

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 21st July 2023

News



We have had a very busy end of term. A few weeks ago, I had the joy of joining Year 5 on their pilgrimage walk to St Andrews Church. The children took part in many interesting activities both inside and outside the church as well as listening to Reverend Emma Ackland explain to them the purpose of a pilgrimage. We were all very impressed with the thoughtful questions they asked Rev Emma and also how respectful and well behaved they were.

Y6 have been very busy with the activities that traditionally mark the end of their final year at St Andrew's. They attended the Llandaff Diocesan Leavers' service at Llandaff Cathedral where they had the opportunity to reflect on their time in Primary school and then to look forward to their next big adventure. Last Sunday they also attended the Family service at St Peter's where they shared their memories with their families and the local congregation. This week, they had a pizza treat after their leavers' show on Wednesday and a fun final trip to Cardiff to go bowling and play rounders in Bute Park.

We were so pleased that the weather didn't spoil the Y3, Y4 and Y5 visits to Barry Island. The children enjoyed travelling by train (which also kept the price down!) and thoroughly enjoyed playing and paddling on the sand with their friends and teachers.





Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful trip to Cefn Mably Farm. They were allowed to pet and feed the animals, had a super fun train ride and even managed to fit in a session on the soft play.

Thank you so much to all our parents and governors who volunteered to go on the trips. Without your support, we would not meet the required ratios for health and safety and would struggle to go.

Just to update you, we are delighted that we raised £165 on our Refugee Week non-uniform day. Nancy, Maddie and Mrs Squires went down to The Oasis Centre to give them our donation and to find out more about the work that they do to support refugees who come to South Wales. Thank you for your kind donations.



In terms of curriculum, topics have come to an end with many interesting activities having taken place. Nursery and Reception have really impressed the Early Years staff with their curious and independent learning around the outdoor environment. They have been excellent problem-solvers, built on their physical development and resilience, and have shown confidence through exploration. We feel very fortunate to have such a brilliant outdoor learning environment. Year 1 enjoyed the end of their mini topic, 'Paws Claws and Whiskers' by going on a hunt in the Faith Garden looking for their camouflaged, decorated butterflies. Year 2 ended their 'Land Ahoy!' topic with a fun treasure hunt around the school grounds. Year 3 have been busy being scientists with their topic 'Mighty Metals', investigating forces and magnetism. Year 4's topic 'Blue Abyss' saw them creating scale models of deep-sea creatures, using oil pastels for some stunning art work and researching all about the Great Barrier Reef. Year 5 have enjoyed their topic 'Roses and Royals'. Alongside preparing for their class worship, they enjoyed a lot of expressive arts such as drawing famous Tudors, creating a Tudor shield and creating Tudor houses using Minecraft for Education.

Petition on funding

I am sure you are aware that school budgets are in a very concerning state – with large numbers of schools being forced to set deficit budgets this year and even more likely next year. What you may not be aware of, is that the funding formula which Welsh Government use to allocate funding to Local Authorities has not been reviewed for many decades, meaning that The Vale of Glamorgan receive less per pupil than in any other Local Authority in Wales. Governors from a number of Local Authorities are calling on the Welsh Government to urgently review the budget situation saying children's education and safety is at risk with cuts to staff, larger classes and a reduced curriculum. Headteachers in The Vale of Glamorgan have real concerns around the lack of support for pupils with additional learning needs and for those with emotional and behavioural difficulties. Governing bodies and school leaders have come together to launch a petition to draw attention to what they say is a Wales-wide problem.

As parents, I urge you to please sign this petition and to share with families and friends. If the petition reaches 10,000 signatures, it will be considered for a debate in the Senedd.

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

Term dates and INSET days

TERM DATES	Begin	Half term		End
		Begin	End	
Autumn	4 th Sep 2023	30 th Oct 2023	3 rd Nov 2023	22 nd Dec 2023
Spring	8 th Jan 2024	12 th Feb 2024	16 th Feb 2024	22 nd Mar 2024
Summer	8 th April 2024	27 th May 2024	31 st May 2024	22 nd July 2024

INSET DAYS

- **Monday 4th September 2023**
- **Tuesday 5th September 2023**
- **Friday 22nd December 2023**
- **Monday 19th February 2024**
- **Monday July 22nd July 2024**

There will be one more date which will be for a joint Cluster INSET day which we will confirm as soon as possible.

Water Safety – a message from the RNLI

As we enter the holidays, we are all hoping for some lovely weather, so I thought I would share some information on staying safe near water. There has been a stark increase in the number of tragedies in and around water - four people under 20 died in accidental drownings in Wales in 2022 – the highest number since comparable data became available. In total, there were 22 deaths in Wales from accidental drowning in 2022 across inland and coastal locations, and we have already seen a number of drowning fatalities this year. Please remind the children of four simple life saving tips to help them stay safe around open water.



Goodbye and Good luck

This week we are saying a huge thank you and goodbye to 2 much loved members of staff. Mrs Lisa Harris and Mrs Joy McFarlane have worked at the school for 20 and 18 years respectively. They have both been dedicated and committed and have given so much to the pupils of the school. We will also miss them as the dear colleagues and friends that they are. I am sure you would like to join me in wishing them both a long, happy and healthy retirement. We will be welcoming Miss Carla Matz and Miss Genna Harris who will be replacing Mrs Harris and Mrs McFarlane in September.

As a result of these appointments, the arrangements for LSAs for September will be as follows:

Nursery	Miss Harris (Mon-Weds) Miss Appleton (Thurs – Fri)
Reception	Miss Matz
Year 1	Mrs Fleet
Year 2	Mrs Saunders
Interventions and 1:1 support	Mrs Brown, Mrs Dimond, Mrs Sinclair

Atlas, Rosie, Henry and Ivy in Nursery will not be returning to St Andrew's in September and we will miss them all very much. We wish them lots of luck as they move on to their new schools. Alina in Year 5 will be returning to Ukraine very soon and I know that Year 5 and all the school will miss Alina. We wish you and your family much love and pray for your safety.

Finally, we now say a very fond farewell to our wonderful Year 6 pupils. They finished the year on a real high on Wednesday as they all put on a special show down at the Village Hall. It really was a treat, with the singing, dancing and acting skills from every one of them highlighting what a talented group of young people they are! A huge thank you to Mr McNicol for preparing the children so well, and also to Mrs Saunders and Mrs Brown for their support with scenery, props and music. Thank you to members of The Dinas Powys Rotary Club for providing the children with an excellent illustrated dictionary. This Year 6 They have been a very impressive class over the years. We are very proud of each one of them and wish them good luck for the future in their various high schools.

Thank you to all our staff, governors and volunteers for all their support, dedication and hard work. It has been a pleasure working with all our families and fantastic children and I would like to say a huge thank you on behalf of all the staff for the generous gifts, cards and messages.

Wishing everyone a fantastic break. I hope you get to enjoy some quality time together and I look forward to seeing most of you in September and hearing all about your summer.

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett
Headteacher



Always remember what you have learnt.

Your education is your life — guard it well. (Proverbs 4:13)