

11th January 2019

NEWSLETTER 16 SPRING TERM 2018-2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear Parents/carers and children,

WELCOME BACK

It has been great to see everyone back after a well-earned Christmas break. I have been particularly pleased to see how smart everyone looks and that all of the children are keen to pick up where they left off with having a great attitude to school, a strong sense of pride in their behaviour and a very positive attitude all round.

BIKEABILITY

A number of our Year 6 pupils spent two days undertaking a tough course this week on how to ride their bicycles safely. They listened very carefully to instructions and showed a sensible approach to dealing with traffic and different road conditions.

ATTENDANCE POLICY – FIXED PENALTY FINES

We are required to refer ALL unauthorised absences to the Local Authority Education Welfare Department. Please note from January 2019, if a **child's absence falls below 90%, this referral may lead to a Fixed Penalty fine being issued.**

A child with 90% attendance at the end of the school year will have missed the equivalent of 4 weeks of school. We recognise the importance of regular attendance as a key factor in our pupils' achievement and greater attention is now paid to overall absence by the Department for Education. It is essential that parents work in partnership with the school. Therefore, we do not authorise ANY term time absences for holidays and will only authorise an absence in very exceptional circumstances.

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 or by telephone via the absence line, which is on the School main number. If we do not receive notification as to the reason for absence, your child will be recorded as having an unauthorised absence. Further information can be found in our Attendance Policy on the school website.



SCHOOL LUNCHES

Spring school lunches are now available to order via ParentPay. Please ensure you keep track of your child's lunch orders and ensure you meet the deadline for ordering meals for the following week, which is the Wednesday of the preceding week. For KS1 children (no payment required), it is advisable to order lunches right up to Easter, to avoid missing a deadline and your child not having lunches provided. **Please note that for KS1 children, your meal choices for the following week are only available to view prior to the ordering deadline (Wednesday).**

EXCITING SCIENCE PROJECT (JANUARY 2019)

We are pleased to be welcoming Miss Kathryn Bates, a PhD student from University College London (Department of Neuropsychology) to our school. She is looking at how mental imagery develops in children. This research will be published as part of National research to inform education in the future. Don't miss out on the opportunity for your child to be part of this exciting project. Children need to be 6 years and older by January 2019 (Years 1 to 6). Please see the following link to register your child to take part. https://uclioe.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bDdT93f39JelAZ7



NATIVITY CD/DVD

If you wish to place an order for a CD of photos or a DVD of the Nativity service (or both), please login to ParentPay to place your order by Friday 18th January 2019.

MONDAY AFTER SCHOOL		
Running/Fitness Club	KS2	Mrs Gerrard
Girls' Cricket	KS2	Mr Green
TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL		
Boy's Football	Years 5 & 6	Mr Green
Study Club (finishes at 4pm)	Years 4,5 & 6	Mrs Gerrard
WEDNESDAY AFTER SCHOOL		
Netball	Years 5 & 6	Mrs Gerrard
THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL		
DJ Club	KS1 & KS2	Mrs Exell

SPORTS CLUBS

Clubs will begin next week (Week commencing Monday 14th January 2019). **For ALL sport clubs, please collect a letter from outside the School Office and apply/re-apply for a place in your chosen club.**

TUESDAY STUDY CLUB

Please note TUESDAY Study Club will now finish at 4pm. Please ensure you collect your child promptly at 4pm.

DJ CLUB

DJ Club starts back on Thursday 17th January 2019.

SCHOOL KIT

Could ALL school kit please be returned to the School Office as soon as possible.

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.

Dance (around the world!)	KS2	Mrs Gerrard
Hockey Club	Year 5 & 6	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
Catchball	Years 3 & 4	Mr Green



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT BARNARDO'S TAUNTON SHOP

Barnardo's shop in Taunton is currently looking to offer some opportunities to parents who are looking to gain experience in preparation for going back into the workplace, as well as those who are looking to fill their time and give something back. Volunteering is a great way for parents to gain experience and build their CV in preparation for the world of work, in a flexible way to suit their busy lives. Barnardo's are able to offer the chance to gain experience in customer service, stock processing, window displays, merchandising, the fashion industry, as well as gaining the more general skills needed in the workplace, such as team work, punctuality and motivation to become task-focussed and work to a team target. For longstanding volunteers, they are also able to look at the possibility of accessing level 2 qualifications in Customer Service and Retail. Barnardo's offer a supportive team, and a place for parents to meet new people, learn new skills and have fun!

Barnardo's are looking to provide flexible opportunities for parents to fit around their caring responsibilities, to help build skills and experience, as well as increasing confidence, self-esteem and motivation to work. Positions are available for whole days, or shorter half day/2 hour sessions, at the weekends and with time off during the school holidays if needed. Please visit the following link if you are interested:

barnardos.org.uk/volunteering

Somer Class Book Clear Out ~ Thursday 17th January

Somer Class have been sorting through the books in their classroom and have a collection of second hand books that are ready for a new home! Please come along to the covered area outside Huntspill Class next Thursday afterschool, bring a carrier bag and help yourself to as many of these books as you wish! The books will not be priced, but if you are able to make a small contribution towards our Archie Project charity there will be a collection box ready. Thank you for your support with our charity and happy reading!

PTFA

Happy New Year ~ we hope you all had a lovely Christmas!

The PTFA had such a busy few months preparing for the Christmas events and we are over the moon with how much we have raised for the school. This wouldn't have been possible without the support from the parents, so 'Thank you'. The children really enjoyed themselves too.

The total raised from each event :

Santa's grotto £137.00 Christmas fair £1,723.66 School discos £508.96

We are really pleased with the foundation playground project and we are already discussing the next one: the junior playground!

We are looking forward to this year and raising more money for the school.

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.

Diary Dates:

Wed 16th January 3.30pm School Hall - We will be holding a PTFA meeting to discuss events for this year ~ Everyone welcome. If you would like to join the committee then please let us know ~ we are always looking for new parents and ideas ! We also have a fb group 'St Andrews Church School PTFA News'

Yours sincerely,

Keith Atkins
Head Teacher

DIARY DATES

JANUARY 2019	
Wednesday 16th	Year 5 Sports Festival PTFA Meeting 3.30pm in the school hall
Thursday 17th	Somer Class Book Clearout – after school
Tuesday 29th	Fire Brigade visiting Year 2 & Year 5
FEBRUARY 2019	
Tuesday 5th	5.30pm Charterhouse Information Meeting (Yr 5 parents) – Details TBC
Wednesday 6th	Year 4 Net & Wall Festival
Friday 15th	Break for half term
Monday 25 th	Back to school
MARCH 2019	
Thursday 7th	World Book Day
Wednesday 20th	Year 2 Multisports Festival at Wellsprings
Friday 22nd	Reception – Vision testing re-scheduled
APRIL 2019	
Friday 5th	Break for Easter Holidays
Tuesday 23rd	Back to school