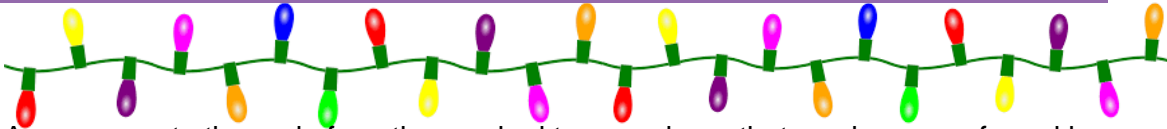


Stanley St Andrew's

Church of England Primary School



As we come to the end of another packed term we hope that you have a safe and happy time together at Christmas. I know that many of you will be glad for the break from the school run and just to be able to close the doors and have quality family time.

Thank you for all your kindness and support this year, my staff and I really appreciate those little emails, notes and items for the staff room to keep us all going.

We love being with the children and I am very proud of how they have all come into school ready for learning and living by our school values. There are many parents who do lots of things for us to help and we value those actions and thoughts.

Please continue to follow the government guidance for keeping everyone safe so that we can all return back to school in January 2021 healthy.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our children and families a Merry Christmas and a happy new year. My thanks go to all the staff who have worked so very hard in such trying times, showing dedication, teamwork and happiness in all that they have done this term.

Cold weather and open doors

The guidance from Government states that we need to keep the building well ventilated meaning that children and staff need to ensure that they have layers on to keep themselves warm. If at any point the temperature drops and we believe that children and staff are too cold, we will review school uniform and go for comfort and warmth.

Please make sure that your child is wearing a warm coat to school as we still have a number of children in waterproof jackets that do not keep them warm enough during outdoor play.

Thank you team FOSS

Thank you to FOSS for continuing to fund raise for our school despite COVID. This year even though we have been unable to have a Christmas fair we have still had a fantastic raffle and the children had fun taking part in sponsored reindeer races and decorating then filling boxes. It has been a huge success and in total we have raised £810.57 which is wonderful and will go towards purchasing a smart panel interactive whiteboard for one of our classrooms.

Over the past month FOSS have purchased £300 worth of guided reading books and black history materials. Already these materials are having an impact on the children's understanding of the world and encouraging them to ask staff big questions. On Wednesday each child in school will receive their Christmas gift which FOSS have paid for. This year children are being encouraged to open their gift on Christmas day, so that we can all take a moment to think about each other.

Dates for your Diary in 2021

Spring term 1

Monday 4th January –
Friday 12th February

Half term

15th – 19th Feb
INSET Mon 22 Feb

Spring term 2

Tuesday 23rd Feb –
Thursday 1st April

Easter Holiday

Friday 2nd April –
Friday 16th April
INSET 19th April

Summer term 1

Tuesday 20th April –
Friday 28th May

Half term

Monday 31st May –
Friday 4th June
INSET Mon 7 June

Summer term 2

Tuesday 8th June –
Thursday 22nd July

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to all the parents who completed the questionnaire.



The outcomes are as follows:

98% of parents felt teaching was good or above.
100% of parents felt topics offered at our school match your child's interests was good or above.
96% of parents felt quality of our school's facilities was good or above.
94% of parents felt a good sense of belonging.
98% of parents felt their child was very safe or above
98% felt feedback from teachers was somewhat useful or above
98% felt our school website was useful or above
98% of Parents would recommend our school to others

Thank you for all your additional suggestions and comments which I will address below:

- It would be impossible to put on the nativity as we have many children in school who cannot be filmed and their images cannot be shared. As an inclusive school not to include groups of children due to their individual circumstances does not feel right.
- To upgrade from parent hub will be costly to school currently ParentHub is free and has developed lots since we started to use the system. If you are still having trouble using the app please contact school admin who will happily support your needs.
- We currently have plans for a climbing wall installation however, due to Covid this is on hold. Children have access to the ECO garden which does fulfil a variety of play experiences.
- Homework is required to ensure that children are able to use the skills taught at school and continue to practise these at home. Homework should be a time when parents sit with their children to find out about the learning in school and best support them at home. If parents are struggling with supporting the homework please feel free to email the class teacher for additional materials.
- The mini report that went out was to let you know how your child had settled into school life after lockdown and the summer break and to share their targets for the term. It was to replace the usual face to face meeting with teachers that couldn't be done due to Covid restrictions. That first parent consultation of a new school year is never about data and progress.
- Online Teams meetings for the Spring consultation are planned and will give parents the opportunity to talk about their child with the class teacher.
- The school website is the place to find out about what is happening in your child's class and who the staff are that are working with your child.
- Phoning each parent would be a challenge as we only have one phone line into school and staff are not able to use their own mobile phones to make work calls.
- The idea of virtual lessons again requires good internet connection and not all staff have this at home and it would be deemed unfair if one class got live lessons and another classes did not.

Again, thank you so much for all of your responses, please do keep in contact with school on the class and office emails.

Christmas WOW Week

Despite not being able to have parents in school for the usual Christmas festivities, the children have had lots of fun doing activities and crafts ahead of the Holidays in their class bubbles. Pictures have been added to the class pages on the website for you to have a look at.

Thank you to all those parents and grandparents who have purchased things from our amazon wish list. It is fantastic to have so many supportive families. The list will continue to remain open so please feel free to have a look and purchase any items.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/D4K5V8S28DT2?ref=wl_share

Winter Coat Campaign

We want to make sure that all children in our collaboration schools have access to a warm winter coat. We are going to start a campaign in January within the local collaboration of schools to collect outgrown coats to pass on to other families. So over Christmas if you are sorting out winter coats and have outgrown coats available, we would love for you to put them to one side for us so that we can start this scheme within our collaboration. More information coming out in the new year.

School Dinners

As always, if you have feedback about school dinners, please let us know so that we can talk to catering. Under the circumstances the kitchens have worked really hard to meet our individual needs and have been really flexible in changing items to serve our school community. Having moved to a bespoke hot to go menu we feel happier that our children are getting a hot meal. Thank you to all our mid-day supervisors who have worked hard to ensure that all children in school are fed and closely monitored and have an active lunchtime. Our thanks to Mrs Davies for taking on the role of coordinating the middays this has made a huge difference to the smooth running of lunchtime.

The Covid 19 pandemic has seen some families personal circumstances change dramatically. Many have lost income and some families may now be eligible for Free School Meals, but are unsure if they are entitled or how to apply. If you would like to find out whether you are now entitled to Free School Meals, please get in touch with the school office and we can run an eligibility check for you, or you can visit the Derbyshire County Council website: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

It is not just school dinners, being eligible, even for a short period of time, also means that the school gets extra funding to support students for the next 6 years. So please do apply if you think you might be eligible.

Dismissing children at the end of the day

It is really difficult to identify parents at the end of school, from a distance, in fading light with hoods and masks on so please don't be offended if we ask who you are.

Where possible Robin and Puffin parents need to stand by the long wall so that we can see you.

Junior children are expected to walk up to their parent if we can see them and have been told to come back into school if they can't see their adult.

Arts Mark Award!

The school has signed up for the arts mark. Mrs Adshead is over seeing the work being carried out and we have both attended the online training sessions. It is our aim to ensure that all our children are aware of the arts and have experience of working in the different areas. We will continue to update the website with information as it comes into school.



Christingle

Christingle donations have come in fast and we have achieved a grand total of £170 which is on its way to help support those whose lives are threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect.

It's never been more important to spread the light of Christingle and fight for young people's hope. Your donations will make a difference to those whose hope is hanging by a thread and it has helped us to teach our children about the school value of happiness.

We are all aware that happiness comes in many different forms and this £170 will make many people smile with happiness especially knowing that our school community cares.

Dum Dum

We continue to keep a close link with Ranu and the children in Dum Dum. Currently there have been no cases of COVID in their school. The staff are sending work home to parents for children to do their learning remotely but as you can imagine this is challenging for the staff and school. Thank you to all those parents who have contributed to our Dum Dum fundraising we now have a grand total of £207 from school donations plus a generous donation of £500 from one family which gives us a grand total of £707 to go towards supporting a project in Dum Dum, more information on this will come in the new year.

On Behalf of those Children and Staff in India, a massive **Thank you!**



We send most communications via the Parent Hub app. Please check this regularly. If you are having any problems with it, let us know.



ParentPay is continuing to work really well for us and we would like all parents to use this as their payment method wherever possible. If you do have any issues with this, please let the office know.

School Website

Please keep up to date with all the latest information on the school website

www.st-andrews-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk

follow us on Twitter @StanleyStAndrew



Merry Christmas and a Safe and Healthy 2021 to all of our amazing parents, grandparents and extended families.