

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Friday 26th May 2023

I am now back in St Andrew's more regularly and it has been lovely to catch up with everyone. As I previously informed you, myself or other members of our team will continue to work with All Saints for around 1 day a week until the end of the autumn term.

News



Year 5 made an excellent contribution to the Sunday Service at St Peter's Church a few weeks ago. I know that Mr Trigg was extremely proud of the children's performance and also their respectful behaviour. Thank you to those families who were able to support us with this important link with our local church.

I was very disappointed to miss the sports days last week but I know from Mrs Bayliss that both days were a great success. All the pupils took part with such enthusiasm and determination and certainly seem to have had a wonderful time. Llongyfarchiadau to Castell Penfro (Melyn) who lifted the trophy as the winning house. Nursery also had their super sports day and I know that the staff were all very proud of the children. Thank you to the PTA for providing refreshments which also raised almost £300 for our funds. A special thanks to Kin and Ilk in the village who donated the coffee!



Thank you for your donations to our Christian Aid fundraiser last week. Mrs Williams from St Peter's asked me to award a special headteacher's certificate to Hope in Year 5 as she demonstrated such service to others when helping the Christian Aid event at the church. The children all took part in writing pledges as to how they would try their best to help others. This also tied in very well with our focus value of Service. We will update you on how much was raised when we hear from Mrs Williams.

Year 3 held their entertaining and informative 'Through the Ages' class worship this morning. The children shared lots of exciting facts and demonstrated their excellent knowledge. The worship also showed how many fantastic activities they have done including pottery, baking and cave art. Mrs Bayliss told me how well they presented and that there are definitely a few actors in the making. Da iawn Blwyddyn 3 a Mr Walters!

I had the pleasure of accompanying Year 6 on a special visit to Llandaff Cathedral this morning. We learned all about the story of William Morgan who, in the 16th Century, took over 10 years to translate The Bible into Welsh on the request of Queen Elizabeth I. We also learned about how he then became The Bishop of Llandaff Cathedral. Following the very interactive and fun session, the children had tours of The Cathedral to learn about its history – they were especially interested in seeing what is believed to be part of St Teilo’s skull which had been turned into a chalice. The children were exceptionally well behaved and respectful, as well as being very engaged throughout the visit. Bendigedig Blwyddyn 6!



With all this activity going on there is obviously still a lot going on in terms of curriculum. Reception have been using the Emerald Forest during their numeracy work on subtraction. The children explored and handled different seafood this week: prawns, mussels and a squid and have made some fantastic artwork using natural objects found at the seaside. Y4 have been doing the Science Project, ‘Potions’. They have explored and investigated the different states of matter and carried



out lots of science experiments! They have written and recorded their own potions inspired by George’s Marvellous Medicine and even designed and created their own clay potion bottles! Year 6 have enjoyed a week of expressive arts activities as part of their topic ‘Hola Mexico’. They also made traditional Mexican hot chocolate from scratch and I was invited to try some, including the added chilli flakes!

PTA Message

Following the success of the Film night at school, the PTA are busy preparing for the Summer Fete day, which will take place in the school grounds after pick up on Friday 9th June. It promises to be a fantastic school community event where pupils will be taking over showcasing their own products, shows and helping us. If you have any items that you would like to donate to our stalls then please get in touch with your Class rep. We need:

- Items for our Bric a Brac stall,
- Good quality second hand uniform or St David’s day/Christmas/World Book Day outfits
- Cake donations
- Donations for bottle and teddy tombola

If you would like to help on the day, we would love to have you! Please get in touch with your class rep to learn how you can support us. We look forward to your support and please bring lots of cash to help us achieve our target of buying more outdoor learning equipment. Thank you.

Welsh National Tests in Year 2 to Year 6

These will be taking place after half term. There are 3 tests in total – Reading, Numeracy Procedural and Numeracy Reasoning.

The tests are all carried out online and are personalised by the system. As the children progress through the test, the questions are adjusted to suit their ability i.e. if they are struggling, the questions may become easier and if they are doing well, they get more difficult. We do not want the children to be concerned about these tests (or quizzes as we call them with younger children). We tell them that they are just done to help the teachers know what they need to teach them next. If your child is absent on the day of any of the tests, we will do our best to complete them on their return. However, we cannot guarantee this as it depends on the availability of support staff. All the tests offer standardised scores to provide us with information on how well the children are doing and which areas need further development. We do not want the children to be concerned about these tests (or quizzes as we call them with younger children). We tell them that they are just done to help the teachers know what they need to teach them next. If you have any questions or queries, please contact your child's class teacher. When reports come out, we will also provide information on how to access the results of these tests.

REMINDER OF DATES

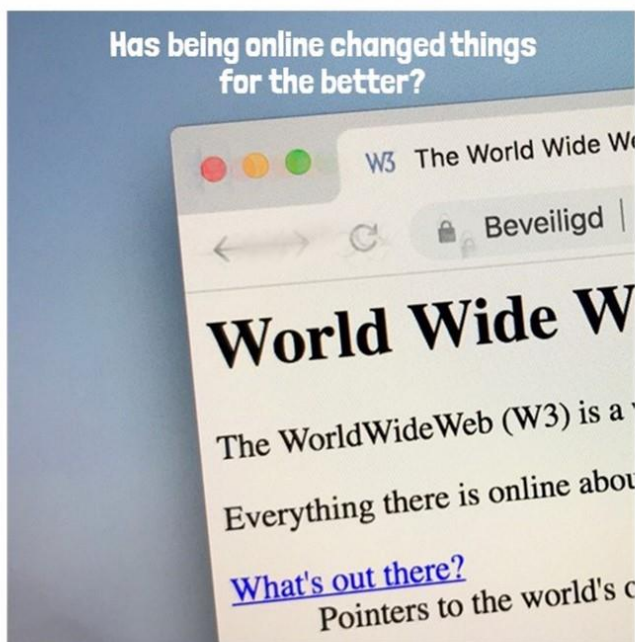
29th May – 2nd June	Half Term
6th June	Class Photos
9th June	PTA Summer Fete
12th June	Year 1 trip to Cardiff
14th June	PTA Discos
15th June	Year 4 Class Worship
18th June	Reception Service at St Peter's Church
19th June	Refugee week
19th June	Stanwell School Transition day
26th June	Nursery Trip
28th June	St Cyres School Transition day
29th June	Cowbridge Comp Transition day
29th June	PTA Coffee Morning
29th June	Nursery and Reception Induction
30th June	Year 5 Class Worship
3rd July	Year 5 pilgrimage walk to St Andrews Church
7th July	Bishop of Llandaff C/W High transition day
10th July	St Cyres Music Master class (Y5 and Y6 musicians)
12th July	Y6 Diocesan Leavers' service at Llandaff Cathedral (no parents sorry)
16th July	Year 6 Leavers at St Peter's Church
19th July	Y6 Leavers' Show in The Parish Hall (am)
19th July	Reception to Y2 trip to Cefn Mably Farm
20th July	Y6 Leavers' trip
21st July	Last day of term

PICTURE NEWS

As a school, we have been using an excellent resource called 'Picture News' to support class-based worship. I will be sharing the home link section from now on so that you can see what the children may have been discussing. This week the discussions were about the internet:

Story: 30 years ago, on 30th April 1993, Swiss science company CERN opened up the World Wide Web to the world, free-of-charge.

Question: Has being online changed things for the better?



In the news this week

30 years ago, on 30th April 1993, Swiss science company CERN opened up the World Wide Web to the world, free-of-charge. The 'collaborative information system' was being used by the scientists at CERN (the European Organisation for Nuclear Research) to communicate, without delay, across countries and continents but deciding that there could be wider uses for the tool, they made it available for everyone.

Things to talk about at home ...

- How often do you access websites online? Are there any particular sites that are your favourites? What about others in your home?
- Talk to someone older, who can remember a time before people had access to the World Wide Web. Ask them how things were different.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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Some lovely news to share before we finish for half term. At the beginning of May, Mrs Frangoulis gave birth to Tobias. Both mother and baby are doing well and I am sure you would like to join me in sending our love and best wishes.



Wishing you all a lovely half term break. We look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 5th June for the last half term of the year.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G Hallett".

Gen Hallett
Headteacher

