

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 8th September 2023

I hope you all had a good summer and have had a good rest in preparation for the term ahead. The pupils have come back to school happy and excited. Teachers have been working with the children to set up expectations for the year and they are all engaging so well. We are especially pleased to see how well Nursery and Reception children have been settling in to coming to school and how well Reception pupils are coping with the lunchtimes. We look forward to the rest of Reception joining us next week.



As well as new pupils in Nursery and Reception, we say a big St Andrew's welcome to Ben and Charlotte in Year 5.

Can I apologise for any inconvenience with our phone lines being temperamental this week. We had a new system installed over the summer holidays and as always, there seem to be teething issues. We are however delighted with our new much improved toilets for certain areas of the school – particularly for our older pupils. We are very grateful to The Vale of Glamorgan Council who carried out all of the work and also covered the cost of these, given the fact that school budgets are currently so stretched.

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) – Message from the Local Authority

The safety of pupils, staff, and all of those who use our buildings is paramount. Over the last decade, the Council has invested £240 million in school improvements and new building investment, in addition to routine maintenance.

The Council is in the process of reviewing its school estate data and along with all other local authorities in Wales, we are working with Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) on a coordinated national approach to the issue of RAAC in schools. The Council will maintain close contact with schools and school governors throughout.

Uniform

Thank you for supporting us by following our uniform code. A quick reminder that jewellery is not permitted with the exception of a wrist-watch and one single/pair of stud ear-rings. At the moment the weather is obviously warm, but when the weather begins to change, please ensure your child brings a coat to school every day. Remember to **label all** clothing and equipment as it is incredible how quickly our lost property box will be overflowing with identical red jumpers! There are a small number of children who wear trainers to school and we politely request that school shoes are worn. We are aware of the on-going financial difficulties facing everyone and I would like to remind you that there is no requirement to have uniform with the school logo. Our PTA also run a very good second-hand system so please do get in touch if you need any assistance.

Snacks and drinks

We only allow fresh fruit or vegetables as a snack in both the infants and juniors. Rice cakes, nuts, cereal bars and other snacks are not permitted, and staff will ask the pupils to return them to their bags. We also expect water only in drinks bottles. Whilst the contents of lunch boxes are for you to decide, we do not allow any fizzy drinks, bars of chocolate or sweets in lunch boxes. Please remember to peel oranges and place in a box if your child cannot do so. Please ensure all snack pots, lunch boxes and water bottles are also labelled. All children (with the exception of Nursery who use cups) need a water bottle in school please – including those who have school lunch or grab bags. However, please rest assured, if your child forgets their bottle, we will ensure they have access to a drink throughout the day.

Free School Meals

All pupils in Reception to Year 6 are now entitled to free school meals. Whilst older children are allowed to choose between baguettes and cooked lunch during morning registration, in Reception to Year 2, the default option will be the cooked lunch. If you wish your child to have a baguette, you must book this the day before via ParentPay please. New parents will be issued with ParentPay logins as soon as we can. In the meantime, please email the office if you need to.

Information on Safeguarding of Children

If you have concerns about the safety or well-being of a child in our school, you are encouraged to report your concerns. The Designated Safeguarding Officer for the school is myself whilst Mrs. Bayliss is the Deputy Safeguarding Officer. If you feel unable to talk to us, the Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding is Mrs. Amy Hurst. Every member of staff has had relevant training and will deal with issues sensitively and appropriately. There is information on the board next to the office about Safeguarding contacts which also includes the contact number for Children's Services. If ever you were unsure, you can always phone the police too. Our Safeguarding policy is available on our website.

Information on Complaints Procedures

A complaint is defined in our school policy as '*serious concern, grievance or dissatisfaction*'. If you do have a complaint, the first point of contact where possible should always be the class teacher. If you feel your complaint has not been dealt with then obviously you can speak to me, Mrs Bayliss or a governor. If you are still not satisfied, then a written

complaint can be submitted to the governing body. This policy is also available on our website.

Year 6 arrangements

Please see separate letter about permissions for Year 6 pupils walking home alone and also to bring in mobile phones. Please ensure you complete the necessary forms in line with our policy. No other pupils are permitted to have mobile phones or smart watches in school.

Well-Being /PE

Following the great success of our well-being days, we will continue with these as follows.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
-	Reception Year 6	Year 1 Year 3	Year 2 Year 4	Nursery Year 5

On the relevant days, children from Reception to Year 6 should wear their PE kit. Please remember, dark shorts, leggings or joggers and either school PE house tops or plain tops in the colour of the house. No football shirts etc. Nursery don't have house colour t-shirts but can still come in joggers/leggings and trainers on Fridays. Children in Nursery to Year 4 also need to bring in a pair of wellies which can remain in school. Y5 and Y6 can bring wellies in when requested (or leave them in their locker if there is space). Please note, as some Reception children don't start until next Tuesday 12th, Reception will begin their well-being days on Tuesday 19th.

Meet the Teacher

Over the next 2 weeks, we will be running our Meet the Teacher presentations for parents and carers of pupils in Reception to Year 6. This will be an opportunity for you to meet the teacher who will explain how we are approaching the curriculum and will share relevant information for the year ahead. It will also give you an opportunity to ask any questions. If you are unable to come all information will be shared on Seesaw/on the website. Due to limited space in the classrooms, it would be preferable if only parents could attend please. It is impossible to arrange sessions in order to put siblings on the same day across the whole school, so I apologise if you have to visit the school more than once. The sessions will take place in the classrooms and will start promptly. Please enter the school via the main entrance rather than walking around the site as After School Club pupils will still be on the premises. Mrs Bayliss or I will also be around if you have any questions for us and we look forward to seeing you there.

Contacting school

If you do have questions or concerns about your child's learning then teachers can be emailed on the addresses below. Please note the following:

- I do not expect teachers to reply to emails outside of normal 'office hours' or weekends/holidays. In a job-share class, it could be either teacher who responds, depending on their contracted days of work.
- Teachers are teaching all day and may not pick up an email until after school. Anything urgent should therefore be directed to the school email address.

- Anything to do with admin **must** be directed to the school email account. This includes illness, absence, medication, allergies, changes of contact details, uniform, parentpay etc.

School Office Mrs Hallett / Mrs Bayliss	standrewsmajorps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Nursery Mrs Erickson	ericksonk15@hwbcymru.net
Reception Miss Jewell	jewellS14@hwbcymru.net
Year 1 Mrs Day	dayL20@hwbcymru.net
Year 2 Miss Bush	bushJ21@hwbcymru.net
Year 3 Mr Mason/Mr Walters	masonP2@hwbcymru.net waltersG@hwbcymru.net
Year 4 Mrs Bounds	halseR2@hwbcymru.net
Year 5 Mr Trigg	triggr20@hwbcymru.net
Year 6 Mr McNicol	mcnicola@hwbcymru.net

School Budgets

As I am sure you will remember me saying last term, headteachers and governors in The Vale are running a campaign to fight for fair funding for all schools in Wales. At present, schools in The Vale are one of the poorest funded Local Authorities and our pupils receive significantly less funding per pupil than other children around Wales. We need to reach 10,000 signatures in order for our case to be heard by the Senedd. Please sign and share with everyone you know.

<https://petitions.senedd.wales/petitions/245492>

Home-school links

Working together is the key to a child's success in school. We operate an open-door policy and welcome all forms of communication and if we are unable to see you immediately, we will make an appointment to meet/phone as soon as possible. Leave a message with staff in the morning or contact the office and they will arrange it for you. Please let us know if you have any concerns or a query or even an idea as to how we can improve things! The staff, governors and I look forward to working with you and your children in the future.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend. Enjoy the sunshine while it lasts.

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett
Headteacher



LET'S TALK ABOUT LIFE IN THE VALE

A county-wide survey designed to capture your views about public services and life in the county.



HAVE YOUR SAY!

Complete the online survey and enter the prize draw to **be in with a chance of winning a £50 Love2Shop voucher!**

