

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE-



THIS HALF TERM WE ARE FOCUSING ON THE CHRISTIAN VALUE OF JUSTICE

SPRING 2 2026: HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER



Introduction

It is hard to believe this is my final newsletter to you all. As you are aware, I am retiring at Easter after 37 years of teaching and 23 wonderful years at St Andrew's. This is the most special school and one I have been blessed and privileged to lead. The support I have always felt from our parents and families has made it a real pleasure to look after and educate your children. I want to thank every one of you for choosing to send your amazing children to St Andrew's and entrusting them to our care. I will miss them all very much. There will be lots of opportunities to say our goodbyes in the coming weeks (and I know I will bump into lots of you in Tesco in the future!). Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your continued generosity, honesty and openness. It has made my job as headteacher much easier knowing we could work together to do the very best for your children.

Governors are going through the process of recruiting a new headteacher for September 2026. The local authority is finalising the interim leadership arrangements for the summer term. I will inform you as soon as these are confirmed.

There are lots of exciting events to look forward to this half term, which are outlined below. The promise of spring and new life is finally in the air, and we are looking forward to a busy and productive run up to Easter.



Crazy Hair Day

The Comic Relief charity is again fundraising on the 20th March. If your child would like to come in on that date with a crazy hairstyle and donate to the charity, they are welcome to do so. Donations can be made on the parent pay app or in cash on the day.

Staffing

Mrs Randall will be returning from her maternity leave just before the Easter holiday, when she will resume her role as SENDCO. Mr Pamphlett will be working closely with her to ensure there is a smooth transition of information.

SATS meetings

Children in Y6 will again be formally assessed by KS2 SATs in May this year. All other classes will be 'teacher assessed' over the spring and summer terms following our assessment procedures. We are holding an information meeting for Y6 parents/carers on 3rd March at 3.30pm, which we urge you to attend, or send a representative to.

Road Safety

Year 6 will be taking part in the Bikeability scheme run by the Road Safety team. This cycling course is free of charge and delivered by nationally accredited instructors. It is so important to ensure the safety of our pupils when riding their bicycles. The course will take place during 16th – 20th March.

Sports Partnerships and Spring Term Clubs

Premier Sports continue to deliver sports' coaching at lunchtimes/after school.

Monday

KS1 and 2 lunchtime sports
Dodgeball (KS1)
Reading Booster Club (Y6)
Pyramid Club

Tuesday

Maths Booster Club (Y6)
Pupil Rights Group
Choir

Wednesday

Football (Y3 and Y4)

Thursday

Basketball Y5 and 6

Friday

KS1 and 2 lunchtime sports
Staff will send out further details of these clubs.



Family Worship

- Year 1 family worship will be on 13th March at 9am.

Children and Family Support

We continue to prioritise the wellbeing of our pupils and are very fortunate to have our own full time family support worker in school. The children know they can speak to her, or any other member of staff they feel comfortable with, if they have any worries.

Mrs Utzeri continues to be available for parents and carers to speak to. She is usually available on the playground before and after school or an appointment can be made, via the school office.

Parent/Pupil Consultations

The spring term parent/pupil consultations will be on 24th March between 3.30-6.30pm. Please use this opportunity to speak with your child's teacher to review their progress. Further details will be sent out regarding appointments nearer the time. We will be offering face-to-face or telephone appointments.

World Book Day

For World Book Day this year children can come in dressed as a book character if they would like to. If you have any old book character costumes that you would like to recycle, please send them in and we will add them to the Free Uniform Shop in the foyer for people to help themselves to.

Initial Dates for Your Diary

24th February: Nursery children visit Walkden Methodist Church
25th February: Reception children visit Walkden Methodist Church
26th February: Year 5 World War 2 experience day
3rd March: Year 6 SATs meeting for parents (3.30pm)
5th March: World Book Day
5th March: EYFS Road safety sessions (Nursery and Reception)
9th March: Year 6 visit to Crucial Crew
13th March: Year 1 family worship
16th March: Year 6 Bikeability
20th March: Crazy Hair Day for comic relief
23rd March: School choir sing at luncheon club at Walkden Methodist Church
24th March: Online Safety coffee morning led by Mawuli Amesu- all welcome.
24th March: Parents' evening
2nd April: Easter Raffle
2nd April: Break Up for Easter holiday

***27th JUNE IS THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL SUMMER FAIR!**

Easter Events



Easter Egg Raffle

We are again running an Easter raffle. Members of staff have kindly donated chocolate eggs to be raffled off for the children. Tickets will be sold at 20p

each and will be on sale from 18th March. They will be drawn in school on Thursday 2nd April.



Spring Hamper Raffle

To raise additional money for school funds, staff have also been bringing in items for Spring Hampers. Tickets are on sale (20p per ticket, £1 per strip) from the school office. They will also be available to buy at Y1's family worship on 13th March and on the yard nearer the time.

Easter Bonnets

Children from Nursery to Year 2 are invited to make an Easter bonnet at home and bring it into school on the last day before the holiday, 2nd April. The Easter bunny may even leave a few prizes around school for super effort!

I will keep you informed of further dates and activities as they are planned. School re-opens on Monday 20th April. Thank you for your continued support with everything we do in school.

Mrs Anne Barker
Headteacher