St. Andrew's Newsletter 3

Spring 2026

Happy New Year

Perhaps this morning was not the most ideal start to the new term, but we hope that everybody made it into school safely and on behalf of all the staff at St. Andrew's, I would like to wish everybody a Happy New Year.

School Closures

While it has been very unusual for the school to close in recent years, it is worth reminding everybody that in the unlikely event of an unexpected closure before the start of school, we would notify all parents and carers through Parentmail and a message will be added to the school website on the scroll bar.

https://www.standrews-woodhallspa.org.uk/

If possible, an announcement would also be made on BBC Radio Lincolnshire and Greatest Hits Radio Lincolnshire (the old Lincs FM), along with a listing on the Lincolnshire County Council Website.

Lincolnshire County Council School Closures

https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-attendance/school-closures

Thank you

On behalf of the staff and pupils, we hope that all our parents and carers enjoyed our Christmas productions. Last term was so busy for us, our St. Andrew's Day Church Service at the end of November already seems such a long time ago. I am sure you will agree, the children were so well behaved and worked very hard throughout our St. Andrew's Day Service and the Christingle Service at St. Peter's Church. Not forgetting, the Choir who sang so beautifully at the Church Schools' Carol Service at the Cathedral and at the Woodhall Spa 'Christmas Lights Switch On' at the Millenium Garden.

Thank you to all who attended our EYFS & KS1 Nativity productions and our KS2 Christmas Sing—a-Long. It was wonderful to see so many family members.

We hope you managed to get a few last-minute gifts at our Christmas Fair. The children were so enthusiastic and diligent in making all the gifts for parents and carers to purchase, in aid of raising funds for the School Fund.

Congratulations

You may recall that all the children were invited to enter a 'Design a Flag Competition' organised by the Roary Club of Woodhall Spa. The competition was to design a flag that reflects the community's spirit, heritage, and creativity which will then grace the new flagpole to be erected in the Millenium Garden in Woodhall Spa on special occasions throughout the year. We are delighted to report that the winner of the design competition was Jack R from class EJ and the runner up was Evie R from class EJ.

Fleeces in school and other clothing matters

A reminder that several months ago, the school introduced the option of school fleeces to run alongside the school jumpers. These are available from our normal uniform supplier, Nationwide School Uniforms. We would advise that, under normal circumstances, the children would probably not wish to wear both items inside school, but certainly either is quite appropriate.

On a similar note, we always encourage the children to go outside at playtime and lunch time. As such, we would advise that at this time of year, a warm coat, hat and gloves would be the most appropriate clothing. In addition, when the ground is wet with snow or rainfall then wellington boots with a change of indoor footwear would also be the ideal solution. As an alternative a simple change of footwear would be a good idea so that if the children get their feet wet on their way to school then they can change into something dry.

Homework

There have been, and will continue to be, many and varied discussions around homework over the years. As a school, we believe that reading is a priority in school life as it exposes children to a rich vocabulary and diverse language patterns that they may not encounter in everyday conversations. In addition, many activities in our learning and in our everyday lives are much more challenging with difficulties in reading both as a child and as an adult. This is why we place a great emphasis on reading both in the classroom, and why we have such a well-stocked school library and promote it through our Dragon Knight Award.

It may be a surprise, but research indicates that children who are read to regularly can hear up to 1 million more words by the time they enter school compared to those who are not read to at home. This exposure significantly enhances their language skills and prepares them for reading success.

While we are aware that many of our parents and carers feel that homework is important, we are also aware that some feel it quite challenging to get their children to complete any homework and other may feel that their children's commitment to other outside activities is equally important.

As such, we have reviewed our homework programme for the spring term as follows:

1. EYFS - Reading/Phonics
2. Y1 – Reading/Phonics
3. Y2 – Reading / Numbots (maths) / Spellings
4. Y3/Y4 – Reading / TTR (maths) / Spellings
5. Y5/Y6 – Reading / My Maths / Spelling / CGP Grammar and Punctuation

As I am sure you will agree, reading should remain a priority, and this has been reflected in the schedule above. For the majority of homework set, this will continue to be set for the week to minimise any conflict with outside activities, but we would also encourage any parent/carer who is finding it a challenge for their children to complete their homework, to contact their child's class teacher to discuss the matter.