



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

Tuesday 21st November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Staffing Update

This is to update you on a few staff changes. **Mrs Katie Collier** is returning from maternity leave in February. Katie will be taking on the SENCO role in place of **Mrs Lucy Wade**, who sadly is leaving at the end of this term. Lucy will be taking up a class teacher role nearer to her home. We will miss Lucy who has been a wonderful teacher/SENCO and colleague at St Andrew's since 2015. Lucy's Friday post in EYFS will be picked up by **Mrs Stef Chapman** (IT Leader).

Mrs Fiona Ludlow will continue working on a Wednesday in Year 1 so Mrs Collier can devote her time to the SENCO role with **Mrs Phee Garlick**.

**Miss Zoe Atkins** will sadly be leaving us as she is increasing the number of days teaching at another school. Zoe has been instrumental in assisting the school to achieve RRS gold and her drive for school development will truly be missed.

Another addition to the TA team in KS1 will be **Miss Ella Middleton**. We welcome Ella to the St Andrew's family.



## Therapy Dog

**Mary and Raggy** have been very well received in school.

There are a **range of interventions** he is and will be involved in, including **working with whole classes, confidence building, encouraging reluctant readers and promoting general well-being**. Please ensure you have **expressed your preference** via the questionnaire sent to parents so your child does not miss out if you would like them to take part.

Thank you to everyone who has shared their preference.

We have a new **reading area in our Garden Room**. Thank you very much for the donations of **quality books, magazines, comics and children's newspapers** we have received.

The children are able to access this area during reading club and we will be inviting classes to borrow the books and magazines to read in class. Going forward, we have plans for each class to have a slot each week so they can enjoy reading in this new space.

We would welcome more donations to keep our stock fresh and up to date. **Please drop off bags of books, comics, magazines or children's newspapers to the office** for the attention of Mrs Gerrish.



## The Impact of Our Curriculum

The focus for this Newsletter is **Literacy**. We are featuring three children who all enjoy writing in their own time, either simply for pleasure or for a purpose. For the next newsletter the focus will be history.



The **Boobzy is a comic that I created in Year 4**. It started as just one comic strip called 'The Chronicles of Enderflash and Ghasty' and has grown from there. I first came up with Enderflash as a **character in a Wow Writing Week** about superheroes - his super power is to change the weather. Because I read the Beano, I knew Enderflash had to have a partner. I was interested in Minecraft at the time, so I came up with a Minecraft ghost called Ghasty, whose superpower is to shoot fireballs. Enderflash always does something silly and Ghasty has to solve it. Over time I have expanded my comic with extra character inspiration from my teddies (and my sister) and the original Chronicles strip grew into The Boobzy. The name comes from my nickname 'Boo'.

There are five sections in my comic; Enderflash and Ghasty Unleashed, Squirtly the Soaker and Bomby, Lulu Little Pony, Calamity Saturny and Pikachu's Pokemon Jokes. **I really enjoy making my comic and it's easy to come up with ideas but drawing it is the hard bit**. I am going to start on a Christmas Special, Issue 4, with a new section called Draw with Knuffel! **Thomas, Year 5**

Hello my name is **Wren**. My dad went to Zambia with his work **to volunteer at a school**. We sponsor a girl called Monica, through the charity, Rainbowafrica.org which is a Christian Charity who support communities with education, healthcare, training and employment.

When dad got back, he showed us pictures of where Monica lived. She doesn't have lots of things like we do. She is 10 and lives with her grandma as her mum was not able to look after her. They don't have the same help that we do in England which is sad. **I love to write letters to her to say happy birthday and be pen pals**. I love that we are able to sponsor her as it is nice to give something that we take for granted to someone who needs it. I hope this helps people realise not everyone is as lucky as us. **We hope to visit her one day and I love that she can be happy and enjoy my letters!**

The picture shows my dad meeting Monica.



Sophia, **enjoys writing in her own time**. She likes to complete the homework challenges set for her year group and often writes about topics which interest her. In the photograph, **Sophia is showing a piece of work she completed about France**.





Year 2 have enjoyed using **laptops and iPads** to work on their computing skills.

They learnt how to type by keeping their fingers in the correct place. They have also been listening to space stories on the iPad and have learnt about **fiction and non-fiction texts**.



Whizz, whoosh, crackle! Year 1 set the new term off with a bang, immersing themselves in all things Bonfire Night. They have been writing fireworks poems, **making Bonfire Night art with paint and collage**, and **learning all about the Gunpowder Plot** and why we celebrate with a bonfire every year. The children loved role playing the events of the Plot and discussing life in 1605 compared to 2023 – they couldn't believe they didn't have the Internet back then!

They had a great introduction to programming in their recent Computing lesson with Mrs Chapman. They have been learning about algorithms and coding using the app ScratchJr. ScratchJr is available on the school iPads and has differing levels based on ability. By the end of the lesson, **the children were able to use sequence blocks, choose different sprites, along with moving and annotating them within the platform**.







We are very grateful to our Year 3 **Eco leaders**. They take great pride in their school and exercise children's right 24 by **maintaining and improving their environment**. They search the site for rubbish and tidy the area using litter pickers and bags. Thank you children.

Some Year Five children had the opportunity to go to the World Book Day celebration at **Magdalen College School in Oxford**. They heard some amazing authors speaking about the books they had written, took part in a mass drawing session, and entered a book quiz. The brilliant team of Year Five pupils came **first out of over twenty primary schools in the quiz and won over thirty books for the school**.



Year 6 have been working hard in our PE lessons this week. Working on **gymnastics** this term, they are **exploring balance** for both individuals and in pairs. They found it fun and rewarding to move onto more difficult positions and improve on their body shapes and lines to make the holds more aesthetically pleasing. They are aiming to perform their own routines with a **"mini olympics" competition**.

This **Anti-Bullying Week**, the children in EYFS have been exploring the story of Elmer. They were creative making elephants using junk-modelling and collage. Each elephant was so unique! They discussed how special it is to all be **so different**.







Year 5 have made their own **pizzas** this week. They created and **kneaded the dough**. The children embraced the challenge of making their favourite pizzas whilst also developing their culinary skills.



Year 4 have been channelling their inner '**Hans Holbein**' and practising their Tudor portraits. The children are working towards a full **portrait of a Tudor monarch** using paint. We have focused on drawing Henry VIII and Anne of Cleves to link with our current **newspaper report writing in Literacy**.

### Health and safety in school

Children in school and siblings **should not ride bikes and scooters on the school grounds**. This means children **should walk their bikes and scooters** when they enter the school gates. Please could parents remind their children and support staff in school. Staff will continue to remind children of expectations in school. To clarify - the reason for this is to avoid accidents.

### Mufti days

Congratulations on raising **£285.15** for Show Racism the Red Card and **£378.20** to share between Children in Need and the Anti-bullying Alliance.

### Diary dates

**November 20<sup>th</sup> - Open afternoon 1.15pm**  
**November 23<sup>rd</sup> - EYFS writing for parents 9am**  
**November 29<sup>th</sup> - Henry VIII visit Y4**  
**November 30<sup>th</sup> - St Andrew's Day**

**December 1st - Posada starts**

**December 4<sup>th</sup> - Y1 Christmas Production 2.15pm**

**December 5<sup>th</sup> - Y2 Christmas Production 2pm**

**December 6<sup>th</sup> - Thame Festival of Voices 7pm**

**December 6<sup>th</sup> - EYFS Christmas Production 2.15pm**

**December 8<sup>th</sup> - Year 3 Christmas Production 2pm**

**December 9<sup>th</sup> - SASA Christmas Fayre**

**December 13<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Lunch - MUFTI Xmas Jumper can be worn**

**December 19<sup>th</sup> - A Christmas Pantomime in school for Y1 - Y6 and a special surprise 'visitor' in a red suit for EYFS children - Christmas Jumpers can be worn**

**December 20<sup>th</sup> - School Finishes at 1.30pm**