



St Andrew's Catholic Primary School

To Live, Love and Learn together, as Witnesses for Christ

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Twitter X- StAndrewsOLAAS

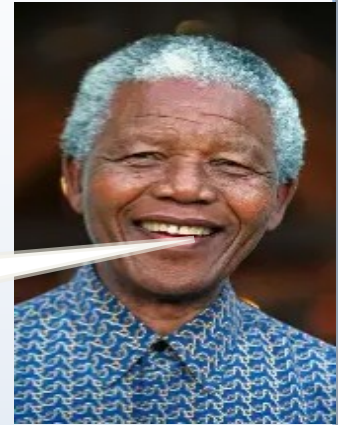
Friday 12th December 2025

attentive
faith-filled
generous
eloquent
intentional
truthful
loving
hopeful
curious
wise
grateful
discerning
compassionate
active

This half term, we are growing to be Learned and Wise. Learning how God wants us to live our lives, young or old we should not stop learning about what God wants of us. Wise knowing what God wants us to do and putting it into practise.

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Our Catholic Social Teaching focus for this half term is...



Education is the most powerful lesson to use to change the world.

(Nelson Mandela - Activist and former President of South Africa.)

In the words of Pope Leo XIV...



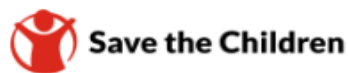
Jesus Christ is not a figure of the past. He is the Son of God present among us, guiding history toward the future promised by God.



This Sunday we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent, a wonderful time to prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas. We wish all our families a peaceful and faith-filled season, filled with hope, love, and special moments together as we look forward to welcoming Christ at Christmas.

We beat our £200 target-THANK-YOU!

Thank you so much to all of our families for your generous donations to our Save the Children charity page for Christmas Jumper Day this year. Your kindness and support mean more than ever, and your contributions will help make a real difference to children and families who need it most this Christmas. We are truly grateful for your continued generosity-thank you for helping to spread warmth, joy, and hope this festive season!



**ST ANDREW'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL -
CHRISTMAS JUMPER
DAY**

GIVE NOW

£246
RAISED



We love sharing and celebrating all of the wonderful things happening in an around school linked to learning and achievements of your children, so if you are not yet following us...head over to Instagram and give our page a follow!

You'll have a peek into our Catholic Life, learning, achievements, friendships and fun, that we are so very proud of!

Instagram - Standrewsschoolb92

The Giving Tree is here!

As part of our ongoing outreach and charity work, we are supporting Father Hudson's and Lyndon Croft Care home by donating some small gifts for people less fortunate than ourselves.

If you would like to donate a gift, please take a tag from the Giving Tree in the entrance hall and bring your gift back to school by Wednesday 17th December.



What a week! I think we may have found lots of children who could be spotted on the big stage in years to come!

The children have performed wonderfully in their Nativities this year, showcasing such confidence and enthusiasm on stage. Their festive joy shone through every song and scene, creating a truly magical experience for everyone involved. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them for their hard work and spirited performances!



Our PTA did another fabulous job with our Christmas Boutique this year, ensuring all children had a range of beautiful gifts to choose from and take home for their loved ones!

Thank you for all your hard work and wrapping—I'm pretty sure Father Christmas could use your wrapping skills round about now!

Thank you to all who contributed too—we hope you love your gifts!



Good bye and Good luck

This Christmas, we will be saying a heartfelt goodbye to a much-loved member of our staff who has been part of our school community for over 20 years.

Mrs Haynes, throughout your time with us, you have supported the growth and progress of thousands of children, giving so much of your time, care, and dedication to the school. Your commitment has made a lasting difference, and you leave behind a legacy of kindness, hard work, and unwavering support.

We wish Mrs Haynes every happiness for the future and thank her sincerely for everything she has given to our community.

We will miss you!



We would also like to introduce and welcome a new member of staff to the team!

Mrs Symons will be joining our wonderful school office from Monday!

Mrs Worswick, Sister Susan and a cocktail of different members of staff have kept our office functioning brilliantly this half term, however, we are all over the moon to have a new addition to our team !

I am sure Mrs Symons will feel welcomed by all in our St Andrew's community—she looks forward to meeting you!

New KS2 Prayers

Morning Prayer

**O Jesus,
through the most pure heart of Mary,
I offer you all my prayers,
thoughts, works and sufferings of this day
for all the intentions of your most Sacred Heart.
Amen.**



Grace Before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts
which we are about to receive
from your bounty.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Grace After Meals

We give you thanks, Almighty God,
for all your benefits,
who live and reign, world without end.
Amen.



Prayer at the end of the day

Lord Jesus Christ, as we come to the end of this school day,
Help us to reflect and to pray:
For the difficulties I have known, I ask for your help.
For the blessings I have received; I thank you.
May I seek to be an instrument of your peace in my home today.
Each day is a gift. May I look forward to a new start tomorrow.
May the journey of my life be an experience of your love,
your compassion, your forgiveness and your peace.
Amen.



Term Dates



School Year 2025 / 2026

Autumn term 2025

Term Starts: Monday 01 September 2025

Half Term Holiday: Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025

Term Ends: Friday 19 December 2025

End of Term Holiday: Monday 22 December 2025 - Friday 02 January 2026

Spring term 2026

Term Starts: Monday 05 January 2026

Half Term Holiday: Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026

Term Ends: Friday 27 March 2026

End of Term Holiday: Monday 30 March 2026 - Friday 10 April 2026

Summer term 2026

Term Starts: Monday 13 April 2026

(May Day: Monday 04 May 2026)

Half Term Holiday: Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026

Term Ends: Monday 20 July 2026

End of Year Holiday Starts: Tuesday 21 July 2026

INSET Days

Monday 1st September 2025


Friday 24th October 2025

Monday 5th January 2026

Monday 23rd February 2026

Monday 13th April 2026

Important Dates

| Date | Year Group | Event |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Wed 17th December | All | PTA Christmas Raffle Draw  |
| Wed 17th December | KS2 | KS2 Carol Concert 2.15pm |
| Thu 18th December | All | Dance Performance 9.15am |
| Fri 19th December | All | Children break up for Christmas holidays |
| Mon 5th January | All | INSET DAY- School not open to Children |
| Tue 6th January | All | Children return |
| Wed 14th January | Reception to Year 6 | Wonder Dome in school |
| Sun 1st February | Year 6 | Confirmation Commitment Mass at 11am |
| Fri 13th February | All | Break up for Half term |
| Mon 23rd February | All | INSET DAY- School not open to Children |
| Tue 24th February | All | Children return |
| Tue 10th March | All | Individual School Photos |
| Fri 27th March | All | Break up for Easter Holidays |
| Mon 13th April | All | INSET DAY- School not open to Children |
| Tue 14th April | All | Children return |
| Saturday 9th May | Year 3 | First Holy Communion at 12pm |
| Fri 22nd May | All | Break up for Half term |
| Mon 1st June | All | Children return |
| Tues 23rd June | Year 6 | Confirmation at 7pm |
| Mon 6th July- Wed 8th July | Year 6 | Year 6 Residential |

PE Days

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| Monday | Nursery, Year 3 & Year 6 |
| Tuesday | Year 2 & 4 |
| Wednesday | Year 2, 3 & 5 Swimming |
| Thursday | Reception, 1 & 5 |
| Friday | Year 1, 4 & 6 |



Attendance and Punctuality



Our KSI attendance winners were Year 2.

Our Key Stage 2 attendance winners were Year 3.

Punctuality Winners: Year 2

Well done to our class winners this week.

Well done for the brilliant Attendance and Punctuality this week.

| Class | Attendance | Unauthorised Absence. Excl Holidays |
|-----------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Reception | 92.41% | 0 |
| Year 1 | 94% | 0 |
| Year 2 | 95% | 0 |
| Year 3 | 95.86% | 0 |
| Year 4 | 94.33% | 0 |
| Year 5 | 93.93% | 0 |
| Year 6 | 94.84% | 0 |

Attendance Matters - Every Day Counts

We monitor attendance closely and work with our Educational Welfare Officer to support families.

Children with attendance below 90% may receive a letter and be invited to meet with the officer.

We may request evidence for absences and track patterns carefully.

Holidays during term time cannot be authorised except in exceptional circumstances, in line with school policy and government guidance.

If you need support with attendance, contact the school office.

We would like to thank the majority of families who work hard to ensure their children attend every day and arrive on time - well done for your commitment to learning!

| Class | Lates before registers close | Lates after registers close |
|-----------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Reception | 4 | 0 |
| Year 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Year 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Year 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Year 4 | 12 | 0 |
| Year 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Year 6 | 2 | 2 |



If we have not heard from a parent concerning a child who is absent by 9:30am, we will make a telephone call to ensure the child is safe.

It is imperative that school are contacted if a child is not able to attend school. If we still are unable to make contact, then the Educational Welfare Officer will be informed and a home visit may need to be made to the family home.

Nursery

What a fantastic and very busy week in Nursery. The Children have been busy making lots of craft for Christmas.

The children have made a paper chain as a class with all the things they can do to be good in Advent as we are getting ready. We also had a special letter left for us from our elf Bob to ask us for our letters to Father Christmas so the elves can start to make their presents. So, we have written our letters and posted them in the post box.

Whatever the weather, Nursery have been out enjoying lots of activities in their puddle suits. They have been jumping in muddy puddles/racing against the egg timer to fill the bowls of water using spray/squeeze bottles, we have had lots of fun.

Finally, we did our Nativity performance with Reception, and I have to say well done to you all you were all fantastic and I am very proud of you.



Reception

Wow! What a week we've had in EYFS!

First of all, Reception and Nursery, you were absolutely amazing in your Christmas Nativity! Your teachers are beyond proud of every single one of you.

Reception have also had such an exciting week in class - from using our Postman Pat van, to creating our own Christmas stocking wish lists, and even making beautiful Advent wreaths.

What a wonderful build-up to Christmas it has been!
We have also had lots of fun using the 'polar express to inspire our role play!



Year One

Year 1 have had a wonderfully busy and festive week! The children enjoyed making their own snowflakes, carefully cutting and decorating them to create beautiful winter designs. We also explored the meaning of the Advent wreath and talked about what each candle represents. The children then made their own Advent wreaths, showing lovely focus and creativity.

As part of our Christmas activities, the class had great fun building Christmas trees using lots of different materials, thinking carefully about shape, colour, and design. To finish off the week, the children absolutely loved Christmas dinner day—it was a joyful and exciting celebration for everyone!

Year Two

Year 2 have been getting into the Christmas spirit this week! We loved seeing all the colourful Christmas jumpers on Christmas Jumper Day, and the children enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner together. We also had our Nativity performance and wow, what fantastic actors we have! Their confidence, singing, and enthusiasm were amazing. Broadway, here we come! Well done, Year 2.

I am so proud of you all!



Year Three

Year 3 welcomed parents into school recently for a special Advent crib-making workshop. The children began by sharing Gospel Acclamations and a reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. They also explained how the tradition of the crib began with St Francis of Assisi, who created the first nativity scene to help people understand the story of Jesus' birth. The children then sang Love Shone Down. Parents and children then worked together to create their own cribs. It was a lovely opportunity to learn about the significance of the crib during Advent and make something meaningful to take home for the season.



Year Four

What a wonderfully busy festive week we have had in Year 4! The children created beautiful watercolour paintings, sequenced the Christmas story and explored the important messages delivered by the angels.

In Science, they deepened their understanding of the water cycle, confidently using vocabulary such as evaporation, condensation and precipitation, and in Spanish they expressed their opinions about different fruits with great enthusiasm.

It has been a fantastic week of learning, creativity and festive cheer!

Year Five

Year 5 were extremely proud to receive the printed copy of I Have a Dream, which features their own published poems. We spent time reading through their work and sharing the poems with the rest of the class.

During Science, Year 5 explored the phases of the Moon and used Oreos to model each stage. It got a little messy, but they loved it!



Year Six

It's been a lovely week for Year 6 as we get closer to Christmas. Some highlights included leading a Celebration of the Word for the whole school on the Immaculate Conception, planned by our fabulous GIFT Ambassadors, writing messages of Hope to our friends at Lyndon Croft, enjoying our Christmas dinner in our Christmas jumpers and watching our buddies perform their amazing nativity!

Thanks for a great week, Year 6.



UPCOMING EVENTS

AUTUMN TERM



SEPT

26th - Christmas bottle donation &
non-uniform day
26th - AGM



OCT

15/16th - Book Fair
23rd - Break the rules



NOV

7th - Fireworks Display
10th - Christmas raffle sale
12th - PTA Meeting
28th - Christmas Fair



DEC

1st - Christmas Colour Hamper
12th - Christmas Boutique
17th - Christmas Raffle Draw



Save the dates!



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WE STOCK A COMPLETE RANGE OF

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- Boys & Girls Footwear, Trainers, Football Boots and Plimsolls
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- Leavers' Hoodies, Fleece Jackets, Reversible Fleece Jackets,
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- On site embroidery service (We offer a complete design and logo setup, embroidery service in store.)
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Embroidery Service Available.
Student Foundation Trust Grants / Vouchers Accepted

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