

St. Andrew's VC Lower School
Newsletter
March 2017



Aspire Believe Celebrate

www.standrewslowerschool.co.uk

Values Education and Collective Worship

Our Value for this half term is Freedom. Here is how we explain it to the children:

Freedom is choice.

Freedom is living with dignity.

Freedom is when rights are balanced with responsibilities.

We have talked to the children about the freedom they have to make choices for themselves and the responsibility they have when they make those choices.

We have also talked about the freedoms we have in our country and how that was not the case many years ago and is not the case in some other countries in the world today. In all British schools children are taught about the fundamental British Values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. We heard about John Bunyan and the famous book he wrote; Pilgrim's Progress. The book tells a story that illustrates the journey of life and the choices we have to make along the way. The children learned that John Bunyan lived in Bedford and was sent to prison for what he believed, because at that time people did not have the freedoms they have today.

BBC Comic Relief – Red Nose Day
Friday 24th March

On comic relief day the children can do four things:

- a) Come to school in mufti, wearing as much red as possible. This can include face paint, hair colour and accessories.
- b) Bring in their favourite joke, written out, that can be shared with the class. The jokes will then be collated in a display or a class book.
- c) Take part in a Talent Competition – solo/pairs/groups.
(The winner/s in each class will get to perform to the rest of the school.)
- d) Bring in a donation towards Comic Relief.

Have a look at <http://www.rednoseday.com/> to see what the money will be spent on.



Our Governing Body

We have three new governors to welcome to our team – Rob Butcher, John Price and Keri Knights. So the Governing Body is now;

Foundation Governors: Revd. Guy Scott, Sally Wells (Chair), George Dille, Carolyn Tebbutt,

Co-opted Governors; Jenny Beach, Helen Tranter, Rob Butcher, John Price,

Parent Governors; Steve Willis, Brian McCusker, Simon Fung, David Short, Keri Knights,

LA Governor; Richard Courtney (Vice Chair),

Staff Governors; Andrea Olley, Sue Rolfe.

Year Four Viking Day

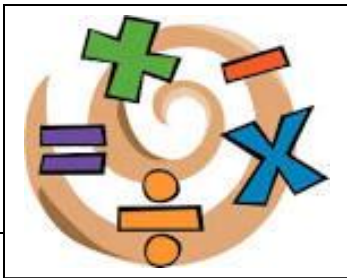
‘Absolutely Amazing’, ‘I felt like I was actually a Viking’, ‘It was a good experience and really interesting’, ‘We were still learning but in a fun way,’ ‘It was so realistic because everyone cheered and was excited when the hunters came back with a (pretend) pig that they had caught!’

These are just some of the comments that Year 4 made after our Viking Day. As they were transported back in time, the morning was spent learning how to make crafts the Viking way, while our leader periodically stopped the activities to give an update on the war between King Alfred and Guthrum. The children were then taken outside and supervised in handling Viking swords and shields and shown how the Vikings would have lined up ready for battle.

The afternoon saw the children taking part in an artefact hunt, researching their findings and setting up their own mini museums which they then shared with each other.

I think that it is safe to say that a fantastic day was had by children and adults alike.

Mrs. Thomas



World of Maths Workshop

During the week before half term, the children of St Andrew’s Lower embarked on their annual Maths Week. This week always focuses on fun practical activities and investigations to develop the children’s problem solving skills.

This year we arranged for the ‘World of Maths’ workshop to visit the school. All year groups had the opportunity to spend time in the school hall solving an exciting variety of practical problems and puzzles. The activities included problems such as ‘Sailing’, ‘Picture This’, ‘Load the Lift’ and even an activity which involved fitting the correct shape keys to work out a secret message!

All staff agreed that their children thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and showed real engagement and team work for the hour they spent on the activities. The children themselves learnt how to apply their mathematical knowledge and had FUN! Esther from Year 2 said, “I loved the ‘Ladder Race’, it was so much fun!” Archie in Year 2 stated “It was amazing, especially the one where you had to work out a code!” In Year 4 Emily said “I think all the activities were very original, especially ‘Milkman’ where you had to use coordinates in a practical way.” Jack in Year 4 also stated “I really enjoyed it because you got to work as a team and all the games were very inventive!”

All in all, World of Maths was a tremendous hit with everyone at St Andrew’s. We can’t wait for the next one!!

Miss Driscoll



East Site Building News

Work begins soon on the extension to our East Site. One of the standard classrooms is being made larger. A new six classroom block is being built on our old car park. It will be connected to the main building by a covered walkway. A new car park is being made on the land at the front of the school. This means parking for staff is very limited so we cannot accommodate any parent cars in our car park. Staff cars will continue to access the site via Coates Road but works traffic will not use Coates Road. As the building work progresses Wilmott Dixon will allow the children to have visits to learn about the building process.

Tag Rugby Report

On Wednesday 25th January, 2 teams took part in the Biggleswade Academy Family Tag Rugby tournament. Each team competed against teams from Lawnside and the Academy, playing 4 games in total. Both teams played to their best on a cold foggy day, showing great improvements during the games. St Andrew's 'B' came joint 4th, with St Andrew's 'A' winning the tournament by 1 point and qualifying for the East Beds SSP Year 3 and 4 Tag Rugby Finals.

Well done to all children who took part. As always the children made us very proud, especially as most of the children had never played rugby before Christmas.

The teams were:

Noah, Sami, Harry, Alfie, Toby, Ryan, Matteo, Lilli, Imogen, Lily

Henry, Noah, Dylan, Ben, Ziva, Pinelopi, Florianne, Ashley, Rachel, Isabelle

St Andrew's travelled to Alban Academy on Wednesday 8th February for the East Beds SSP Year 3 and 4 Tag Rugby Finals. A team of 10 was selected from all the 20 children who had played before in the previous tournament. They played five games against local schools Renhold, Dunton, Great Barford A and B and Robert Peel, only losing 1 out of the 5 games. Their confidence in tagging and passing increased throughout the tournament to enable them to win their final game 7-2 and winning the finals by 1 point. The children all represented the school superbly, demonstrating great team-working skills and resilience during some rather cold and windy weather. 7 members of the team scored to make a total of 25 tries over the tournament. Well done to all of the squad for a fantastic achievement.

Alfie: *'Awesome! We all played as a team. It felt nice to win'*

Sami: *'I was a bit nervous as I didn't think we'd won. Everyone shouted when we won.'*

Harry: *'It was the first time playing for some of our team. It was amazing when we won the first time.'*

The team was:

Noah, Sami, Harry, Alfie, Toby, Lilli, Imogen, Lily, Henry, Noah, Rachel (sub)

And then the day came for the Level Three County Finals for year 3 and 4 Tag Rugby at the Bedfordshire and Luton Winter Games on Friday 3rd March. St. Andrew's came fifth.

What an achievement!

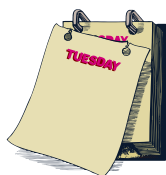
Mrs. Jones



Diary Dates

13th March – Happy Chicks arrive in Reception
 13th March – Building work starts at the East Site
 15th March – West Site PTFA Mtg 7.30 p.m.
 17th March – West Site Yr R PTFA Cake Sale
 21st March – Creation Day
 22nd March – PTFA Secret Mothers Day at both sites
 23rd March – East Site Parent Forum Meeting at 7.30 p.m.
 24th March – BBC Comic Relief Red Nose Day
 27th March – West Site PTFA Easter Competition
 30th March – Yr 4 PGL Mtg at the West Site at 6.00 p.m.
 30th March – West Site Parent Forum Meeting at 7.30 p.m.
 31st March – West Site Big Pedal Breakfast
 31st March – West Site PTFA Non-Uniform Day for £1
 4th April – East Site Big Pedal Breakfast
 4th April – Last day of term.

Summer Term – swimming for Yr Four – details to follow



18th April – Staff Training day
 19th April – First day of term
 26th April – West Site PTFA Mtg 7.30 p.m.
 28th April – East Site Reception Scootability Sessions – details to follow
 1st May – Bank Holiday
 2nd May – East Site Learn to Ride session after school – details to follow
 10th & 11th May – Yr 3 Trip (different classes on each day)
 10th – 12th May – Yr 4 Residential Trip
 16th & 17th May – East Site Reception Vision Screening
 16th May – East Site Parent Bike DIY Session at 2.30 p.m. – details to follow
 18th May – East Site PTFA Cake Sale (Yr 2, 3 & 4 providing cakes)
 19th May – West Site SEND PTFA Cake Sale
 23rd May – West Site Parent Forum 7.30 p.m.
 26th May – West Site PTFA Non-Uniform Day for Fun Day items
 29th May – 2nd June – Half Term Break
 5th June – Staff Training Day
 6th June – Back to school
 7th June – West Site Class Photos
 7th June – East Site Reception Trip
 8th June – West Site Reception Trip
 8th June – East Site Parent Forum 7.30 p.m.

11th June – West Site PTFA Fete
 13th June – East Site Secret Fathers Day
 15th June – West Site Mtgs for parents of children starting school Sept 2017 at 9.15 a.m. & 7.30 p.m.
 16th June – West Site PTFA Secret Fathers Day
 20th June – Yr 2 Trip East & West
 21st June – East Site Class Photos
 22nd June – 9.15 a.m. & 7.30 p.m. East Site Mtgs for parents of children starting school Sept 2017 at 9.15 a.m. & 7.30 p.m.
 29th June – East Site Reception Trip
 21st July – Last day of term

5th Sept – Children back to school

Summer Sports Events – 10 a.m.

19th June – West Site Year Four
 19th June – East Site Birch, Poplar and Blackbird Classes
 20th June – West Site Year Three
 20th June – East Site Year One
 21st June – West Site Year Two
 22nd June – West Site Year One
 23rd June – West Site Reception Year
 23rd June – East Site Reception Year

Attendance

Rates of attendance and punctuality have a huge impact on achievement. School starts at 8.55 a.m.

Any absence must be explained to the school for the absence to be authorised.

Absence is not authorised for family holidays.

Our target for attendance for every child is **96%**.

Attendance rates below **90%** are now the threshold for “persistent absence” and action will be taken if attendance remains below this level.

