

21st September 2018

NEWSLETTER 3 AUTUMN TERM 2018-2019

Dear Parents/carers and children,

WELCOME & COMMISSIONING SERVICE

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our Welcome & Commissioning Service at St. Andrew's Church today. During the service we welcomed new families and staff to our school community. We also officially welcomed Mr. Keith Atkins as our new Head Teacher. Please see the attachment 'Ten Commandment words', which Year 6 presented in Church. Below are a couple of pictures of Mr Atkins taken during the Service.



CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to offer a huge congratulations to Mrs. Hampshire who has let us know that she is expecting a baby. I know that the whole school community will want to join me in wishing her all the best!

UNIFORM

It is wonderful to see so many children starting the year looking smart and ready to learn. We would like to remind parents about our uniform policy and especially to draw attention to the following:

- ALL hair accessories should be small, discreet and in school colours. Children will be asked to remove any hair accessories which do not fit this description
- Girls' skirts should be at least knee length, and in school colours, black, navy blue or grey.
- School shoes should be black lace ups or velcro/buckle fastening. Trainers and casual 'Van' style shoes are NOT permitted to be worn
- Earrings should be a single small, discreet metal stud. Larger coloured 'stones' are not acceptable
- NO make up is to be worn in school, including nail varnish
- Children must have a plain, navy blue jumper or cardigan. We do not insist on a jumper with the school logo, but hoodies, fluffy cardigans etc are NOT appropriate.
- Socks & tights should be plain grey, navy, black or white

Thank you with your cooperation with this. We will be monitoring uniform very closely over the next few weeks as we consider it to be a part of our focus on the value of Respect.

FLU VACCINATIONS FOR RECEPTION AND YEARS 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

The SAINT team (School Aged Immunisation Team for Somerset) will be in school on Wednesday 21st November to deliver the vaccination programme. Information packs including the consent form have been sent home today. **Please fully complete and return the consent form to school, EVEN IF YOU DO NOT CONSENT, NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 5TH OCTOBER.** The SAINT team will then collect consent forms from us in order for them to be checked in advance of the scheduled programme.

ATTENDANCE

We recognise the importance of regular attendance as a key factor in our pupils' achievement. It is therefore essential that parents work in partnership with the school. A child with 90% attendance at the end of the school year will have missed the equivalent of 4 weeks absence. Greater attention is now paid to overall absence by the Department for Education. Therefore we do not authorise any term time absences for holidays and will only authorise an absence in exceptional circumstances. All such unauthorised absence has to be referred to the Local Authority Education Welfare Department. When a child's absence falls below 90% this may lead to the issuing of a Fixed Penalty fine. Please be reminded that it is a parent's responsibility to notify the school in the event of a child's absence. This needs to be done each day by 9.30am at the very latest either in person, by telephone or via email. If we do not receive notification as to the reason for absence your child will be recorded as having an unauthorised absence.

MONDAY AFTER SCHOOL		
Running/Fitness Club	KS2	Mrs Gerrard
Badminton (Invitation only)	Years 5 & 6	Mr Green
TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL		
Tag Rugby	Years 5 & 6	Mr Green
Study Club	Years 4,5 & 6	Mrs Gerrard
WEDNESDAY AFTER SCHOOL		

CANCELLED CLUBS NEXT WEEK COMM 24th Sept

Please note that Tag Rugby Club on Tuesday is cancelled due to a fixture

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

If your child is unable to attend their after-school club for any reason, please ensure you inform the member of staff running the club.



GOLD SPORT MARK

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2017/2018 academic year. The School Games Mark is a government-led award scheme facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community. As part of our application we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of

Handball	Years 5 & 6	Mrs Gerrard
Girl's Football	KS2	Mr Green
THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL		
DJ Club	KS1 & KS2	Mrs Exell
Dance (around the world!)	KS2	Mrs Gerrard
Boys' Football	Years 3 & 4	Mr Green
FRIDAY LUNCHTIME		
Choir	Years 4,5 & 6	Miss Sadler
FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL		
Study Club	Years 4,5 & 6	Mrs Gerrard
Football (Girls & Boys)	Years 1 & 2	Mr Green

participation, competition, workforce and clubs. Thank you to everyone who has worked hard at helping us to achieve this prestigious accolade.

STARTING PRIMARY SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2019 – APPLICATION DEADLINE 15th January 2019

The process for applying for primary school has changed in Somerset. The Local Authority will not be sending letters to parents of children due to start in 2019.

The application portal on the LA website is now open and parents can apply on line <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-learning-and-schools/choosing-a-school/> or they can phone Somerset Direct for a paper copy of the application 0300 123 2224.

Parent information is now available on the Local Authority Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SomersetSchoolAdmissions/>

PTFA

Parent Party & BBQ Friday 28th September 5.30-7.30pm

We are holding a BBQ **for all parents**. This will be an opportunity for new reception parents to meet and chat with other parents and to meet the PTFA Committee, and hear about the work we do. You may wish to join our team!. Children are also very welcome. There will be lots of fun activities to do: a bouncy castle, games to play etc. There will also be a bar so you can purchase alcoholic drinks. We will be sending out letters with more info, hope you can come. **THE PTFA WILL BE IN THE VICARAGE PLAYGROUND AFTER SCHOOL EVERY DAY NEXT WEEK TO HAND OUT WRISTBANDS FOR UNLIMITED USE OF THE BOUNCY CASTLE (£3) AND TO ALSO HAND OUT FREE TICKETS FOR THIS EVENT.**

PTFA meeting / AGM

NEXT Monday (24th September) in the hall at 3.30 pm– Letters to follow

Easyfundraising

There is no charge for the Easyfundraising scheme. The school benefits from all your online purchases and its very easy to use. There are no catches or hidden charges and we will be really grateful for your donations.

Download the Easyfundraising App from the App Store

Search for our cause "St Andrews Church School PTFA – Taunton"

Click "Join Us" (or visit <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/standrewschurchsch>)

Once you have registered you simply need to click on the Easyfundraising App which will direct you to all your online suppliers at the click on an icon. It really is very simple and quick. There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, eBay, Asda, Argos, Tesco, Boots, John Lewis, Sainsbury's and many more.

Any questions please ask a member of the PTFA or see our step by step guide on our Facebook page.

Race Night Friday 30th November. £5 per ticket to include food and free raffle ticket. Bring your own drinks! Please see a member of the PTFA for your ticket!

Keep a lookout for upcoming dates :

Christmas fair, Santa's grotto, Disco's

SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN DAYS

The deadline for applying for a secondary school place for our current Year 6 pupils is 31st October 2018. Our local secondary schools are holding open days over the coming weeks. Please see details below. Please ensure you inform the school office if your child will be missing any school sessions in order to attend a secondary school open day.

IF YOU HAVE MISSED THE OPEN MORNINGS & EVENINGS AT THE CASTLE SCHOOL OR BISHOP FOX'S, PLEASE CONTACT THEM DIRECT TO ARRANGE A VIEWING

The Taunton Academy - Open Mornings Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th October PLEASE CALL TAUNTON ACADEMY ON 348200 to book an appointment

Heathfield Community School - Open Evening - Thursday 27th September 6-8.30pm

Brymore Open Mornings - Friday 5th October 9.30am-12pm, Saturday 6th October 10am-12pm (Boarder specific)

King's College - Open Day - Saturday 6th October 10am

Queen's College - Open Morning - Saturday 6th October 9.30am-12noon

DIARY DATES

SEPTEMBER	
Monday 24th	'Meet the Head' @2.30pm to 3.15pm, followed by PTFA AGM
Tuesday 25th	Year 3 Forest School – FIRST SESSION

Friday 28th	Parents BBQ Party 5.30-7pm
OCTOBER	
Tuesday 2nd	Year 3 Forest School
Friday 12th	Year 3 Forest School
Monday 15th	Harvest Festival 2.00pm at St. Andrew's Church (please note amended time)
Tuesday 16th	Year 5/6 Museum Workshops – in school, Y4 Visit Kilkenny House – Dementia Project
Tuesday 16th	Open Classrooms KS2 only
Wednesday 17th	Open Classrooms KS1 only
Friday 19th	Year 3 Forest School
Tuesday 23rd	Parents' Evening
Thursday 25th	Parents' Evening
Friday 26th	INSET DAY (School closed to pupils)
Monday 29th	HALF TERM
NOVEMBER	
Monday 5th	Back to school
Monday 12th	Remembrance Service
Thursday 15th	School Photographer
Monday 19th	INSET DAY (School closed to pupils)
Thursday 21st	Flu immunisations Reception Year through to & including Year 5
DECEMBER	
Thursday 6th	Pantomime
Wednesday 19th	Nativity Service Christmas Dinner (Details TBC)
Friday 21st	Last day of Autumn term Christmas Jumper Day (Come to school in your festive jumper for a donation of £1)
Monday 24th	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS Crib Service at St. Andrew's Church
JANUARY 2019	
Monday 7th	INSET DAY (School closed to pupils)
Tuesday 8th	Back to school

Yours sincerely,

Keith Atkins
Head Teacher