



## Newsletter 1



*"Following God's path to flourish in life"*

**Mr P Hayward: Headteacher**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

### Welcome To Another School Year!

I would like to warmly welcome you to St Andrew's at the start of this new school year. I do hope you have enjoyed a lovely summer break and that you are refreshed and ready to start the school year. We are really excited about seeing the children and have been working hard through the summer break to get the school ready for September. The nurture room is up and running; the children have been allocated to their new classes on ClassDojo; classrooms have been deep cleaned and we have created a library for the children to enjoy. I have tried to include all the essential information you may need to start the new school year in the newsletter below. Don't worry if you have forgotten something or don't understand anything – just ask. I look forward to greeting everyone at the start of the first school day on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**.

### Return To School - What to expect...

As you are aware, the government has lifted many restrictions since lockdown. Trust schools are going to take cautious steps forward opening up. I would appreciate it if parents and carers could follow the following guidance.

**Opening times** – The school gates will open at 8.40am. There are no longer staggered times and so I would like all children to be in school by 9.00am for the first week. From Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September, children will need to be in school by 8.50am.

**Face masks** – So long as parents and carers observe social distancing, face masks will not be required.

**Sterilising hands** – All children and visitors will be asked to sterilise their hands as they enter school.

**New Reception children in Willow Class** – Until the children are settled, Reception children new to St Andrew's can be dropped-off by parents and carers through the "kitchen" gate. This gate is accessed via the path alongside the staff car park. Staff will direct parents and carers where to go on the first couple of days. Mrs White and Mrs Burge will meet the children outside the classroom and usher them into their new class. Please say goodbye to your child outside the classroom. I ask that the new reception children are collected at 11.30am on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Reception children will start school full time the week commencing Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

**Year 1 children in Willow Class** – Year 1 children in Willow class are asked to make their own way through the morning gate, across the playground and into class. Again, Mrs White

and Mrs Burge will be there to meet and greet the children. Staff will be on the playground to make sure the children know where to go. All Year 1 children will be collected at the end of the school day from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Year 1 and Year 2 children in Oak class** – All children in Oak Class are asked to enter their class through their outside area at the front of the school. Mrs Beardmore or Mrs Collins will be there to greet the children each morning.

**Key Stage 2 children (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)** – Children in Key Stage 2 are asked to enter the morning gate and make their way to their classes. They are as follows:

Beech	Year 3	Miss Barnacle	In the main building
Elm	Year 4	Mrs Yewdell/Jones	In the far mobile
Sycamore	Year 5	Miss Lowe	In the nearest mobile
Maple	Year 6	Mrs Edgecombe	In the main building

The children do not need to worry if they cannot remember where to go because staff will happily be on hand to direct them to their new classes.

**Parents and Carers moving around school** – Once the children have been dropped off safely, parents and carers are asked to exit the school through the car park gates. I would like to retain the one-way system for the morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups because it maintains social distancing and makes movement around school smoother.

**Picking up at the end of the school day** – All children will be collected from the playground. I ask that parents and carers enter the school grounds through the gate to the right of the pedestrian gate (morning gate), following the path round to the left onto the school playground, the children will be lined up in their classes. Please collect your child/ren and exit through the kitchen gate and then through the car park. The school gate will open at 3.20pm.

**Year 5 and Year 6 children making their own way home** – Children in Years 5 and 6 can, if given written permission by parents, can make their own way home at the end of the school day. This option is to encourage some independence in the children. The children must make their way to their homes, if they live in the village, or to an agreed parking place if being picked up by car. Year 5 and Year 6 children must not “hang around” outside school waiting for parents to pick up younger siblings.

**Dropping-off and picking-up from CHILL** – We will continue with parents ringing the CHILL bell and waiting outside for CHILL staff to escort children in and out of CHILL.

### CHILL

CHILL is our before and after school club. It provides quality childcare at a very reasonable cost. CHILL opens each morning at 7.45am, offering breakfast and a calm start to the day. After school, CHILL offers snacks and plenty of activities until 6.00pm. For more information go to our website.

[chill@st-andrews-weston.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:chill@st-andrews-weston.staffs.sch.uk)

## PE Days

Some things we started during lockdown will be carried forward because we thought they were a good idea. In future, I would like children to come to school in their PE kits on days they do PE. It makes things so much easier and the children enjoy longer PE sessions. PE days are as follows:

Willow	Friday
Oak	Wednesday
Beech	Friday
Elm	Tuesday
Sycamore	Monday
Maple	Thursday

For more information about PE kits visit the school website – [CLICK HERE](#)  
PE lessons will commence from the week beginning Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

## Attendance and COVID

From September, attendance is compulsory for all children. It is essential that every child attend school each day. Families can apply for leave during term time but this must be for exceptional circumstances only and must be requested before taking the leave. Fines may be issued (£60 per child per parent/carer) if a leave of absence is not authorised. Carried over holidays will not be authorised. Children who have come into close contact with a person who has since had a positive covid test result are no longer required to self-isolate. If you are not sure what to do, please contact the school office and we will discuss each case individually.

Any child displaying covid symptoms will be sent home as soon as possible and parents and carers will be asked to arrange a PCR test for their child. The child can return to school if the test is negative. I ask that you please bear with us because we are in the Autumn term and a number of children may catch colds which will present symptoms similar to those of covid. As I said earlier, we are taking a cautious approach to returning to school.

Request for leave of absence forms can be found [HERE](#)

### Prayer Space – A New School Prayer

Thank you God for St Andrew's school and our friends,  
Help us to value the importance of fellowship and the friendship it brings,  
Give us the strength to show compassion and forgiveness,  
Show us how to respect you, others and ourselves,  
Encourage us to persevere when we find things difficult, to make the right choices,  
so we can be the best we can be,  
Help us to be thankful for the fruits you provide,  
And lead us so that we may serve you and serve others,  
Amen.

### And finally...

My sincere hope is that we can start to meet up again with class assemblies, school performances, parents evenings and the many events and occasions we used to enjoy before lockdown. Once they have been arranged, I will publish future events in the calendar below. Please keep an eye out for future events.

In terms of covid, the future still remains uncertain but we will do all in our power to ensure the children enjoy a safe, happy and fulfilling school experience.

Mr Hayward.

#### TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021 – 2022

##### AUTUMN TERM 2021

Wednesday 1 September      INSET Day – school closed to children  
Thursday 2 September      School opens

**Half Term:** Monday 25 October – Friday 29 October

Monday 1 November      INSET Day – school closed to children  
Friday 17 December      Last day of the Autumn term

**Christmas Holiday:** Monday 20 December – Monday 3 January

##### SPRING TERM 2022

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January      INSET Day – school closed to children  
Wednesday 5 January      School opens

**Half Term:** Monday 21 February – Friday 25 February

Friday 8 April      Last day of the Spring term

**Easter Holiday:** Monday 11 April – Friday 22 April

**Easter Sunday:** Sunday 17 April

##### SUMMER TERM 2022

Monday 25 April      School opens  
Monday 2 May      School closed due to May Bank Holiday

**Half Term:** Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June

Monday 6 June      INSET Day – school closed to children  
Tuesday 7 June      INSET Day – school closed to children  
Wednesday 20 July      Last day of the school year

**Summer Holiday:** Thursday 21 July – Friday 2 September 2022