



# St Andrew's Newsletter

29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## Growing and learning together with God

There has been a huge contrast this week in terms of the weather and the temperatures. It was brilliant to see that so many families went outside to enjoy the snow last weekend. Thank you for sharing so many pictures and videos on Dojo. The children who attended school also had a couple of days to play in the snow and then suddenly it was all gone again and the end of the week is much milder, and as I write this, very rainy!

No doubt you will have seen in the news this week that the Prime Minister has confirmed that schools will not fully reopen before Monday March 8<sup>th</sup>, and that even this date is not a certainty. I can only imagine that there must be a range of thoughts and emotions amongst our school community at the moment. Those of you who are supporting your children with their home learning, whilst balancing multiple commitments, are doing an amazing job and should be proud of what you are achieving. Those of us in school are also working hard to keep each other safe and to provide the best support that we can.

We now have over 30% of the pupils in school and this means that nearly all our spaces are full. We are trying very hard to follow the government guidelines of keeping numbers down and reducing transmission of the virus. With almost all our staff still working on site, it is a very challenging balancing act. As much as we would love to have all pupils back on site, we simply cannot do so. We will only be able to consider any further requests for places from critical workers whose circumstances have changed and they are now no longer able to work from home, or from vulnerable families. Any further requests will be considered carefully, but please do not ask unless you clearly meet the criteria. Thank you for your support and understanding with this.

### Merit Awards

Nursery – Emily, Beni, Hannah

Reception – Maciej, Esmond, Olivia

Year 1 – Grace, Kiana, Stefania

Year 2 – Reece, Georgie, Jia Ni, Frank

Year 3 – Claudia, Dexter, Viktor

Year 4 – Sonny, Ziva, Remi

Year 5 – Angel, Harrison, Ethan

Year 6 – Austin, Grace, Isabella J

Well done to everyone!

### Celebration Assembly

We had another wonderful assembly this morning. There were nearly 50 different families on the Zoom meeting. It was lovely to see so many smiley, happy faces of children and parents.



### Childrens Mental Health Awareness Week

Next week there will be activities on each of the daily Sways to celebrate mental health awareness.

On Thursday we are having a dress to express day where we would like to encourage all children, staff (and parents) to dress in something comfortable that allows you to express your emotions. Further details have been posted on Class Dojo.

### Class Zoom Meetings

Some of you may be aware that we have been rolling out class zoom meetings. These have taken place very successfully with our Upper KS2 children, and from next week will take place every week for every class.

Class teachers will send out a link and the details on Dojo and will stick to a regular time slot each week. This will ensure that siblings will be able to join at different times.

The purpose of these meetings is for the pupils to be able to see each other and to be able to ask questions of their teachers and talk about the work they are doing at home and about any worries or concerns.

We do hope that all our children will be able to join these meetings each week.

### FSM Eligibility and Vouchers

Please do contact the school office if you do believe you are entitled to free school meals. This may be because your circumstances have changed as a result of the pandemic. Or it may be that you have never filled in the forms before. Here is a link to more information about benefits related free school meals on our website:

<http://www.standrewscofeprimary.co.uk/parents/meals.php#fsm>

New vouchers were sent out this week using Edenred, the supplier commissioned by the Government. Eligible families should have received their codes to their main email address. The vouchers are £15 per child per week, and cover the period from 18<sup>th</sup> until 25<sup>th</sup> January. Please do contact the office if you have not received these.

Many thanks.

### Important Dates

1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February – Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February – Dress to Express Day

15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term (School Closed)

22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February – Virtual Parent Consultation Week  
(more details to follow soon)

1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> March – Bible Festival Week

### Building Work in School

Some parents may have noticed that we have a portaloo in the staff car park.

Last summer we had our boilers replaced as our heating and hot water system was very old and inefficient.

As part of the same project, we are now having our heating pipes replaced. This is all being funded by LDBS using money that is directly allocated to them for their schools from central government.

All of the work is being carried out over night when the children are not in school. The pipes are being installed around the walls as it would be too difficult to dig up the existing pipes below the floor. Over the half term the new pipes will be connected to the existing radiators and the new boilers.

### Get Active Clubs

Included with this week's newsletter are 2 posters from Get Active about a virtual half term camp and about virtual after school clubs.

Get Active Sports are providing some very affordable, remote live entertainment for children to encourage staying at home. Children will be able to interact with others their age and the qualified sports coaches running the session.

From running these sessions in the past, these sessions have not only been great in keeping children social and active, but very useful for parents working from home.

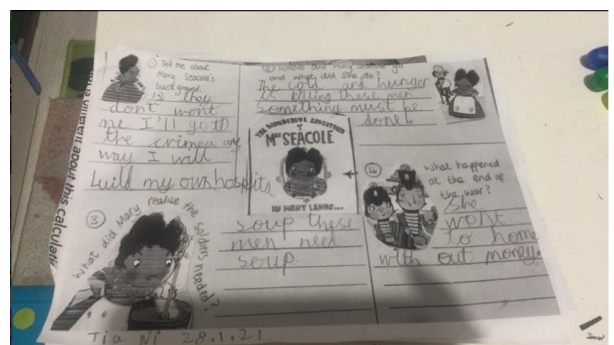
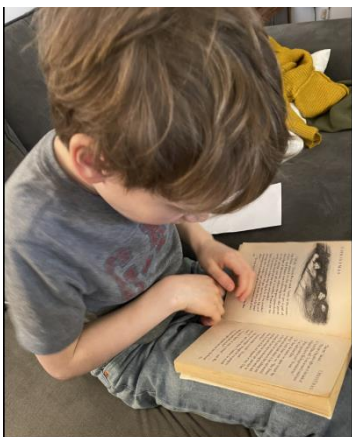
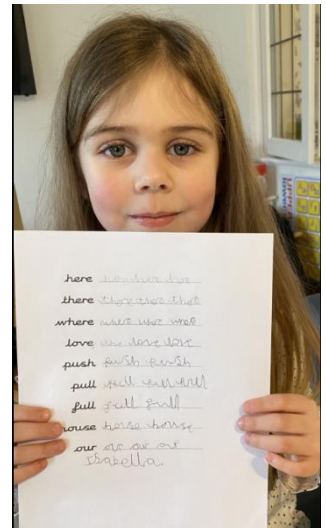
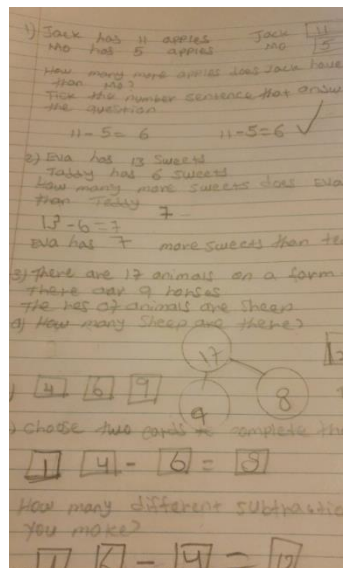
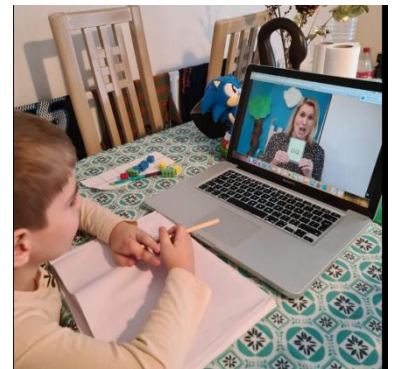
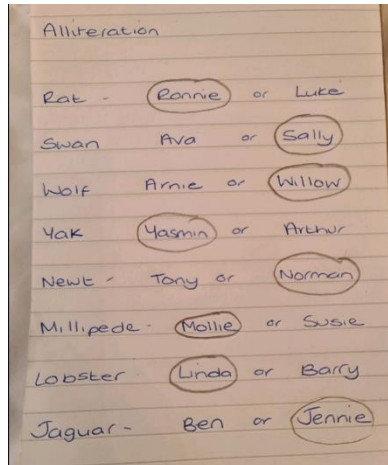
Please see the flyers for more details.

## Home Learning Routines

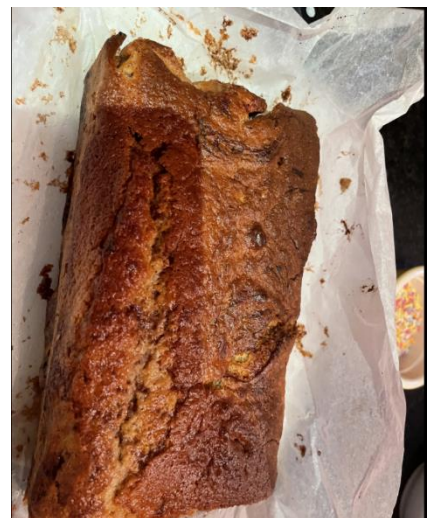
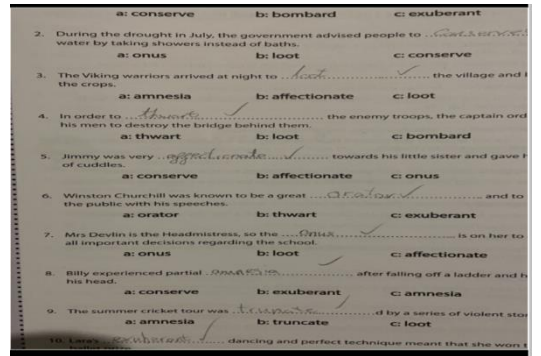
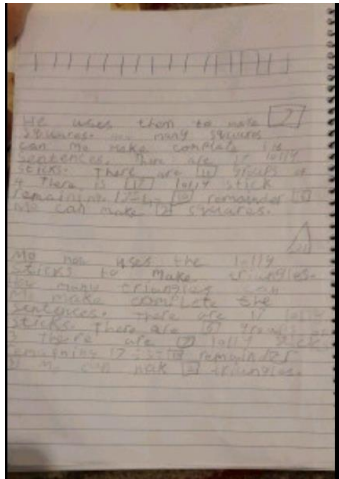
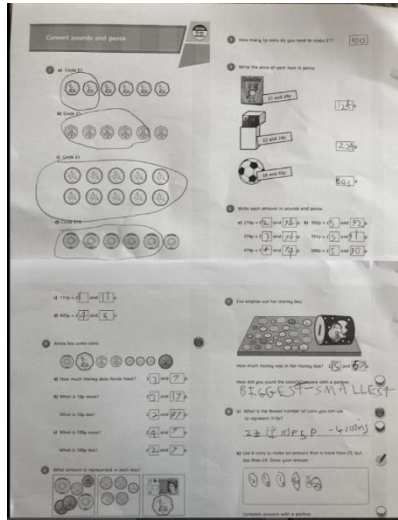
Thank you for all your hard work in supporting your children with their home learning. Almost every single child has now uploaded some work onto their portfolios, and I will continue to share some examples on the weekly newsletter from each of the classes.

As parents, you are doing an amazing job of keeping your children safe and keeping them engaged in the daily Sways. It is really important that you encourage your children to do as much as they can each day and that they post it on their portfolios so that we can see it and give feedback on it. We do understand that it is difficult to balance everything, especially if you are working from home, supporting several children, and have limited access to devices.

One of the things you can do to make life a little easier, is set up and stick to a routine. Each day, set the alarm and make sure everyone is up and dressed at an agreed time. Go through the timetable of the day with them. Each child should be doing 3 to 4 hours of work each day, but plan this around your working commitments, or laptop rotas and then stick to a consistent timetable. That way, all the children know what to expect and what is expected of them.







Take care,  
Nicola Dallibar

My sister is adorable.  
My bed is very comfortable.  
Watching Tottenham is very enjoyable.  
The weather is very changeable.  
Bad behaviour is no longer tolerable.  
Brussel sprouts are horrible to eat.  
The snow was visible from my bedroom window.  
I am terrible at ballet dancing.  
The argument was forcible.  
I need to raise the audible sound on the Alexa.