

Newsletter 6 – July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I really can't believe how quickly this academic year has gone! It doesn't seem five minutes ago since I was welcoming the children into school in September and here we are now at the end of the year.

Highlights of 2016 -2017

For me this year has been a year of "first times" and successes.

As a first time Headteacher, taking on a role as important as this can be quite a daunting task – especially when following in the footsteps of Mrs Norman. However, the children have motivated me to work as hard as I can to ensure their safety and education is at the forefront of everything we do. With the support of you, the parents, our Governors and other community members I know that together we have accomplished some great things for our school.

This year saw the first residential trip to Robin Wood, which for the children and I, created a whole host of special memories. It was such a success we hope to go again next year!

We also saw our first Nursery pupils start at St. Andrew's, in September. Our youngest pupils have been welcomed with open arms by everyone in school and we know that they are going to benefit greatly from their high-quality nursery experience as they move into Reception.

Our PTA, headed by Parent Governor Mr Waldock, and supported by Miss Pole and Miss Booth, has seen an unprecedented amount of fundraising this year. With over £4,000 raised over the year, we have broken previous fundraising records.

And of course, just recently, we celebrated the official opening of the Trim Trail with the biggest and best Summer Fair ever. We were overwhelmed by the turn out which demonstrated the huge amount of support the school has from parents and carers.

At Christmas time, the whole school visited the Durham Gala pantomime with every member of staff and other family members coming along to join in the fun. It was great to see everyone coming together to enjoy the festivities. We hope to repeat the experience this Christmas too – oh yes we are!

We have welcomed some new visitors and taken the children to some new places for the first time this year. The children loved the BOX2BFIT sessions this term, they learned how to write creatively with Adam Bushnell and were encouraged to think about bullying after an Anti bullying performance and workshop. Two classes have visited Teesmouth outdoor learning centre, one class learned forest skills at Auckland castle and another class are looking forward to visiting York University for the first time this week. We strive to broaden the children's experiences and are looking forward to introducing the children to new people and places next year.

I feel extremely privileged to have been a part of every one of those highlights but I am equally excited about looking forward to next year.

Classes for 2017-2018

Next week, the children will spend time in their new classroom with their new teacher. This week is very important for the teachers to get to know their new pupils and vice versa.

The classes for next year are as follows:

Class	Year Groups	Teacher	Support assistants
Early Years	Nursery and Reception	Mrs Castledine	Mrs Brunskills Miss Makepeace
Class 1	Year 1	Mrs Dickinson (am) Miss Hez (pm)	Miss Pole
Class 2	Year 2	Miss Hez	
Class 3	Year 3 and 4	Mr Soppitt	Mrs Wharton Miss Minns
Class 4	Year 4 and 5	Mrs Richards	Mrs Wilson
Class 5	Year 6	Mrs Foggin	Mrs Young

You will see that we are welcoming two new teachers to our staff team this year. Mrs Richards is a newly qualified teacher, who completed her first teaching placement at St Andrew's in the Autumn term. We were so impressed with her work and commitment to teaching, when she was training, that we were so pleased to be able to appoint her as year 5 teacher. Miss Hez (short for Hemal mulch) has recently returned from teaching in Dubai and brings with her some new and exciting teaching strategies to share with the staff. Before that, she worked at Woodhouse Primary School and so has an excellent knowledge of the locality and the families who live here. She will also be leading literacy across the school.

Please note: Miss Hez is unfortunately unavailable for next week's transition week due to other commitments and so year 2 will spend next week with Mrs Dickinson and instead Miss Hez will spend the final week of the term with her new class.

End of Year Reports

Children will bring their end of year reports home on Monday 17th July. If you would like to discuss the content of the report with your child's class teacher please do not hesitate to make an appointment via the school office.

I am confident that there are going to be many proud parents in Bishop Auckland when those reports reach home!

Farewells

We say a fond farewell to Mrs Whigham, teaching assistant in Early Years, and wish her the very best for the future.

We also say farewell to the year 6 pupils, who have done us proud. They have worked so hard to achieve fantastic results and we look forward to celebrating their time at St. Andrew's at their Prom on July 14th and their leavers assembly on July 20th, where I'm sure there won't be a dry eye in the house!

Looking forward to next year

It's going to be difficult to top this academic year, that's for sure, but I am confident that St. Andrew's will grow from strength to strength and continue to nurture our pupils academically, emotionally and socially, especially with the increasing level of engagement and involvement from you, our parents and carers.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for all the support and positive comments and feedback you have given me over this year. Knowing I have your support in everything I do means the world to me and reminds me how lucky I am to be leading such an amazing school as St. Andrew's Primary School.

I wish you all a safe, sunny and happy summer holidays and look forward to seeing you all in September!

Yours Sincerely

Mrs N James

Acting Headteacher