plastic pollutions in our oceans.

I am very proud of Year 5 who led a fantastic worship this morning based on their topic of 'Sow and Grow'. It included lots of information about farming - including Fairtrade, discussed links to themes from the bible and the idea that you 'reap what you sow' and entertained with dramas about King Rowan/King William, and also Josh and Tom's Den. Thank you to Mr Trigg and Mrs Sinclair for all their hard work and thank you to the family members who joined us.



Other activities recently have included many activities during anti bullying week, a Bumbles of Honeywood problem solving and entrepreneurial workshop in Y3, and Year 2 have now completed their road safety training and have received certificates as part of the Local Authority Kerbcraft programme.

Curriculum updates from all classes:

Nursery's new topic teaches the children about traditional stories and rhymes. It gives them the opportunity to play with words and learn new vocabulary - they will have a lot of fun changing their voices to suit different types of characters and emotions. Both nursery sessions have already been fortunate enough to welcome a storyteller to class and we will build on this experience using our very own 'Storyteller Cafe' where the children will have the opportunity to read books to their friends. The children will make up their own stories that will be based in Dinas Powys and record them using digital skills.

Reception have started discussing their new topic 'Long Ago'. The children have learnt key vocabulary of the past, present and future, and have looked at how humans age from a baby to an elderly person. They have drawn pictures of themselves as babies and of what they want to be when they grow up. Reception are looking forward to exploring much more within their new topic!



Year 1 made a heart of hands to shown kindness in Anti Bullying week. After their trip to St Fagans they wrote a recount using 'First', 'Next', 'Then' and 'Finally'. They also heard about Betty Campbell and how she overcame lots of difficulties to become the first black headteacher in Wales. We have learnt about the 4 seasons and written Autumn poems.

Year 2 are coming to the end of their topic 'Movers and Shakers' and have thoroughly enjoyed looking at historical figures. Over the past few weeks, the children have created block graphs to show their favourite historical figures, made a space rocket from recycled materials, found out interesting facts about Christopher Columbus, Neil Armstrong and Rosa Parks and wrote exciting space stories.

Year 3 have been continuing their work on 'Rocks, Relics and Rumbles' where they have been learning about volcanoes, creating some fantastic oil pastels artwork and carrying out research via the internet. They have also been learning about fossils and ammonites through their companion project 'Ammonites' where they have been sketching fossils, making fossil motifs and producing 2D prints.



Year 4 have started their topic, Castles and Kingdoms by looking at William the Conqueror. They have been writing descriptions to describe William and have started to look at the Norman invasion of Wales - The Normans are coming! They have created timelines, looked at Welsh Princes and the Marcher Lords and are now looking forward to learning about The battle of Hastings. The children also had a very exciting workshop on Cybersecurity called the Secret Chest. They had to unlock the chest by using the Pig Pen Cipher to decode the secret message, discussed why passwords and personal information should not be shared and also looked at the Enigma code!

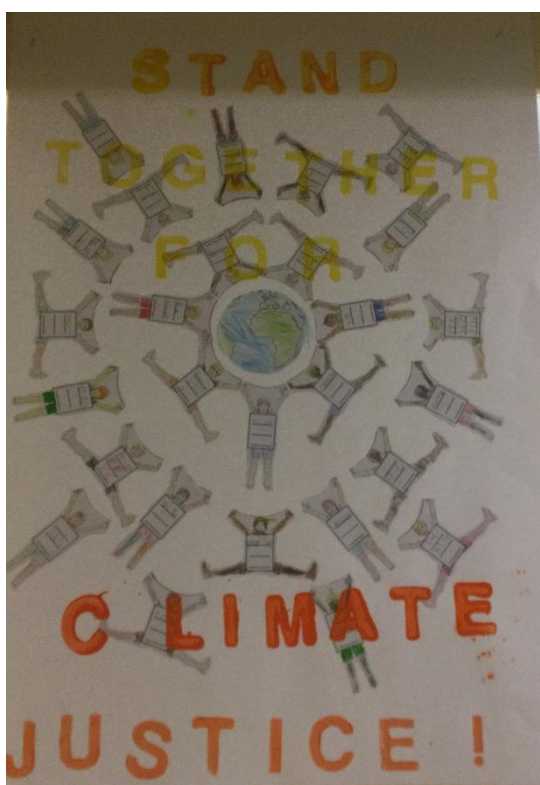
Year 5 have been fully immersed into their 'Sow, Grow and Farm' topic and managed to visit Goldsland Farm in Wenvoe. They asked Farmer Abi lots of questions, had a tour of the farm, met calves that were only a few hours old, used measuring skills to make food for the cows, feed the cows and make butter! They thoroughly enjoyed the trip and would like to thank Abi for letting us visit her farm. In class, the children have been very busy looking at 'Seasonality'. They created seasonal recipes and menus, then created a video to persuade people to come and try some of the new dishes.



Year 6 are nearing the end of their Maafa topic. They have learned about the transatlantic slave trade and how it impacted on African people. They investigated the numbers of slaves that were taken from Africa to the Americas and found out the huge difference in numbers that were taken from the 1600's to the 1800's. Whilst the focus of the topic has obviously been around the horrific treatment of slaves, the children have learned about how Britain and the world is now more multicultural because of the movement of slaves throughout history. The children have also been learning about the history of racism in the 20th century focusing on the World War 2 and Windrush generations. They have learned about the introduction of the Race Relations Act, 1965 which was the first piece of legislation in the UK to address the prohibition of racial discrimination.

Climate Justice artwork

We are delighted that 2 of our posters 'Stand Together for Climate Justice' and 'Act Now, Stop Injustice' have been selected as winners and will be displayed in Westminster. The remaining 5 posters will also be displayed at Llandaff Cathedral.



PTA including information on Discos – Wednesday 6th December

Thank you to those parents who were able to run or attend the recent PTA Coffee Morning. It really is a lovely way to meet and catch up with other parents and also do find out more about the work of the PTA. The next of the PTA's events are the Discos for all children from Reception to Year 6. More information on that is below.

The children can wear their disco/party clothes to school (including Y1 and Y3 who have well-being days although please can they wear trainers for PE). Information on payment which includes treats will be shared soon. **Please note, cash cannot be accepted.**

Arrangements will be as follows:

Reception to Year 2 – This disco will take place during the afternoon. The children can then be collected as usual at 3:10-3:20pm. The bus and Deb's afterschool club will run as usual. Any children who do not wish to attend will have activities in one classroom.

Year 3 to Year 6 – This disco will take place from 3:10 at the end of the day. The children can then be collected from the playground at 4:20 (The children will line up as usual on the playground at the front). Any children who attend afterschool club will be taken to the Stiwidio as usual. Obviously children who stay for the disco will not be able to go on the bus and will need to be collected from school.

Finally

Finally, a reminder that next week Mon 27th November will be the final week of clubs. Thank you to all the staff who give up their time to run these extra curricular activities.

I would like to share this poster about saving water from our Eco Club.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,

G Hallett
Gen Hallett
Headteacher



DATES (Recently added dates in red)

November	
Sun 26 th (Changed)	Year 2 Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30am
Mon 27 th	Reception 2024 Admissions process opens
Mon 27 th	Year 5 Cricket Tournament
Tues 28 th	Year 4 Cricket Tournament
Tues 28th	Reception walk to village shop

December	
Fri 1 st	Year 6 Cricket Tournament
Mon 4th	Year 4 visit to Llandaff Cathedral
Tues 5 th	Y1 – Y6 Advent service at St Peter's (Pupils only)
Weds 6 th	PTA Discos
Weds 6th	Year 3 visit to Cardiff Museum
Tues 12 th	Nativity in hall (Nur to Year 2) at 1:30pm
Weds 13 th	Nativity in hall (Nur to Year 2) at 9:30am Junior Carol Service at St Peter's at 1:30pm
Thurs 14th	Infant Christmas Dinner
Fri 15th	Junior Christmas Dinner
Mon 16th	Class Parties (Christmas Outfits can be worn)
Thurs 21 st	Term ends
Fri 22 nd	INSET DAY
25 th Dec – 5 th Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

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

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

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

SUMMER TERM	
April	
Mon 8 th	Start of term (No INSET day)
8 th – 10 th	Year 5 Llangrannog Residential

Sun 21 st	Year 5 Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30
Weds 24 th	Film Night (Rec to Y2)
29 th April to May 3 rd	Year 6 Manor Adventure Residential

May	
Thurs 2 nd	Year 2 Class Worship (Y2 parents/carers invited)
Tuesday 14 th	SPORTS DAY (Rec to Y2 am / Y3 to Y6 pm)
Weds 15 th	Nursery Sports Day (Usual session times)
Fri 24 th	Year 1 Class Worship (Y1 parents/carers invited)
27 th – 31 st May	HALF TERM

June	
Tues 4 th	Class Photos
Sun 16 th	Reception Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30

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

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
				TOTAL	195

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
				TOTAL	195

*Designated INSET day