



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

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 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*

*Term 1 value Creativity*

Dear Parents and Carers,



FOR WE ARE GOD'S  
HANDIWORK,  
CREATED IN CHRIST  
JESUS TO DO GOOD  
WORKS, WHICH  
GOD PREPARED IN  
ADVANCE FOR US  
TO DO.  
EPHESIANS 2:10

It was brilliant to see so many stakeholders including: pupils, parents, SASA, Governors, staff, volunteers, parish council and friends of St Andrew's welcome back Wendy Heritage to open the Heritage building, last week. Seb Hearmon, our chair of governors, gave an excellent reminder of 'the journey' and efforts of everyone who had made the new build possible, followed by a beautiful blessing from reverend Jacky.

*'We dedicate these year 6 classrooms, known as the Heritage Building, to the education and well-being of the present and future students of St Andrew's and to their growth in faith, hope and love. May it be a place where students and teachers will search for the wisdom that guides them into their Christian life. And may it also stand as a bridge between the headships of Mrs Heritage and Mrs Mashru. We pray Lord that you will bless the whole school for the education of our young people. Bless all our students and teachers, our parents, governors, employees, and all who promote sound education in our community. May our youth grow in wisdom, age, and grace before You and all Your people. May this school always be a home of truth and wisdom, of faith and good will toward all. Through the prayers of our Patron Saint Andrew may this school help our community, and build Your kingdom of justice, light, and peace. May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, rest on these classrooms and the whole school now and forever. Amen.'*





## Well done Foundation Stage!

I should like to share an excellent report from OCC following a visit to our school to observe early years. Sally Hughes early years advisor and OFSTED trained, observed the quality of teaching in the two reception classes and looked at the impact teaching has on children's learning both inside and out. In her findings she wrote the following headlines:

- Strong and passionate leadership of the school and of early years ensures that children make an excellent start to school.
- The headteacher and early year's co-ordinator are relentless in their drive for continuous improvement. The EYFSCO is reflective and visionary. All staff share the vision of the school to ensure that all children achieve their best. The strong team ethos is evident across the two reception classes.
- Teaching is excellent, all staff focus thoroughly on the children. Interactions are highly effective as staff encourage children to think creatively and deeply. Staff model language well and seize opportunities to introduce new vocabulary skilfully.
- The environments both indoors and out provide an abundance of exciting and highly creative opportunities that promote children's independence and engagement across all areas of learning.
- Behaviour of the children is excellent. Expectations of staff are constantly shared with the children as they care, nurture and co – regulate them to learn to express their feelings and to think about their behaviour. Behaviour is also very good because of the high levels of engagement in the stimulating learning environments.
- The prime areas of learning are promoted exceptionally well. Children become confident and happy learners through a solid foundation of personal and social development, physical development and communication and language, on which to build their future learning.
- The curriculum is extremely well planned to excite, engage and motivate. Children enjoy the outstanding selection of activities and experiences to support their welfare, learning and development, and as a result their individual needs are met exceptionally well.
- Evaluation of staff performance leads to effective performance management. Strengths are identified and valued and training is given to further improve staff practice. Staff use their continual development opportunities well and this has a huge impact on the excellent quality of teaching they provide.
- Everyone including children and staff all share a celebration and love of learning. Children and staff are proud of their school.
- Quality of provision and practice in the early years at St Andrews School is Outstanding. St Andrews promotes high expectations for all. The school vision statement is 'We aim to bring children to a place where they can realise their full potential and where their 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'. These values are deeply embedded within the foundation stage classes of the school.

Thank you and congratulations to our Early Years team and children for such a glowing report.

Annette Mashru -Headteacher





St Andrew's C of E Primary in Chinnor has a dream of advancing our pupils into the increasingly digital world, with the life skills highly relevant to their future - at school and beyond. We know our children will need to be able to navigate online confidently and safely, and we want to ensure every one of them has the access to do so. If the last couple of years have taught us anything, it's the importance of being connected - being able to use technology to learn, to connect and even to socialise.

To achieve that dream, we're working hard to become a **Microsoft Showcase School** – and hope to be amongst the first in the UK to join this global community of pioneer schools. **Microsoft Showcase Schools** create immersive, and inclusive experiences that inspire pupils to enjoy lifelong learning, stimulating development of essential future-ready skills for the future.

To really make the most of this amazing opportunity, we want to equip every child at St Andrew's with their own laptop, for use at school and at home throughout their time at St Andrew's. Access to their own laptop would mean their learning is enhanced, homework becomes automated and interactive, and their progress can be easily tracked on their own single accounts.

We're calling this **Make IT Happen** – reflecting the restless nature our wonderful school. This is a fundraising initiative started by the school governors and we're asking for your support.

St Andrew's now has a school roll now of over 400 pupils, due to extensive growth in our local population with the developments which have been placed in Chinnor. The School Governors have already approved the purchase of the first 60 laptops at a cost of £20,000 funded from within carefully managed school budgets, meaning a full school year will benefit from their own devices in the 2021/22 academic year. Our plan is to continue this investment every year until all pupils have their own laptop, which are passed on as pupils leave the school.

But, because we're restless, we want to go faster – and reach more pupils, more quickly. So we're asking for your support. Whether you're a parent, a local business, a business with an interest in the area, or a member of our wider community – can you help us accelerate this programme, and **Make IT Happen** for all pupils, even sooner?

All donations are welcome, big or small. Every pound raised will go towards buying these valuable laptops. If you are able to ask your employer to match your donation, that would be appreciated too.

We are always extremely grateful for the ongoing support from the Chinnor and surrounding community, we know when we all pull together amazing things happen. Thank you for your support to **Make IT Happen!**

Donate here: <https://gofundme.com/st-andrews-c-of-e-primary-make-it-happen>

Anna Edwards - Vice Chair of Governors

## Updates



### Harvest Festival

Thank you for your contributions to our harvest festival. Extracts of songs and photos will be on the school website. Our harvest was based on the whole school Europe topic. The children sang in French and Italian. See this link to see how many languages we have in school.

<https://www.st-andrews.oxon.sch.uk/news/2021-10-05-european-day-of-languages>

### Road Safety

Following the sad news that Patsy will not be replaced on the crossing all classes will complete some road safety lessons. Please support this by talking to your children regularly too.

**Parents' Evening** - Information on how to access parents' evening online will be sent out this week

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the new school year, and if you're new to the school - we hope your children are settling and enjoying all we have to offer at St Andrew's.

Are you proud of our school and want to contribute your skills and energy to help keep improving all aspects of school life? Then why not get involved and join the governing body?



We're looking for a new parent governor to join the team, helping us to continue to drive the restless spirit in the school.

As governors, we work closely with Mrs Mashru and her team in developing and sustaining our school. The Governors are responsible for:

- Setting strategic direction for the school
- Ensuring accountability of the teachers and leadership team
- Monitoring and evaluating the performance of the school against agreed targets

In terms of the time commitment required, there are 12 governor meetings per year, always in the evenings. Plus, we each have a school subject to provide governor support for which generally we meet 3 times per year with the lead teacher to offer advice and challenge on how best develop the subject.

If you share our passion for helping to drive the school forward, making the most of the opportunities, and addressing the challenges that come from being a fast growing, restless school, then get in touch.

If you'd like to know more from one of the current governors or would like to nominate yourself please email us via the school office, explaining the experience and skills you would bring. Nominations close on 11th October.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Seb Hearmon - Chair of Governors

Annette Mashru - Headteacher