



Stanley St Andrew's

Church of England Primary School

What a brilliant start back to the new term all children in school on time and ready for learning. It has been wonderful to see our new reception children independently coming into school and getting settled into their new classroom. It has been equally amazing to see how much some children have grown in confidence this summer. We welcome our seven new reception children to school and know that they will soon settle into the new routine.

Staffing

Julie Fowler has secured a new job with the Diocese and will be leaving us on 16th September. Julie has been with us since 2018 and has been a real asset in getting the office organised and ensuring we are compliant. Julie will be leaving us from the office but will remain our clerk to governors. We would like to use this opportunity to thank her for all the hard work that she has put in and we wish her the very best in her new role.

We welcome back Mrs Gresswell from her maternity leave to head up Rosa Parks Class. Mrs Gresswell is an integral part of the team and it is wonderful to have her back with her school family.

Mrs Crabb remains part of the school family and will be in school on supply for one and a half days a week to support teaching and learning and to ensure that all teachers have leadership time.

Class names

The children have quickly adopted the new class names that they chose back in July. The names chosen have a significant impact on the discussions that we have with our children. I am aware that some parents are struggling with this change and I would ask that you are respectful of the children's choices as we are working really hard to prepare all our children for living and working in a multicultural world and to give them a safe space to ask big questions in an environment in which they will not be judged.

Our class names have been linked to the school improvement plan which gives us full scope to embed new learning, diversity, literature, sport and wellbeing into everything that we do. Staff have worked hard to ensure that children will be able to find out about their classroom heroes throughout the year and we hope that we will be able to share some of their work with you and hopefully erase any concerns that parents may have.

The summer has been spent buying quality literature to support all four classes and my thanks goes to the FoSS team for providing us with £650 to do this. Each class has been given books to support their new class names and to have up to date quality texts that reflect our changing world.

School improvement priorities and objectives 2022/23

Quality of education	<p>Build on outcomes in all subjects by utilising recovery and intervention programmes, so that there is improvement year on year.</p> <p>Continue to raise standards of attainment in writing, reading phonics and maths through first quality teaching.</p>
Leadership and management	<p>Promote opportunities for leadership growth and succession planning. Develop a well-being charter (making use of DfE resources) and ensure a commitment to continued review of workload practices through effective engagement with the workforce</p>
Behaviour and Attitudes	<p>Children make positive contributions to the life of school and its community by actively supporting well-being of others.</p> <p>Improve attendance for some pupils with robust information sharing and additional support given to parents.</p>
Personal development	<p>Develop and strengthen the teaching of British Values, including the celebration of faith & diversity, across the curriculum.</p> <p>Strengthen and develop the expertise of all staff, in order to recognise and remove barriers to learning (inc. those caused by SEND, poverty or mental health issues), so that all children are fully engaged and focused on their learning at all times.</p> <p>Develop a whole school mental health strategy, through the introduction of a Senior Mental Health Lead, to strengthen understanding of signs/symptoms and support mechanisms available.</p>
Safeguarding	<p>Continue to develop Safeguarding policies and robust procedures are in place and shared with all stakeholders.</p> <p>Further develop Safeguarding to ensure it is explicitly clear to children, and is part of the curriculum taught.</p>
Early years	<p>Widen children's vocabulary and speaking skills through quality texts and experiences.</p> <p>Further develop the quality of outdoor play by maintaining quality resources and strengthening training for all.</p>

Communication

This year we are striving to improve communication between home and school by ensuring the website is updated with new information regularly, and that all parents are receiving information through the ParentHub app.

In some cases, last minute information cannot be avoided, such as with sporting events, as we are reliant on the sports partnership to share information with us, which at times has been an issue.

All classes have emails set up for you to ask questions or share relevant information directly with the team teaching your child.

Last year many staff, including the office and myself, received emails that were not very kind. This type of email has a detrimental effect on the wellbeing of all staff. We are a very close team and our intention is only to do the very best that we can for all children.

This year, I have instructed staff that emails should not be responded to after 5pm or before 8am and staff should not be checking emails at weekends.

Payments

Dinner money has increased this year to £2.30 per day. It is essential that all dinner money is paid in advance each week, there should not be any money owed for meals.

Please remember that we do accept childcare vouchers for wrap around care, contact the office if you need some support with this.

Applying for free school meals is now easier as Derbyshire County Council have moved the application process online. <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

If you would like to find out if you are eligible, it is a really easy online form. Your child could benefit from free meals and the school will also benefit from added funding so please do apply.

PANTO!

We are having a whole school trip to the Pantomime at Derby Arena this December. Further information will be sent home shortly but we wanted to let you know early in case it is something you were thinking of attending as a family. Our tickets are booked for Wednesday 21st December 2022! Oh Yes They Are!



Parents Evenings will be taking place on Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th October 2022. We will be offering face to face appointments in school. Information about booking these will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Parent's evening appointments are an opportunity for parents to be updated by their child's teaching team about how their child has settled back into school, what their targets are and what parents can do to support them further.

If you have any concerns about your child, either in terms of their wellbeing, their progress or anything else, please don't wait until parents evening to raise these.

Please contact your child's teacher to discuss these concerns as soon as they arise.

School Uniform

We have quite a few donations of used school uniform and all of these items have plenty of life left in them. If there are any items that you need, please let the school office know and we will arrange to get these sent home to you.

There has never been the expectation for children to wear branded items or school logo items. We think all children need to look and feel smart in their uniform and wear the correct colour to show that they belong to their school family.

Reminder that earrings are not part of school policy and children cannot swim with earrings in or with them taped over.



Forest Schools



This year we have managed to book an external forest schools' expert to deliver sessions to children in our eco area. We are going to be part of a project which uses forest school skills to enhance good mental health and give children the opportunity to learn many skills outdoors. The pioneering groups will be held in the first term with further opportunities for children to participate in the spring term.

ECO Garden

The Eco Garden looks fabulous and we are really pleased that we have invested so much time and money into this area. We do however, want to maintain this area and thought it would be a lovely if we had a small group of grandparents who would like to come into school on a Friday afternoon for an hour at the end of each month to do some weeding and tidy up as a working party. If any grandparents are interested, please contact the school office.

Music Lessons

Music lessons start in Mandela class this week for the next 10 weeks. The class will be introduced to playing the Ukulele. We have chosen Ukulele because after the festival many children were inspired and intrigued about this small instrument and the beautiful music it can produce. Thursday afternoons Mandela class will have ukulele lessons with Paul the new music teacher. We will let you know how they are getting on at the end of the term!

Paul will also be delivering guitar taster sessions for those who requested them. These will be taking place next week in school time. If students would like to then take up 'paid for' guitar lessons, these will be held on Thursday afternoon either during or after school.



School Vicar

We still have no regular vicar to support us in school.

We are in contact with the Diocese to see what additional support we can get to ensure that our children have regular contact with someone from the church.

It was lovely to have Rev Ingrid travel up from Hampshire to bless our children and staff for the start of the school year.

Attendance – Illness and Appointments

If your child is unwell and won't be in school, it is really important that you either call the school to advise us, or email the school office directly schooladmin@st-andrews-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk. Please do not use class email addresses as these are not monitored as frequently as the school office email.

If you are taking your child out of school for a doctors, dentist or other appointment, we do require you to provide an appointment card or other confirmation when advising the school of this absence.

Term Time Absence

Please can we remind all parents that holidays in term time are not permitted, and if you do take your child out of school during term time without prior authorisation from the school, this could result in the local authority issuing a penalty notice to each parent for each child that is absent.

We also ask parents to consider the impact of your child's absence, not only on your child, but also on their classmates, as it takes time for our teaching staff to help a child catch up on what they may have missed, and this is time which is taken away from teaching others.

If you are planning to take your child out of school during term time, whether it is for one day or more, then you will need to complete a leave of absence request form. If there are exceptional circumstances for your request then a leave of absence may be granted, but this is at the discretion of the headteacher and the governing body.

More information on attendance & term time absence can be found on our school website where you can also download a leave of absence request form. A hard copy of this information can also be obtained from the school office.

India Update

Our friends from India came over for a short visit at the start of September. Mrs Davies was able to attend this meeting to have discussions about how we can further support our school in Kolkata. Dum Dum is a small school located in the heart of Kolkata. We maintain strong links with the staff in the school and give our children regular updates when information comes through.

Dates for your diary

21st September swimming starts for all Year 3 in both Mandela class and Angelou class

4th October Flu Vaccine for whole school

18th October Parents evening

19th October Parents evening

21st October Harvest festival in church 9:30am

21st October Whole school Ramble pm (weather permitting)

21st October break up for half term

23rd October Community Harvest Service in St Andrew's church

31st October INSET day

9th November Individual Photo Day

14th November Anti Bullying week.

18th November Children In Need

30th November Final swimming session of the year

13th December Angelou class Christmas Performance (afternoon)

14th December Parks & Mandela Christmas Performance (afternoon)

19th December Christmas Wow Week

20th December Carol concert 2pm in Church

21st December Panto at Derby Arena (whole school)

22nd December Party Day

22nd December break up for Christmas

More dates will be added as they are booked. Its going to be a busy Term!

