



Headteacher: Mrs A Norman BA (QTS) Hons NPQH
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Newsletter 1 **Friday 9th September 2016**

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back after what seems like a very long summer holiday break. I think, like me, the children were eager to come back to school on Tuesday and were more than ready to start their new academic year at school.

I was overwhelmed by the amount of children who came to school in their full uniform; in fact, EVERY SINGLE CHILD had black shoes, grey/black trousers or skirt, white shirts and blue jumpers/cardigans and grey/white/black socks or tights. Staff commented on this being a first for St. Andrew's Primary School and we applaud you, our parents and carers, for recognising how important small changes are to improving school standards. I hope you saw the photo of the children looking "smart as carrots" on Class Dojo.

My first week as the new Acting Head of St. Andrew's has been most enjoyable. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the children, working with staff, welcoming new staff and talking to parents at the gate. I know that I cannot do my job well without the people that matter; pupils, parents, staff and governors and so I plan to spend as much time talking to you all to find out what you want for your school. You can catch me most mornings on the gate at 8.45pm so come and say hello if you can or if you would like a more private chat, please ring the office to make an appointment.

Welcome

As well as welcoming our new staff Mrs Murphy (class 5) Mr Donaldson (class3) and Mrs Castledine (Nursery/Reception) we have also welcomed our very first Nursery children to our Foundation Stage Unit. Our five little ones have made a really positive start and seem to be thoroughly enjoying their time at school. We wish them a happy time in Nursery!

The Great Outdoors

This year we have some exciting plans to take learning outdoors. We know that children thrive physically and mentally, are motivated to learn, get that all important fresh air and gain opportunities to be more active when they spend time outdoors. Staff are working on planning some exciting lessons which will incorporate our curriculum outdoors. Look out for photos on your Class Story on Class Dojo.

We ask parents to send children with a jacket or coat everyday as they children will be going outside, whatever the weather.

If any parents have any experience with outdoor landscaping or would just like to lend a hand improving our grounds please let us know if you can help.

Foundation of Light

This year we have invited into school the Foundation Of Light; an organisation which uses the power of football to involve, educate and inspire young people and their families to improve their lifestyles. Beginning on Tuesday 13th September and lasting for 10 weeks, our Reception and Year 1 children will take part in "Little Dribbers," an early football and fitness programme. Our Year 6 class will be involved with "Samson Shoes," a design and enterprise project resulting in the class taking their work to the Stadium of Light to pitch





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against other schools for the best design. You may have already seen the flyer for “Family Learning”, a 10 week programme which works with families to inspire them to make healthy lifestyle choices. There are still some places left for this but be quick, as they are limited. And finally, the after school football club is open to all children from Reception upto Year 6, every Tuesday with Callum our coach.

Fond Farewell

During the summer we have had to say a fond farewell to Mrs Knight, who has decided to try a different career path. Children and staff will miss her greatly and wish her well in her new venture. I would like to personally thank Mrs Knight for all her hard work as a Teaching Assistant in our school. Mrs Thompson, our dinner lady, has also decided not to return this term and again will be greatly missed by us all. I am sure you will join us in saying thank you and good luck to them both.

Special Delivery!

Great News. Mrs Dickinson gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Zach, on 15th August 2016. He weighed in at 6lb 3oz. Both mummy and baby are doing well. Congratulations to the Dickinson family.

School Dinners

Gill Walton, our school cook, is looking forward to inviting parents and carers to some lunch events, ran by Taylor Shaw, over the coming academic year. Details to follow. Our school dinners are cooked onsite, use fresh ingredients and have a high nutritional value and we urge parents, who don't use our school dinner service, to consider the benefits of having a hot, nutritional meal provided every day. Dinners cost £2 a day.

Packed Lunches

As we are a healthy school, we ask that parents provide healthy packed lunches for their children. We only allow one chocolate product per lunch box. Should your child bring more than the allowance we will swap it with a healthy piece of fruit. The NHS **Change 4 Life** website gives some great alternatives to sugary and fat filled foods.

Social Media

Please can I ask that parents and carers do not friend request staff on social media websites.

Medical Appointments

We ask that, if it is at all possible, for parents to make medical or dental appointments out of school hours. However, we understand that this is not always possible and so we insist on parents presenting the school office with a letter or appointment card as proof of the appointment, before your child is taken out of school.

Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club has always been popular. This year we are placing more staff in the club who will engage the children in a range of activities to get them started for the day ahead. Breakfast club provides a healthy breakfast of toast, cereal, fruit or yoghurt aswell as fun activities, all for £1.





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Class Dojo

This year we will be using Class Dojo even more to communicate with parents. There will be no more paper newsletters given out on a Friday; all of our news will be on Class Dojo's "School Story" feature.

Teachers now have mini ipads in class and will be using them to take and send instant pictures, either to individual parents or to whole class parent groups to show you the fantastic work the children have been doing at school. It really is a great way of finding out about your child's education and behaviour in school.

Remember you can "like" a photo or comment positively about it. We love to hear your thoughts too.

Class Dojo is still being used for parents to contact teachers with queries or questions or even to let us know about something your child has done well at, at home; you can even send us photos now. Although please remember that teachers have a private life too and may not be able to respond to you immediately and that more lengthy or complicated queries are best discussed with the class teacher in person.

If you have not downloaded the Class Dojo App onto your phone, tablet or computer, you run the risk of missing out on important news and messages. Classes 2, 3 and 4 are sending out new login details but class 6 stay the same. If you have any difficulty with Class Dojo, please see Mr. Orwin or Mr. Soppitt for support. Let's see if we can 100% of parents logged on!

Golden Triangle

As you are aware, our Behaviour Triangle works really well in school and supports children in managing their own behaviour. However, we feel that there are some children in our school, who not only stay in the Green Zone all day every day, but also go that extra mile to demonstrate absolutely outstanding behaviour. So, we have created the Golden Triangle for those children.

Each Friday, the class teachers will choose one child from their class who has demonstrated these qualities over the past week and nominate them to appear on the Golden Triangle in the school hall. The children who have been nominated will have automatic first choice for Golden Time the following week and can sign up first thing on a Monday morning.

I look forward to working with you all as Acting Head Teacher
Yours sincerely

Mrs James

Acting Head Teacher





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Diary Dates

Here are some dates for your diary that we have for this term so far.

September

13th – Foundation of Light: **Rec/Y1** Little Dribblers, Y6 Samson's Shoes, Family Learning

14th – **Class 5** Believe and Achieve at Bishop Barrington Comprehensive School
(no swimming)

16th – Tempest Photography for individuals and siblings

October

4th and 5th – Parents evenings and Art Gallery Event

18th – **Class 5** (Y6) Class assembly 9:10am

20th – **Class 4** (Y4/5) Class assembly 9:10am

21st – School closes for half term

November

10th – **Class 3** (Y3/4) Class assembly 9:10am

17th – **Class 2** (Y1/2) Class assembly 9:10am

17th – **Class 4** visit from Bishop Barrington School for outdoor technology project

18th – Children in Need Day- Spotty Theme

24th – **Nursery and Reception** Class assembly 9:10am

December

12th – Christmas performance 1 1:30pm start

13th – Whole school and family pantomime event (afternoon performance)

14th – Christmas performance 2 1:30pm start

15th – **Reception and KS1** Christmas party 1pm -3pm **KS2** Christmas party 3pm – 4:30pm

16th – Whole School Carol service - School Closes for Christmas holidays

