



# St. Andrew's C.E. Primary School Newsletter

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021

## Our Vision:

At St Andrew's CE Primary School, we aim to bring children to a place where they can realise their full potential. Our Christian values are the foundation of all we do and each one is a facet of the central value, love, which 'always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.' (1 Corinthians 13:7)

*Protect, Trust, Hope and Persevere*

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was so good to hear how well the year 5 children did on their residential trip. Thank to Mrs Gerrish, Mrs Ludlow, Mrs Ray, Ms Broughton, Mrs Whitelock, Mr Mathews, Mrs Evans and other staff from Copper class for giving the children the opportunity. The children had a brilliant time and did you proud.



On Tuesday evening we plan to officially open the new Year 6 building. My predecessor, Mrs Heritage, will formally open the 'Heritage Building' with a blessing from Reverend Jacky, just before the governors meeting. Unfortunately, we are unable to invite the whole school but we will have representatives from many of our stakeholders.

Dates for events are on the website and this will grow as we are able to book and plan things for the year. This year we are unable to invite the whole school to harvest celebrations. It is an event which is usually popular and as we are slowly increasing numbers attending events this would not work, but we will share photographs on the school website.

Great news on the IT front. After much work from Mrs Chapman, we have had confirmation from Microsoft that we are on the Showcase School program to work on our education transformation journey. The Incubator path of the Microsoft Showcase School Program partners with like-minded leaders from around the world across a multi-year engagement to design, develop, and deliver positive impact in teaching and learning and students' future readiness. The program aims to bring leadership, learning, technology, and infrastructure together; building safe, secure, optimised, and efficient schools; providing personal, predictive learning that inspires and empowers students.

I am also delighted to report, on Thursday work will start on the all-weather pitch on Benton field. The money raised by school parents Mark and Simon (see below) will go towards this facility which will be invaluable for the children to use all year round. Thank you both for helping make this happen and congratulations on your amazing achievement in Wales.

We are continuing to grow leaders in school. In last week's assembly we emphasised the importance of children taking care of our school and each other.

## Our Junior Leadership Team

Year 6 - Wellbeing Ambassadors  
Year 5 – Playleaders  
Year 4 – Junior Leaders  
Year 2 – KS1 leaders  
Whole school – School council

Training and meetings will take place in term 1 then the children can take over the smooth running of the school.





Our attempt at taming the Welsh Dragon is now officially over. After six long days of relentless running and climbing, the course did sadly get the better of us but the real winners were the 3 brilliant charities and organisations who will share the £6k which we have raised from your amazingly kind donations, a huge thank you from Mark and myself! These funds not only help to support their crucial ongoing work but the awareness generated over the last few weeks from our event carries a lasting impact and is priceless.

It was a brutal 6 days in Wales, these are the stats:

- **Miles Covered** - 180 out of 236 (30 miles per day)
- **Elevation Gained** - 42k feet (1.5 times up Everest)
- **Time Spent Running** - 51 hours
- **Time Spent Sleeping** - 22 hours
- **Steps** - 366k+
- **Calories Burnt** - 27k+
- **Calories Consumed** - I hate to think but super tasty!

The event was unbelievably tough, from scaling all of the Welsh 3000 summits on Day 1, to travelling 1 mile in 1 hour over a boulder strewn mountain on Day 2, to wading through muddy bogs every day, to trying not to fall over on grassy tussocks with deep ankle breaking covered holes around them, to descending massive wet vertical slopes in the dark after 11 hours of running, to coping with 28 degrees on Monday & 33 degrees on Tuesday, to being kept awake in the tent at night with torrential rain and to covering the last 8 miles of Day 4 in the dark and in pouring rain....these were just some of the highlights!

It is hugely frustrating and disappointing to not have completed the challenge in its entirety, but arriving on the start line is in itself a big challenge and one we can be proud of. 40% of the field dropped out on Day 1 vs the usual attrition rate of 20%, 75% of the field were gone by the end of Day 2 vs 60% usually and only 90 completed all 236 miles vs 200 in a normal (cooler) year. I was the last one to be timed out of the race on Day 2, just 6 miles shy of the finish but gave it my best shot and wanted to continue on to Cardiff. The positives for me were averaging 30+ miles per day for 6 continuous days and to finish strongly on the last day (40 miles) to come in as the 9<sup>th</sup> quickest runner for that day.

In summary, the chance to run through such an amazing country and to witness the determination and camaraderie of the fellow competitors in one of the toughest of environments was something I'll never forget. I would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone for your very kind and supportive messages across social media during the event. A combination of no mobile signal and a need to sleep meant I was unable to update on progress and say thanks as often as I would have hoped to have done so, but all messages were read and helped to provide a massive boost to battle on, thank you! A couple of start and finish photos are attached along with a link to the video summaries from each day of the race where I make an appearance around 2 minutes into the Day 2 highlight reel: [Day 2: Lessons learned – eat, drink and swim wherever we can — Montane Dragon's Back Race® \(dragonsbackrace.com\)](https://www.dragonsbackrace.com/)!

The final sentence is reserved for the charities and organisations and all those children like Ethan who receive life changing support, this week was for you as a thank you and to show appreciation and support to keep up the invaluable work which you all are doing day in day out.....we are all behind you!