

## St Andrew's Newsletter

26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### Growing and learning together with God

This week in school our children have been completing lots of activities relating to the story of Joseph and his coat, which was our weekly RE Bible story. The children have been spending lots of time outside enjoying the lovely weather and doing lots of creative activities as part of Arts Week.

Some of the children have also been writing letters to the residents of Hayes Cottage Nursing home. I hope you have been joining in with some of these activities from home too. Please see the posts from earlier this week on Class Dojo for details of the Community Writing Project, and also to find out about how you can decorate a pebble for our whole



school display in the Autumn term.



#### **Transition Day**

A letter went out this week explaining our plans for a virtual transition day. Please check your ParentPay account to make sure you know what to expect.

We are hoping that all parents and children will tune in to Class Dojo on the day to watch videos from their new class teachers. We are asking that all children remain at home on

7<sup>th</sup> July rather than coming to school. This is to allow for staff to be able to record and upload content on Class Dojo throughout the day.

#### **Important Dates**

w/c Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Sports Week Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July – Year 6 Photograph Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Reports go out Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July – Transition Day Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July – End of Term

Please check separate letters that have been sent out about some of these events, and also posts on Class Dojo.

#### **Class Dojo**

As many of you know, Class Dojo has been a really fabulous means of communicating between home and school during this challenging time. Sadly some parents have not been accessing this regularly. Our Class Dojo agreement does state that all parents who are signed up to it should check it daily for any updates. We have also really enjoyed the fact that parents can share with us what their children have been doing as part of their home learning.

If for any reason you have not been accessing Class Dojo, please make sure you connect to it as soon as possible and check it every day. If you have changed phones, or been logged out of the app or website for whatever reason, then you will need to log back in using the email address and password you chose when you first set up the account. If you are still having difficulties after trying this, then please contact another parent and ask them for help. It would be great to see ALL parents regularly using Class Dojo.

#### School re-opening updates Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and Key Worker Children

Please remember to notify the school office of any changes to days that your children will be in school.

If your child is unwell and is unable to attend school then please contact the office in the usual way.

absence@standrewsuxbridge.org.uk

#### **Returning to school fears**

For many parents there may be growing anxiety about the new academic year and how pupils will cope with having missed out on a large part of their schooling.

Here is a link to a really interesting article about the impact on pupils in New Zealand who were out of school for a long period of time after the Christchurch Earthquake.

Does missing a term due to Covid-19 really matter? What happened to student results after the Christchurch guake?

#### **Staffing Updates**

At the end of this term Mr McElwee will be sadly leaving us at St. Andrew's. He is heading to a school in Hayes to take on a new challenge. Mr McElwee has been at St. Andrew's since 2016. We will all miss him and we thank him for all the hard work he has put in over the years here. I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Hjordis van Duin will be joining us as a Class Teacher from

September. She is moving in to the area and has a range of experience in KS1 and KS2. We are all looking forward to working with her next year.

#### **New Website**

Over the past few weeks we have been working hard on some new sections of our school website. Please take a look at our new EYFS pages which are specifically designed to show new and potential parents all about our wonderful Busy Bees and Little Owls classes.

Thank you to Miss Lawrence and the EYFS team for all their hard work in putting this together. <u>http://www.standrewscofeprimary.co.uk/school-</u> <u>life/early-years.php</u>

#### **End of Year Reports**

These will all be emailed out to parents on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July via ParentPay. Staff have worked hard to write reports that cover the period of time when the children were in school, but in some cases, refer to some of the amazing new skills and home learning activities that we have seen on Class Dojo. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's report after you have received it, then please

contact your child's class teacher via Class Dojo.

#### **Summer Holidays**

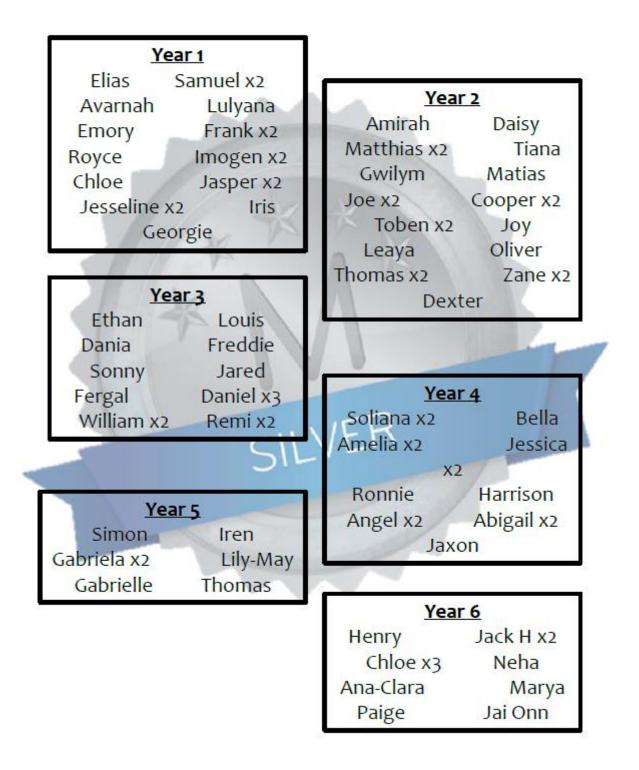
Although there has been no official clarification from the Government yet about the Summer Holidays, I have made the decision to close the school to all pupils after 17<sup>th</sup> July. There are a number of reasons for this: We have some scheduled building and maintenance works which need to take place in school.

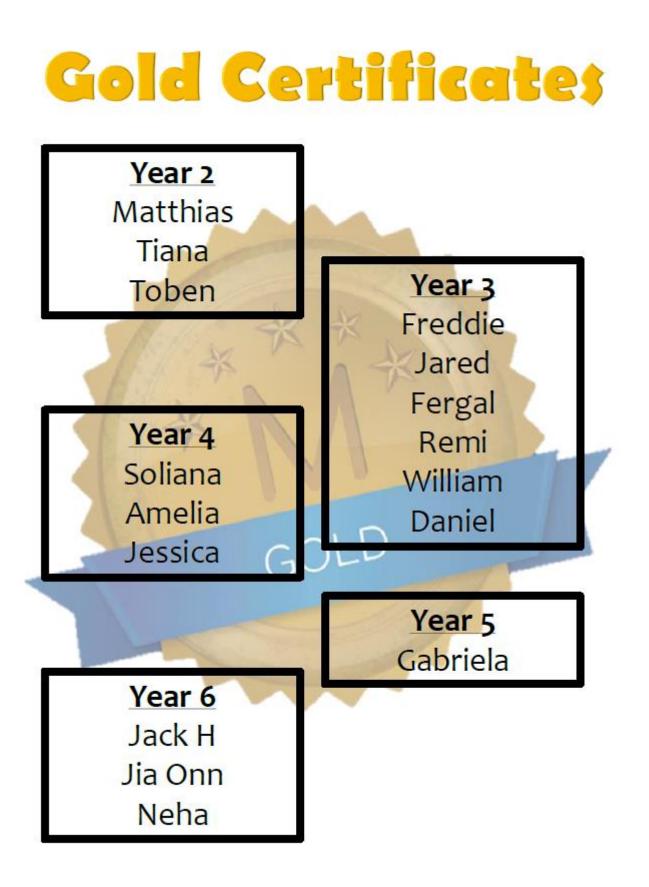
We also need to give staff a well-deserved break. Many of us have been working every day since the February half term and so it is essential that we have some time off to rest and recuperate in time for September.

We are looking into the possibility of allowing the site to be used for some summer activity clubs. Watch this space for more information.

Well done to everyone who has earned themselves Mathletics certificates over the past few weeks. Here are the names of the Silver and Gold winners. Congratulations to all!

# Silver Certificates





Take care and stay safe.

Nicola Edwards