



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

Thursday 21st 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

Dear Parents and Carers,

The children in KS2 were completely absorbed in a talk given by Eddy Smythe last week. The event was arranged by Mrs Darlington, History Leader, as part of black history month. Eddy told the children the incredible story of his father, John Henry Smythe and also shared the song written in his memory. Please see the links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlarzxtGsU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qii8uexPQXE&t=37s>



'It was incredible to have someone so inspiring, so local in Chinnor.' Thomas Y4

After his visit, Eddy messaged, *'It was such a pleasure to give a talk to years 3, 4, 5, and 6 at St Andrew's school. The children were so well mannered, attentive and asked lots of really interesting questions. There was such a lovely atmosphere in the school which is a real testament to Mrs Mashru and the teachers. I was warmly thanked for giving the talk but I actually felt I should be the one thanking the school for giving me the opportunity to share the story of my dad.'*



Eddy finished the week sharing his story on GMTV. We are delighted he is now a friend of St Andrew's and has agreed to visit us again. Lucky us!

For KS1 pupils, one of our trainee teachers, Chloe Martin gave a talk **"It matters to be proud of who you are and to share your stories"**

James: 'Unique is when you can look at other people and know that they are different to you.'

Sophie: 'People can be black or white. It doesn't matter what you look like.'

Archie: 'Your family looks like a beautiful rainbow.'

This week, Parents' Evenings took place online. Thank you for your support with this initiative. We want to keep parents informed as much as possible with developments in school. Investments in curriculum resources continue to be a focus for the school budget. Building on last year's purchase of books and online reading resources we have purchased a phonics scheme which links to our individual and guided reading books. In addition to this we have also bought guided reading books.

We have also invested in 'Now Press Play', an award-winning immersive audio resource engaging primary school children in the curriculum through sound, story and movement. This will be used in all year groups. Please see the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-PnGrkGZ2Hs>



Work on the all-weather pitch is almost complete and the new trim trial for KS2 was installed this week. Once again new playground equipment has been purchased for playtime. We also bought play equipment for the house winners of the term. Congratulations Icknield House, we hope you enjoyed the circus skills, dance and craft reward time for gaining the most house point tokens when being Ready, Respectful and Safe. Thank you to our trainee teachers for organising this wonderful event.

Staff are now planning visitors to school and trips out for the year. As SASA have been limited in opportunities to achieve their usual high fundraising targets over the past 2 years, there will be a charge for these trips and visitors which really enhance learning opportunities for the children. Thank you to Nykki Greaves and Caroline Crosby for leading the brilliant SASA team especially through such a challenging time. If you would like to help SASA raise money for the children in school please contact any member of the SASA team or the school office.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed with some very generous donations to 'Make IT Happen'. We are truly grateful for large and small amounts of money. Please see the information below and if you can help in any way that would be brilliant for the children.

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 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**