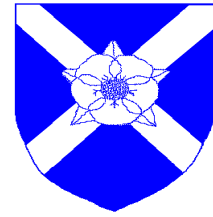


St. Andrew's VC Lower School
Newsletter September 2011



Aspire Believe Celebrate

Welcome back!

Welcome back. We hope you all had a super Summer Break. Welcome to all our new children, especially those in Reception, who have made such a super start!

Welcome back Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Rogers, and welcome to the team Mrs. Peel. Later on we will welcome our trainee teachers Mr Fraser, Mrs. Beswick and Mrs. Stanbridge.

Newsletters come out every month and contain lots of useful information – so remember to check book bags and thanks for taking the time to read them.

Mrs. S. Rolfe

Newsletters are also on our website:

www.standrewslowerschool.co.uk

Reminder: Meet the Teacher Evening is this week!

You are invited to the school sometime between 5.30 – 7.20 p.m. on Thursday 15th September. The children really enjoy being able to show you around the school and their classroom, and show you the types of activities they enjoy, and the type of work they do. At a set time the class teachers will give a brief talk to the parents assembled in the classroom, giving out important information about the teaching and learning and expectations for the coming year. The times for each talk are as follows:

Primrose, Buttercup and Daffodil Classes – 5.40 p.m.

Swallow, Wren and Robin Classes – 6.00 p.m.

Puffin and Owl Classes – 6.20 p.m.

Ash, Oak and Willow Classes – 6.40 p.m.

Maple and Holly Classes – 7.00 p.m.

The class teachers will still be available in the room to chat before and after the formal talk, and if you have a particular problem that needs a private discussion, they will be happy to make an appointment for you. Refreshments will be available in the hall, so allow some time for that too. We look forward to seeing you there!

Values Education

We follow a programme of Values Education at St. Andrew's, promoting a shared set of values that children and staff strive to live their lives by, at home and at school.

This half term the Value is **Honesty**.

This is how we explain it to the children:

Honesty is telling the truth.

Honesty is trust.

Honesty is being true to yourself and others.

In assemblies we will be talking about what it means to be trusted and how being honest makes us feel.

Do talk about this with your children at home.

Our 12 School Values:

Honesty, Co-operation, Happiness, Unity, Simplicity, Freedom, Tolerance, Peace, Respect, Love, Humility, Responsibility.

We look at one each half term on a two year rolling programme.

A few important reminders and messages for the start of the new school year:**Punctuality:**

School starts at 8.55 a.m. and children should be ready outside their classroom door as the bell goes at that time.

Absence:

If your child is away from school let us know why by telephone or letter so that the absence is not recorded as unauthorised. Absence for a family holiday can only be authorised in very exceptional circumstances and there are forms for this available from the school office. The advice we receive from the Education Welfare Service is that very little is considered as exceptional so don't be surprised or upset if your request is not authorised.

Uniform:

The school uniform helps children to be in the right frame of mind for school and creates a great sense of belonging. Our school uniform colour is royal blue and other colours, other shades of blue, and even the old red, are no longer acceptable. Long hair should be tied back for PE and earrings removed if possible. Jewellery other than earrings, colour in hair, wristbands, trainers, boots, leggings, make-up and transfers are not allowed. Shoes are black sensible school shoes. The PE uniform is a white T shirt and blue shorts. Please make sure your child is in the right uniform for our school and that all clothes are named. (Second hand uniform is available at the office.)

Art in Heaven Day

The school took part in Art in Heaven Day at the end of last term. On this day the children discuss and explore different religious/spiritual themes and make their own artistic creations. Many pieces of work are still displayed in the entrance hall.

Staff Team for 2011-2012

Head Teacher – Mrs. Rolfe

Assistant Head Teachers – Mrs. Lanning and Mrs. Willis

Reception Team: Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Braund, Mrs. Wood, Miss Carley, Mrs. Peel, Mrs. Lucas, Mrs. Markwell.

Yrs 1&2 Team: Mrs. Willis, Mrs. Fory, Mrs. Haugh, Mrs. Wainwright, Ms. Kerfoot, Mrs. Cruft, Mrs. Linneker, Mrs. Saunders, Mrs. Birch.

Yrs 3&4: Mrs. Lanning, Mrs. Rogers, Miss Porter, Miss Driscoll, Mrs. Bickerdike, Mrs. Dilley, Mrs. Waghorn, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Etienne, Mrs. Collett.

Inclusion Team: Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Olley, Mrs. Whitaker, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Huggins, Mrs. Collett, Mrs. Wayman, Mrs. Stuart.

Office Team: Mrs. Howard and Mrs. Lincoln. Caretaker: Mrs. Sealey

PTA News

The Chair of PTA for this year is Hayley Down, the vice-chair is Paul Cooke, the secretary is Sarah Lawton and the treasurer is Sue Waghorn.

If you feel able to help or would like to join the committee do come along to the next meeting, 13th Sept.

NCT Nearly New Sale – 1st Oct. – 2.15 p.m. – Stratton Upper School

Reception News

Welcome to reception!

We really enjoyed meeting you all over our two days of play and chat sessions. Now the children are in we will focus on settling in and learning routines, then it is into the first topic – Ourselves. This topic will last about 4 weeks, then we will focus on Autumn and Harvest.

Mrs. Cooper

Years 1 & 2 News

Our first topic is entitled Our World. This exciting topic will develop the children's geographical and enquiry skills as they make comparisons between Britain, the African Savannah and Australia. They will create art inspired by the Aborigines as well as investigating animals of the Savannah and fossils.

Soon the children will be visiting St. Andrew's Church and we will need adults to accompany the children. If you can help please talk to your child's teacher.

20th Sept – Yr 1 Church Tour

21st Sept – Yr 2 Church Tour

4th Oct – Yr 1 Church Service

Thank you for your support.

Mrs. Willis



Years 3 & 4 News

We start the term with a focus on basic skills – establishing rules, handwriting, selecting the school council and doing lots to help the rest of the year run smoothly. Then we move on to our topics, providing lots of interesting and exciting learning opportunities:

History – Finding out about WWII, particularly the lives of children. This will include a WWII day on 6th October. Children can come in costume on that day and a contribution from parents would be welcome to help towards food and other resources. Details to follow.

Science – looking at electricity and investigating circuits, insulators and conductors.

DT – Designing a torch for a WWII air raid warden and making the electric circuit to power it.

(Please send in empty Pringles tubes!)

PE – In outdoor PE children will be working in groups to make up their own games and in gymnastics they will be developing balancing skills. (There will be no swimming lessons this year but the Yr 3 children will swim when in Yr 4.)

RE – We will be visiting several different places of worship and discussing their similarities and differences. These will include St. Andrew's Church, Biggleswade Baptist Church, St. Peter's Church and The Bedford Faith Tour which includes a Gurdwara, a Mosque and a Church in Bedford.

French – Children will develop basic vocabulary including greetings, numbers and colours.

As you can see we have an exciting term to look forward to.

Some quick reminders:

Please remember to keep hearing your child read at home, little and often is best.

Remember that the children need a full named PE kit in school at all times, indoor and outdoor, and earrings should be taken out on PE days if possible.

As the weather gets colder please make sure your child has a coat, gloves and hat for playtimes, all named.

... and if any of you has an interest or knowledge (sports etc) you would like to share please let us know as we would be happy for you to come and visit.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs. Lanning.

Dinner Money Change

Meals currently cost £1.85 per day, but will be going up to **£1.90** per day from the beginning of November.

(For those parents of who were informed the price would be £1.90 from September we apologise and will credit your account with us.)

Cheques made payable to abm Ltd.

Vacancy

Clerk to the Governors

Our Governing Body need a Clerk to copy, collate and distribute papers for meetings and take the minutes.

If you are interested in this paid work for the school and would like to know more please do come and see us to talk about it. Training for the role is available.

Parents Literacy Course

We are sorry that the course that was due to start today had to be cancelled due to insufficient people signing up for it. This may have been due to it being so close to the start of term.

We are trying to re-schedule this for an October or January start, and hopefully we will have enough of you then to get the course going.

Diary Dates - 2011



13th Sept – PTA Meeting
15th Sept – Meet the Teacher Evening
20th Sept – Yr 1 Church Tour
21st Sept – Yr 2 Church Tour
22nd Sept – Governors Meeting
24th Sept – St. Andrew's Church Country Fayre – our Choir and Country Dancers will be performing.
4th Oct – Yr 1 Church Service
6th Oct – Yrs 3 & 4 WWII Day
10th Oct – Mission Week
12th Oct – St. Albans Cathedral Service for some children.
19th & 20th Oct – Parents Evenings
21st Oct – Harvest Assembly for the children.
24th – 28th Oct – Half Term Break
31st Oct – Staff Training Day
1st Nov – Children back to school
3rd Nov – School Photo Day
14th Nov – Anti-Bullying Week
15th & 16th Nov – Yrs 3&4 Church Tours
18th Nov – Children in Need Day
24th Nov – Meetings for parents of children starting school Sept 2012
30th Nov – St. Andrew's Day Service
16th Dec – Last day of term.

Parent Governor Vacancies

Please see separate letter for details

Parent Questionnaire July 2011

Thank you for your feedback. Look out for details of our resulting School Development Plan in the next newsletter.

Diary Dates - 2012

3rd Jan – Staff Training Day*
4th Jan – Children back to school*
13th – 17th Feb – Half Term Break
30th March – Last day of term

16th April – Staff Training Day
17th April – First day of term
4th – 8th June – Half Term Break
20th July – Last day of term

* please note these were incorrect in July newsletter – sorry for any inconvenience caused.