

## St. Andrew's VC Lower School Newsletter 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016



# Aspire Believe Celebrate



### Autumn Term Parents Evening

Parents are invited to make an appointment with teachers on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October or Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Sorry that the dates in the previous newsletter were wrong, and that parentmail have had technical problems, but from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October you can make an appointment electronically. These appointments are important as they provide with an opportunity to find out about your child's progress over this first half term. We hope to see you all there.

### Harvest Festival

The children will be celebrating Harvest time in special assemblies on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October**. As part of these assemblies we will be thanking God for the Harvest, considering how fortunate we are and doing something to help others both near and far.



We are asking you to allow your child to bring in food items. These will be used to make our Harvest Displays and will then be sent to the Bedfordshire Food Aid Network (BFAN) who help out local families in need. **Please send in tins and packets anytime from 17<sup>th</sup> October and fresh fruit and vegetables from 20<sup>th</sup> October.**

We are also planning to raise some money for:

### The Bishop of St. Alban's Harvest Appeal – Life Giving Water

This is an appeal, working through WaterAid to bring safe water, sanitation and hygiene awareness to over 35,000 people living in some of the poorest communities in Madagascar. The children will hear about Faniry who has to spend two hours a day fetching water from an open well, often missing school. To learn more go to: <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/bishop-s-annual-harvest-appeal/>



The children in years 1 – 4 will be writing prayers on paper water droplets for our Harvest Displays and the children in Reception will be making a traditional Malagasy Cake to share with the rest of us.

**Please help with a donation towards this project, to be brought in on 21<sup>st</sup> October.**

Thank you for supporting local people and the Bishop's appeal with donations of food and money and helping the children to understand what Harvest Festival is all about.

### Parent Helpers

October Reading Month  
Pop in at 3.15 p.m. to  
help hear children read!  
All parents welcome.  
If you can offer regular  
help at all, do get in  
touch via the school  
offices.

### Parent Forums

Each term we hold an open meeting for parents.  
Our Autumn Term meetings are:  
West Site, Brunts Lane: Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 p.m.  
East Site, Kings Reach: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 p.m.  
We will share with you points raised in July's parent questionnaire and  
the priorities for our 2016 School Development Plan.  
The meeting will then open up for discussion on any topic.

### The Faith Tour

Children in Maple, Mulberry and Holly Classes will soon have the  
opportunity to go on the Queens Park Faith Tour.  
This is a useful and informative trip to visit a large church, a mosque  
and a gurdwara. The children learn about the similarities and  
differences between the three places of worship and the visit helps  
them with their RE work.



All Saints Church



Westbourne Road Mosque



Guru Nanak Gurdwara

For more information on the Faith  
Tour go to:

<http://www.faithinquenspark.org.uk/faithtours/index.php>

Well done...

To our choir and our dancers who performed at the Church Country Fayre recently.

The Fayre raised money for two charities: Bedfordshire Young Carers and XLP London.

Bedfordshire Young Carers offers respite and recreation to the many under 18's who care for siblings or  
parents. <http://www.carersinbeds.org.uk/young-carers/being-a-young-carer>

XLP London work with young people living within London's inner city estates, by offering mobile youth  
groups and counselling. <http://www.xlp.org.uk/>



### The School Governors – who are they?

This year Sally Wells continues as our Chair of Governors and Richard Courtney as our Vice-Chair.

Other governors are; Steve Willis, Cleo Small, Brian McCusker, David Short, Revd Guy Scott, George Dilley, Beverley Barlowe, Jenny Beach, Helen Tranter, Sue Rolfe and Andrea Olley.

Our school governing body is made up of five different categories of governors:

- Parent Governors – voted for by the parents
- Foundation Governors – appointed by the Church
- Staff Governors – the HT and one voted for by the staff
- Co-opted Governors – chosen by the rest of the governing body to represent our community
- Local Authority Governors – appointed by Central Bedfordshire Council

We have a parent governor vacancy and you should have received information about this via parentmail recently.

If you are interested in being a school governor go to <http://www.nga.org.uk/Be-a-Governor.aspx> to find out more and call the school to talk about it further.

### Diary Dates

11<sup>th</sup> Oct – West Site school photos  
12<sup>th</sup> Oct – 10 a.m. Yr 1 Church Service  
12<sup>th</sup> Oct – 7.30 p.m. Yr 2 Assessment Information Evening, held at the West Site  
17<sup>th</sup> Oct - Global Handwashing Day  
18<sup>th</sup> Oct – Interested in teaching? Pilgrim Open Event 3.00 – 4.30 p.m. at the West Site  
19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Oct – Parents Evenings at both sites  
21<sup>st</sup> Oct – Children's Harvest Assemblies  
24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> Oct – Half Term Break  
9<sup>th</sup> Nov – West Site Parent Forum 7.30 p.m.  
10<sup>th</sup> Nov – West Site Prospective Parents Mtgs 9.15 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.  
11<sup>th</sup> Nov – 3.30 p.m. West Site PTFA Cake Sale  
14<sup>th</sup> Nov – Anti-Bullying Week  
15<sup>th</sup> Nov – East Site Prospective Parents Mtgs 9.15 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.  
17<sup>th</sup> Nov – East Site Parent Forum  
18<sup>th</sup> Nov – BBC Children in Need Day  
21<sup>st</sup> Nov – East Site Art Exhibition  
22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov – Bikeability at the West Site  
24<sup>th</sup> Nov – Bikeability at the East Site  
28<sup>th</sup> Nov – East Site School Photos  
30<sup>th</sup> Nov – 10.00 Yrs 2, 3 & 4 St. Andrew's Day Church Service  
30<sup>th</sup> Nov – 1.45 p.m. Yrs R & 1 St. Andrew's Day Church Service

1<sup>st</sup> Dec – West Site Art Exhibition 6<sup>th</sup> Dec – 2.00 p.m. & 6.00 p.m. West Site Yr 2 Performance  
6<sup>th</sup> Dec – East Site PTFA Secret Santa  
7<sup>th</sup> Dec – 2.00 p.m. & 6.00 p.m. West Site Yr 1 Performance  
8<sup>th</sup> Dec & 9<sup>th</sup> Dec – 2.00 p.m. West Site Reception Performance  
8<sup>th</sup> Dec & 9<sup>th</sup> Dec – 2.00 p.m. East Site Reception Performance  
12<sup>th</sup> Dec – 2.00 p.m. & 6.00 p.m. West Site Yr 3 Performance  
12<sup>th</sup> Dec – 2.00 & 6.00 p.m. East Site Blackbird Class & Birch Class Performance  
13<sup>th</sup> Dec – 2.00 p.m. & 6.00 p.m. Yr 4 Carol Service at the church.  
14<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Dinner Day & Christmas Jumper Day – both sites  
15<sup>th</sup> Dec – 2.00 & 6.00 p.m. East Site Yr 1 Performances  
16<sup>th</sup> Dec – Last Day of Term

### 2017

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan – Staff Training Day  
4<sup>th</sup> Jan – First day of term  
13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Feb – Half Term Break  
4<sup>th</sup> April – Last day of term  
18<sup>th</sup> April – Staff Training day  
19<sup>th</sup> April – First day of term  
1<sup>st</sup> May – Bank Holiday  
29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Half Term Break  
5<sup>th</sup> June – Staff Training Day  
21<sup>st</sup> July – Last day of term

**All the lower and middle schools in this area are following these dates but Stratton Upper School's dates are slightly different.**

### Sports Events 2017

All at 10.00 a.m.

19<sup>th</sup> June – West Site Yr 4  
19<sup>th</sup> June – East Site Birch & Blackbird Classes  
20<sup>th</sup> June – West Site Yr 3  
20<sup>th</sup> June – East Site Yr 1  
21<sup>st</sup> June – West Site Yr 2  
22<sup>nd</sup> June – West Site Yr 1  
23<sup>rd</sup> June – West Site Reception  
23<sup>rd</sup> June – East Site Reception

