

## STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE-



## THIS HALF TERM WE ARE FOCUSING ON THE CHRISTIAN VALUE OF TRUST

### NOVEMBER 2025 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

#### **Introduction**

I trust you all enjoyed a safe and relaxing half term break with your families and hope you find this newsletter helpful in keeping you up to date.

#### **Remote Learning**

As you will be aware, we use Seesaw to support children's learning at home. Seesaw is used to set and mark homework and to communicate with parents/carers. Please ensure you check seesaw each day so you don't miss any important letters and information.

You will continue to receive half-termly Home/School knowledge planners from your child's teacher, outlining knowledge to be taught this half-term. I hope you find these to be interesting and useful, when supporting your child with homework.

#### **Uniform**

Thank you for supporting us with our uniform policy. As the weather becomes colder please remember that trainers and boots e.g.; Ugg Boots are **NOT** allowed in school, the correct footwear is black shoes. Children wearing incorrect footwear will be **required to wear PE pumps** in school.

#### **Pupil Leadership Groups**

Congratulations to members of this year's Pupil Rights Group who were recently elected by their peers. This year's pupil representatives are;

Y3: Tiara and Nellie

Y4: Vinnie and Tabitha

Y5: Arlo and Ayla

Y6: Dexter S and Fowler

The new members of the collective worship committee are Jayke D, Sonny, Dexter TS, Francesca, Haleem, Gordon and Fowler. Well done to them!



### **Punctuality and Attendance**

It is vitally important that your child arrives for school at the 8.50am and **attends regularly**. Staff are working very hard to ensure all children progress and achieve their best and good attendance is key to this. If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please remember to telephone the school office before 9.30am. Any holidays taken in term time WILL receive a fine.

### **Medical Appointments**

Can you please try, whenever possible, to request medical appointments after 3.30pm. This avoids children missing learning when attending appointments.

### **Staffing Update**

It will be the end of an era this December as our wonderful nursery nurse, Mrs Connolly takes a well-earned retirement. Mrs Connolly has worked at St Andrew's, mainly in the EYFS department for nearly thirty years (She has actually worked at settings in Salford since 1978!). During this time, she has worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to give our young children a happy start to their school life. Her creativity and love of learning through art and play have become her trademark. Just as importantly, she has taken the most loving care of our 3 and 4 year olds, as they get used to new school routines. Mrs Connolly is quite irreplaceable, and we will miss her greatly. However, I know you will agree with me that after spending her whole career working with very young children, she thoroughly deserves a good rest and some time for herself. We wish her good health and a long and happy retirement!

### **Extra-curricular activities**

#### **Manchester Museum**

Y5 are visiting Manchester Museum on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **After school-**

Monday: Y2- Jolly Olly Football

Pyramid club

KS2 Choir

Wednesday: Y3 and 4 Football

Thursday: Y5 and 6: Multi-Sports

Maths Club

#### **Breaktime clubs-**

Monday: Premier Sports coach (KS1 & 2)

Tuesday: Pupil rights group

Premier Sports coach (KS1 & 2)

### **Working with our Partners**

#### **Walkden Library**

All classes from Y3-Y6 are visiting the library at Walkden Gateway during the week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> December.



### **The Royal British Legion**

Every year we are proud to support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Poppies will be on sale before and after school on the playground.

**Year 4** pupils will be leading a special act of remembrance during their family worship on 7<sup>th</sup> November. We will be observing the 2 minutes silence in school on 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11am.



### **Children in Need non-uniform Day**

Children in Need is on 14<sup>th</sup> November. If your child would like to bring in a voluntary contribution to the charity, they may come to school dressed in something spotty or red and yellow on this date.



### **Parents' Evening**

Parents' evening will be held in school on 25<sup>th</sup> November. It will consist of a five minute meeting with your child's teacher. Following the success of the after- school 'book looks' we will **not** be making books available on this date. This will save time and reduce congestion in school.

### **Book Fair**

During parents' evening, please spend some time browsing the Scholastic Book Fair. The book fair will be open in school each night after school from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 27<sup>th</sup> November inclusive.

### **Christmas Events**



We have been making lots of plans to ensure that Christmas in school, will be a magical and exciting time for the children. I have outlined the proposed Christmas celebrations and dates below.

### **Xmas Family Learning Workshop**

Families of Y1 and Y2 children are invited to a Christmas themed craft workshop on 2<sup>nd</sup> December in the school hall from 9-10am. Please note that, while we hope to accommodate everyone, places will be allocated on a 'first come first served' basis should the need arise. You will need to complete a slip that will be sent home to indicate your interest nearer the time.

### **EYFS Christmas Mix-Ups**

### **Pantomime**

On 4<sup>th</sup> December, we are taking all the KS2 children (Y3,4,5,6) to the Victoria Hall in Bolton to watch the pantomime, Beauty and the Beast. This will be a wonderful chance for our pupils to experience the joy of live theatre at Christmas time! The subsidised cost of this is a voluntary contribution of £10 per pupil. Please pay this on the parent pay app.

### **Hamper Raffle**

The staff are kindly donating items for luxury Christmas Hampers. This will be raffled off in December at the disco. We will be selling raffle tickets in the office and on the yard before and after school during the first two weeks of December. They will also be available to buy from the school office (20p per ticket).

### **Christmas Bauble Competition**

The children are invited to make a bauble/decoration for their class Christmas tree. These should be sent in on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December for Christmas tree light switch on! The winning bauble in each class will receive a prize.

### **Choir**

The choir will be performing for senior citizens at the church luncheon club on 8<sup>th</sup> December. They will also be singing carols for residents at Bourke Gardens in Walkden.

### **Nursery Singalong**

Families of nursery and Reception children are invited to a Christmas singalong on 12<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am in the school hall. Mince pies, tea and coffee will be served from 9am.



### **Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day**

The kitchen staff will be serving Christmas lunch on 9<sup>th</sup> December. If your child is on packed lunches, they have the option of buying a Christmas lunch. The office will be sending out forms to book and pay for the lunch in advance. Alternatively, you may wish to make your child's packed lunch more festive by adding a cracker or mince pie. Children are allowed to wear a Christmas jumper instead of their school sweatshirt on this day.

### **Christmas Production**

The KS1 children in Year 1 and 2 will be presenting a production of the nativity story, '**Bethlehem Bake Off**'. There will be two performances of this, at 9.30am on 10<sup>th</sup> December and at 2pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets (free of charge) will be available from the school office from 4<sup>th</sup> December and limited to two per family due to space restrictions. The office staff will send out further details.

### **Christmas Disco**

There will be a Christmas Disco on 15<sup>th</sup> December from 6-7.30pm. This will be £1 admission for children and adults. Please note that children from Nursery to Y2 are only allowed to attend the disco if accompanied by a responsible

adult. The disco will finish promptly at 7.30pm so please ensure you make arrangements for KS2 children to be collected on time.



### **Party Day**

Party day will be on the 16<sup>th</sup> December. Class teachers will send out further details nearer the time.

### **Walkden Methodist Church**

#### **Carol Service**

Our traditional carol service in Walkden Methodist Church will be on the last day of term, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am. We hope lots of families will join us for this.

#### **Finally**

School breaks up for the Christmas holiday on 17<sup>th</sup> December at 3.20pm and starts back on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs. A. Barker  
Headteacher