

9th November 2018

NEWSLETTER 9 AUTUMN TERM 2018-2019

Dear Parents/carers and children,

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a great half-term break.

MYSTERY MONDAY

We had our first Mystery Monday this week. Each class received a special gold envelope that contained a mystery challenging question which the children researched all day and then presented to everyone in a special assembly at the end of school. We were so proud of the way that all the children approached what were some very tricky questions, such as 'What is Brexit and does it matter?', 'Why are the polar ice-caps melting?' and 'What happened to the dinosaurs?'

LOCKDOWN

We carried out our first full lockdown practice at school today, and the children did very well staying hidden and quiet until the all clear was given.

CHRISTMAS DINNER – order deadline Dec 12th

On Wednesday 19th December, we will be serving our traditional Christmas dinner at lunchtime **instead of the normal menu, WHICH IS NOW NOT AVAILABLE**. Christmas dinner is available for the whole school. If your child is entitled to free school meals or is in EYFS/Key Stage 1 the meal will be free, otherwise the cost of the meal is £2.50.

Christmas dinner will be served with a Christmas cracker and the choices are as follows:

Traditional Christmas Dinner (Roast turkey, pigs in blankets, stuffing, roast potatoes and veg)

Vegetarian Christmas Dinner (Roast Quorn, roast potatoes and veg)

To order a meal, please login to the ParentPay system. **The final deadline for ordering a Christmas dinner is Wednesday 12th December.** Please note if you have already ordered a meal for this day, **your order will be cancelled** and any monies paid will be reimbursed via a credit to your ParentPay account. **If your child wishes to have a school Christmas dinner on this day, you will need to log on and re-order via ParentPay.**

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER



Tempest Photography will be visiting school next week, on Thursday 15th November 2018 to take individual and sibling photos of our pupils. If you have a younger child who you wish to be included in a sibling group, you are invited to come to school at 8.30am on Thursday 15th November to have the photograph taken. Photographs will be available to order directly online. Details to follow.

MONDAY AFTER SCHOOL			<u>CANCELLED CLUBS (COMMENCING 12th November)</u> Dance club is cancelled next Thursday 15 th November
Running/Fitness Club	KS2	Mrs Gerrard	
TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL			<u>CHANGE IN VENUE FOR RUNNING CLUB FOR MONDAY 12TH NOVEMBER</u> Running Club is going to King's College for a cross country event on Monday 12 th November- all children who normally attend Running Club have been invited, but we need their consent form back in order for them to attend.
Tag Rugby	Years 5 & 6	Mr Green	
Study Club	Years 4,5 & 6	Mrs Gerrard	
WEDNESDAY AFTER SCHOOL			<u>AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS</u> 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.
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			
Singing Club	KS1	Miss Brett	
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	



CHILDREN IN NEED - 'SPOTACULAR' – Friday 16th November

This year we will be supporting the BBC event in the following ways:

COVER PUDSEY WITH COINS Before school you will have the opportunity to 'Cover Pudsey with Coins' – there will be large pictures of Pudsey Bear in the playgrounds, so please bring in your change and let's try and cover them both.

WEAR SOMETHING SPOTTY! On Friday 16th November, children can come to school wearing a spotty accessory (such as socks or scarf) or simple face paints with their uniform to show their support for the day. Donation of £1.

WIN A PUDSEY Children can bring in 20p to buy a raffle ticket, to be in with a chance of winning a specially knitted Pudsey!

Please do your best to help us raise a record amount this year.



MOBILE PHONE-FREE ZONE

Thank you for continuing to respect our 'Mobile-free' policy. We appreciate that when you come onto school site, for drop off and pick up, you will have your mobile phone with you, but we do ask that you do not have your mobile phone out UNLESS IT IS AN EMERGENCY. Should you need to use your mobile phone, we ask that you step outside of the school premises.

LOST PROPERTY

A Reception child has lost a blue coat. If your child has inadvertently brought one home that doesn't belong to them, could you please return it to the School Office. Thank you.

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.



TWITTER

For general information on what's happening in school, please follow our main Twitter account which is @StAndrewTaunton, however for more class specific information, all our classes have their own individual class page, as follows:-

@StAndrewSports1 @class_exe @BrueClass @ClassSomer @ClassHuntspill @CaryClass @SheppeyClass @ToneClass2.

LIBRARY

The library is open until 3.45pm Mondays and Wednesdays for ALL children who wish to borrow and return books. It is also open during Golden time on a Friday afternoon at the class teacher's discretion. Please encourage your children to make the most of our library. There will be end of term rewards for the pupils/classes who have used the library the most!



PTFA

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 :

Meet Santa Tuesday 11th December 3.15pm (We shall be selling our famous marshmallow snowmen too!)

Xmas fair 5-7pm Friday 14th December more info to follow

School discos EYFS/KS1 & KS2 Thursday 20th December ~ More info to follow

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/>

Yours sincerely,

Keith Atkins
Head Teacher

DIARY DATES

NOVEMBER	
Monday 12th	10am Remembrance Service at St. Andrew's Church
Thursday 15th	School Photographer
Monday 19th	INSET DAY (School closed to pupils)
Wednesday 21st	Flu immunisations Reception Year through to & including Year 5
DECEMBER	
Thursday 6th	Pantomime
Wednesday 19th	Nativity Service Christmas Dinner
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