



St. Andrew's C of E Primary Academy



AUTUMN TERM 2025-26 NEWSLETTER ISSUE 10 FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend last week's Parents' Evening sessions. It was lovely to see and hear so many great conversations about the work in books and hearing the children explain their learning so clearly. It is always a pleasure for us to share with you the things that are going well and for you to see the great learning that your children are engaged with. Equally, this is a time for us to work together and for you to ask questions, raise any concerns and give us feedback. We heard your feedback and we have listened.

We loved to hear how seamlessly Reception children have joined the main school. Many thanks to our fabulous Little Acorns team for making this transition so easy for our Reception class. Parents have told us how much they like the Read, Write, Inc phonics reading scheme (from Reception and into Year 1 and 2) and the maths packs for Squirrels class. We also heard how much children are still enjoying Times Tables Rock Stars and Accelerated Reader. So many families told us about the positive engagement from their children for Magma Maths for home learning (Years 3-5) and LBQ (Y6). Many parents, however, asked questions about spelling homework and how they can support this better at home. We heard this and we have acted. From January we will be using a new online learning platform for spelling. It has lots of fun games and is similar to TTRockstars, which we know the children really love. We will send login details out in January ready for its launch.

Well, it is beginning to look a bit like Christmas! Reception and KSI are now fully rehearsing for their nativity play as it is only two weeks away! The stage is now set up and stars are being born! Mrs Gilfillan and Mr Evans are working with their costume and staging departments to ensure every angel, villager, shepherd and king is set for their starring moment. The children have been excitedly telling me about their parts – how many lines they have, who else has the same role as them and what they will wear. Those I have spoken to have been so enthusiastic and it has been wonderful to hear.

Many thanks to everyone who has given so generously to our appeal for donations for our Friends of School Christmas hampers. Miss Williamson has returned to the office every day laden down with goodies and Mrs Jackson has been busy making a range of fantastic Christmas hampers and prizes for upcoming events. Thank you so much! After the large financial outlay for the new (and much loved) climbing frame on the playground, FoS are looking to have some great fundraising events over the next few weeks to build their bank balance back up, allowing them to spend the money raised on the children once again. The children will tell you that our, once plentiful, stock of Chromebooks are beginning to need repairs and replacements so we would love to have funds available for this.

Don't forget to visit the St Andrew's Day Fayre tomorrow, if you can. There will be a range of activities for the children including making a melting snowman biscuit, a colouring competition, lucky dip and writing a special letter to Father Christmas.

There are still some spaces available on our Friends of School Festive Tractor Trundle on Sunday 7th December. If you have a tractor (or know someone who does) please spread the word! For those of us who don't own a tractor there will still be plenty to get involved with. The event can be seen travelling through Forton, Winsham, Thorncombe, Marshwood, Hawkchurch, Waggs Plot and Alston and finally arriving at the village hall at approximately 5pm. There will be jacket potatoes and a variety of drinks available from 5pm-6.30pm (although please expect a delay in service whilst those of us preparing and serving take a few moments outside to see the arrival of the tractors!) You are invited to join us at 6pm when we can get together for a variety of Christmas songs and some carols to keep us in the festive mood.

Have a lovely weekend,

Donna Butler (Head of School)

Our Core Value
this half term is:

**Making Good
Choices**

Autumn 2 Clubs –

**Monday – Dodgeball
Club (Y3-6) Mr Troman**

**Monday – Film Club
(Y3-6) Mrs Davey**

**Tuesday – Mindfulness
and Yoga Club (Rec-
Y2) Mrs Gilfillan – FULL**

**Tuesday – Singing Club
(Y3-6) Mrs Butler**

**Thursday (lunchtime)
Eco Club (Y5-6) Mr and
Mrs Keam**

**Thursday – Forest
School Club (All Years)
Mrs Gordon-Watson**

**After school childcare
is also available
Monday – Thursday
3.30-5.30pm**

Thought for the Week:



Attendance – last week

Whole School – 93.8%



Classes:

Hedgehogs Class – R

Squirrels Class – Y1/2

Owls Class – Y3/4

Foxes Class – Y5/6