St Andrew's C E Primary School
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6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all had a restful half term! As the days grow colder, children will still have access to the outdoor area, so we recommend that children bring a coat every day. Please ensure that *all* clothes are named. It is worth checking everything as pens fade and labels fall out and we end up with unnamed jumpers, gloves etc every week. Also if you have bought items from the second-hand uniform sale, please remove labels from previous owner as we can get very confused!

Curriculum

Please find attached a Topic Web, which outlines how we are covering the curriculum this term. 'Toys' is a fantastic topic where children will begin to understand the idea of past and present, old and new, now and then as a first step into the subject of history. We will think about a variety of celebrations and occasions taking place this term including bonfire night, Remembrance Day, St Andrew's Day and Christmas. Please remember that if you and your child/ren have a religious or cultural celebration coming up, we are always happy to invite you into our classroom to tell the class about it. Alternatively, you're welcome to send us photos on Class Dojo that we can then share on our Interactive Whiteboard.

PE and Library

The Year 1 PE day is Friday. Children will need their indoor **PE kit** in school (plain shorts or jogging bottoms/leggings, a plain white or blue T- shirt and perhaps a jumper if needed). This may be left in school on your child's peg for the term.

Library books are due in on a Thursday and should be placed in the box in the classroom. The class will then go to the library in the afternoon and choose a new book. These books can be changed at other points in the week if children put their book in the box in the morning, then choose to visit the library at lunchtime.

Reading at home

Your child should continue to bring home a Read Write Inc Book BAG Book each week. These are books or 'ditty sheets' that correspond directly with the phonics teaching your child has had that week. We recommend that these books are read two or three times each – the first time to decode, the second to begin to read with some fluency and perhaps some expression, and the third to be able to talk about what has happened in the book. By the third read, children should be able to read these to an adult with some confidence. These go home each Friday. We take these back out of book bags on a Wednesday and meticulously check them back in. These books are extremely precious to us as they are so specific to our chosen phonics scheme. We really appreciate having all these books returned on time, as we cannot use our scheme to teach phonics effectively without them. So far, we are thrilled with how well these are being looked after and want to thank you so much for your support in this.

Your child will also receive a Book BAND book - These are books with a coloured sticker that we hope children will enjoy reading together with an adult at home. These are taken out of book bags and exchanged each Thursday or Friday.

Please note: Reading a little each day can have a greater impact than once a week. Some children may be able to read their Book Bag Book with some ease. However, multiple readings of the book will help them to gain confidence and supports their writing, specifically their spelling (choosing the correct grapheme) due to seeing repeated patterns of sounds. It is helpful if you can make a note in their Reading Record book each time you hear them read – don't feel under pressure to write a lot if you'd rather not – just the date and 'read' helps us in the loop with who is being heard frequently. Thank you.

Homework

Homework will be put on Class Dojo every Friday. This will usually include a maths activity on Doodle Maths, reading/sharing their books and, on occasion, a topic or learning related activity. We do love it if your child can also complete their 'Five a day' challenge too. The children feel so much pride when they win the 'Doodle Maths' trophy!

Book Look

We would like to invite you to come into school and look at your child's books on Thursday 26th November from 8:40-9:00am. This is an opportunity for your child to talk to you about their learning and share pieces of work they are particularly proud of. Every child will have the chance to share their work with an adult or a friend, as we know not all parents/carers can be available at this time.

How you can get involved

In Year 1 we have a junk modelling station as part of our Continuous Provision. We are always grateful for donations of 'junk' – clean cardboard, boxes, tubes, plastics – for children to reimagine into something new!
We are always looking for scrap paper – if you have scrap paper or leftover paper or card or envelopes that are blank on at least one side and could be used by children, we would be grateful for it. (Again, please be aware of appropriateness of anything printed on paper and of GDPR.)
If you read our topic web and think you have a related specific skill or knowledge-set that could enrich the curriculum for our Year 1 children, then do let us know via Class Dojo and we can look into arranging a visit from you to our classroom.

Diary Dates

Friday 6th November	Festival of Faith (in school time, just for children)
Friday 13th November	Individual and Sibling school photographs
Thursday 19th November	Fire safety fire engine visit (KS1, in school time)
Friday 20th November	Children in Need day
Thursday 26th November	Parent/carer book look – 8.40-9.00
Thursday 26th November	Non uniform Day -Bring in an item for the Christmas Fair tombola
Friday 27th November	INSET Day – no children in school
Friday 4th December	SASA Christmas Fair
Monday 7th December	Year 1 & 2 Nativity at St Andrew's Church (6pm evening performance for parents and carers)
Tuesday 8th December	Year 1 & 2 Nativity at St Andrew's Church (morning Christmas service just for school)
Tuesday 15th December	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to Pegasus Theatre for Christmas performance* Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 to Oxford Playhouse for Christmas performance
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas lunch for Reception and Key Stage 1 – Children can wear a Christmas jumper!
Thursday 17th December	Christmas lunch for Key Stage 2 – All Year 1 children will need packed lunch
Friday 18th December	School ends at 1.30pm for Year 1 children

*Cost of KS1 theatre trip is approximately £10. More information to follow on this soon.

Do keep an eye out for further information about many of this term's exciting events.

Communication

If you have an urgent message regarding your child, please email or call the school office, as we are unlikely to see Dojo messages during the teaching day. If you have a non-urgent message, please use Class Dojo.

With best wishes,

Mrs Loveday and Mrs Band