



# St Andrew's Catholic Primary School

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

0121 743 5675 <https://www.st-andrews.sotihull.sch.uk> office@st-andrews.sotihull.sch.uk

Instagram - Standrewsschoolb92



Our Lady and All Saints  
Catholic Multi Academy Company  
Strong in Faith

Twitter X - StAndrewsOLAAS

Friday 30th January 2026

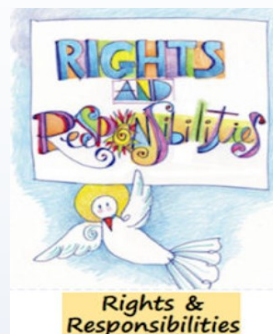
attentive  
faith-filled  
generous  
eloquent  
intentional  
loving  
hopeful  
curious  
wise  
grateful  
discerning  
compassionate  
active  
truthful  
hopeful  
curious  
wise  
grateful  
discerning  
compassionate  
active

This half term we are learning to be Curious and Active.  
Curious about everything and taking increasing responsibility for our own learning; and active in our engagement with the world, changing what we can for the better.

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



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



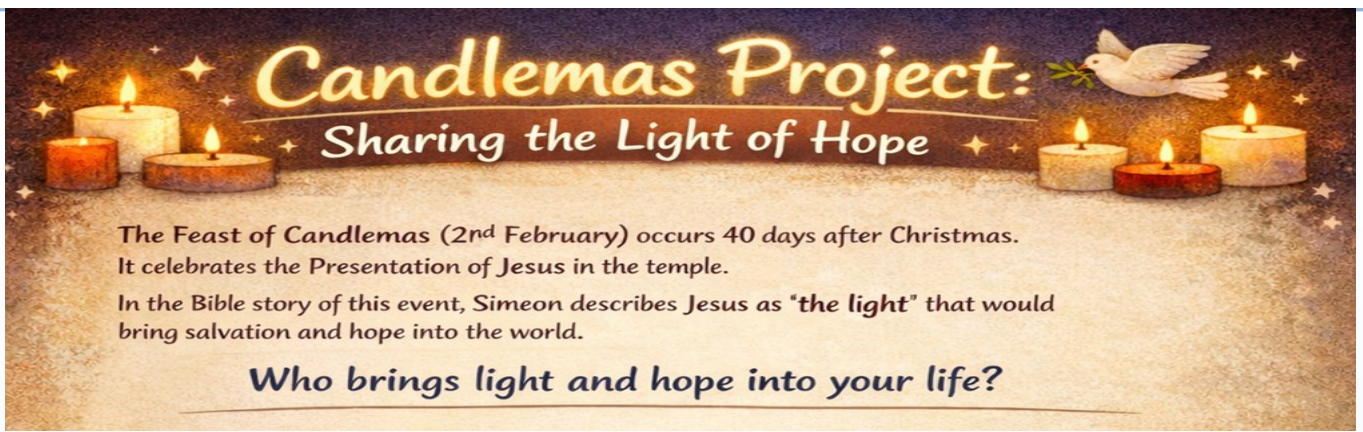
I've found that luck is quite predictable. If you want more luck, take more chances. Be more active. Show up more often.

(Brian Tracy - American Author)

In the words of Pope Leo XIV...



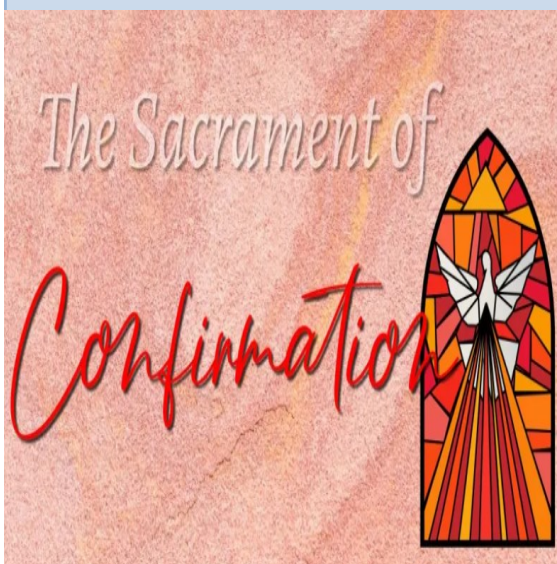
We are disciples of Christ, Christ goes before us and the world needs his light. Humanity needs him like a bridge to reach God and his love.



Children have been bringing their beautiful projects into school in preparation for our Candlemas celebration next week.

To see the people who bring light and hope to their lives is truly emotive and special and we would love to give you the opportunity to come and enjoy our Candlemas Gallery too!

On Tuesday 3rd February we would love to welcome you into the school hall (via the school office) to view our gallery between 8:30am- 9am in the morning and straight after pick-up between 3:30pm-4pm.



This Sunday, 1st February at 11am, our Year 6 pupils have their Confirmation Commitment Mass.

All are welcome and are encouraged to join together and support our Confirmandees as they prepare for this special Sacrament.

The boys' football team put in a great performance in their recent match against Yew Tree, showing great determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship from the first whistle to the last. The game was competitive and exciting throughout, with strong defending, excellent passages of play and plenty of effort from every member of the team. The boys represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating resilience, respect and a positive attitude, and they should all be extremely proud of their performance. Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to the supporters who came along to cheer the team on.



On Thursday 7th May, school will be closed to allow the building to be used as a polling station. This arrangement has been in place in previous years and will continue this year. School operations will resume on Friday 8th May.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.



A reminder to parents and pupils that long hair should be tied up while at school, and makeup should not be worn as part of our school uniform policy. We appreciate your continued support in helping us maintain these standards.



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](#)



# 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: Friday 17th July 2026

### INSET Days

Monday 1st September 2025

Friday 24th October 2025

Monday 5th January 2026

Monday 23rd February 2026

Monday 13th April 2026

Thursday 7th May 2026

# Important Dates

Date	Year Group	Event
Sun 1st February	Year 6	Confirmation Commitment Mass at 11am
Fri 6th February	All	PTA Sweet Tooth Sale
Wed 11th February	All	Parents Evening 3.45-6.15pm
Thu 12th February	All	Parents Evening 3.45-6.15pm
Fri 13th February	All	PTA £1 dress in red or pink day
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
Fri 27th February	All	PTA Meeting
Tue 10th March	All	Individual School Photos
Fri 13th March	All	PTA Mother's Day Boutique
Fri 27th March	All	PTA Easter Disco & non uniform day
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
Fri 17th April	All	PTA Summer Fair bottle donation & non uniform day
Fri 24th April	All	PTA Break the rules day
Thu 7th May	All	INSET Day- Closed for Voting
Saturday 9th May	Year 3	First Holy Communion at 12pm
Thu 21st May	Year 6	Trip to the Cathedral
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 & 4 -Swimming
Thursday	Reception, 1 & 5
Friday	Year 1, 5 & 6



# Attendance and Punctuality



Our KSI attendance winners were Year 2.

Our Key Stage 2 attendance winners were Year 3.

Punctuality Winners: Year 1 and Year 5

Well done for the brilliant Attendance and Punctuality this week.

Class	Attendance	Unauthorised Absence. Excl Holidays
Reception	90.69%	0
Year 1	92%	0
Year 2	96.33%	0
Year 3	96.90%	0
Year 4	94%	0
Year 5	94.81%	0
Year 6	96.45%	0
Class	Lates before registers close	Lates after registers close
Reception	6	0
Year 1	1	0
Year 2	6	0
Year 3	5	0
Year 4	7	0
Year 5	1	0
Year 6	5	3

## ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY – EVERY MINUTE COUNTS

Being in school **every day and on time** is vital for children's learning, wellbeing **and safety**. We understand that mornings can be difficult for some families, and we are committed to working **supportively and proactively** to help every child attend regularly.

### 🚨 IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING REMINDER – FIRST DAY CONTACT

**School must be contacted on the FIRST day of absence.**

If we have **not heard from a parent by 9:30am**, school will make contact to ensure your child is **safe and well**.

If we are unable to make contact, the **Educational Welfare Officer (EWO), Lynette**, will be informed and further checks may be made, including a home visit if required.

## 🕒 LATES ADD UP – MORE THAN YOU THINK

Arriving late has a real impact on children's learning and emotional wellbeing.

**Just 10 minutes late every day means:**

- 🕒 **50 minutes of learning missed each week**
- 📅 **Over 30 hours missed across a school year**

✗ The equivalent of **almost a full week of school lost**

Lateness can also be unsettling for children and affect confidence, routines and friendships.

## 🤝 WE ARE HERE TO HELP

If attendance or punctuality is becoming difficult, **please talk to us early**. Support is available through:

- **Mrs Brady – Child & Family Support Worker & Attendance Lead**
- **Educational Welfare Officer**
- **Inclusion Team**

**Family Hubs**, offering drop-in sessions and practical support for families who are struggling

Please refer to the **timetables sent out last week**, or contact Mrs Brady to discuss how we can support your family.

## 📊 MONITORING & WORKING TOGETHER

We monitor attendance closely and track patterns carefully. Where attendance falls below expected levels, families may be invited to meet with school and the EWO so that we can **work together to improve attendance**. Term-time holidays cannot be authorised except in exceptional circumstances, in line with school policy and government guidance.

## ❤️ THANK YOU

Thank you to the many families who ensure their children attend school **every day and arrive on time**. Your commitment makes a huge difference to learning, wellbeing and success.

# Nursery

This week in Nursery we have focused some of our activities around our story 'Peace At Last' by Jill Murphy. The children have enjoyed our story tuff tray this week with the house and characters. We have discussed and roleplayed what noises kept Mr. Bear awake all night.

In RE this week we have looked at our own Baptism photographs and really enjoyed sharing with each other who our family members/God parents are and talking about what happens at a Baptism and where it takes place.

The Nursery children have been doing lots of exploring of our outdoor area this week, they have been using diggers in the muddy puddles using their working as a team skills and turn taking with the diggers. They have also been doing lots of mark making in lots of different ways during our outdoor learning time, we have used the black boards/water/paintbrushes and large sheets of paper with powder paint and soil to draw and write letters/numbers.

Nursery you have been getting very busy this week, well done.



# Reception

This week reception has had a fantastic time learning all about the story Jack and the Beanstalk. We role played the story together as whole class, using instruments to make the story even more engaging!

We also had our Teddy Bear hospital session where we learnt all about how to keep our bodies healthy, and who we need to call if someone is feeling very poorly! Reception listened and joined in very well with this so a big well done to them all!



# Year One

This week in year the children sorted and compared toys from the past and present, using words such as old, new, past, and present. They loved discussing how toys have changed over time. The children also enjoyed sharing their homework where they discovered which toys their grandparents and loved ones played with as children, which was wonderful to hear!

In Computing, the children used Bee-Bots to begin learning about programming. They practised giving instructions, creating simple programs, and fixing mistakes when things didn't work first time. The children have been enthusiastic, curious, and very proud of their learning.



# Year Two

We have had a busy and fun week of learning in Year 2, as always!

The children have been absolutely amazing while practising their dividing skills in maths.

In PE, we have been enjoying gymnastics. The children explored a variety of gymnastic positions and worked creatively to perform their own routines.

It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they balanced, stretched and moved with control.



# Year Three

This week in PE, Year 3 have been developing their leadership skills by creating their own games. The children worked together to design rules, explain them clearly to others and make sure everyone could take part. They showed great teamwork, communication and confidence as they led their games.

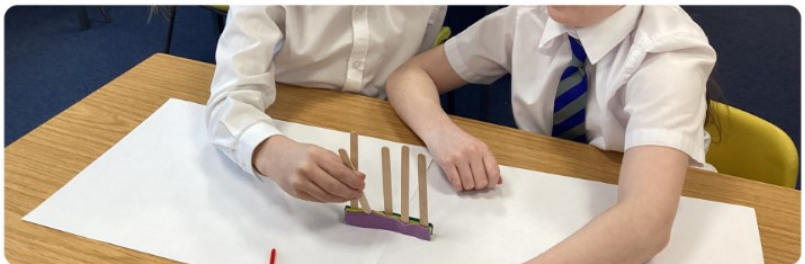


# Year Four

This week, pupils learned about Anglo-Saxon settlements and explored how homes were built using wattle and daub.

They enjoyed creating their own models and discussing why these natural materials were used.

In Science, we began our new topic on sound, where pupils investigated how sounds are made and learned that vibrations help sounds travel.



# Year Five

Year 5 have been exploring a range of artworks depicting the Baptism of Jesus. They carefully analysed and compared the different interpretations, showing great thought and curiosity. The children were especially excited when challenged to either replicate one of the artworks or create their own original piece inspired by the baptism. I was extremely impressed by the creativity, effort and artistic skill shown in their final pieces.



# Year Six

Year 6 have really enjoyed their Computing topic where we have been learning about AI. This week, we focused on both the positive and negative impact AI may have on society, investigating its biggest benefits as well as potential drawbacks. We created PowerPoints summarising these to present to the class.

This week in Science, Year 6 explored the topic of light, learning about reflection and refraction and were very surprised to discover how little light is actually visible to our eyes. We carried out some practical investigations into shadows, exploring how their size and shape change depending on the distance from a light source. The class showed great curiosity and enthusiasm, asking thoughtful questions and applying their scientific skills well.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

*SPRING TERM*



JAN

16th - Summer fair gift donation  
& non-uniform day



FEB

6th - Sweet Tooth Sale  
13th - £1 dress in red or pink day  
27th - PTA meeting



MAR

13th - Mother's Day Boutique  
27th - Easter Disco & non-uniform day



APR

17th - Summer fair bottle  
donation & non-uniform day  
24th - Break the rules day

**BREAK  
RULES**

Calling all bakers!

It's time to get those aprons on and work your magic! We're inviting all budding bakers to tempt us with some delicious freshly baked treats for our sweet tooth sale on Friday 6th February.

Important: We are a nut-free school, so please ensure no nuts are used in any bakes.

All baked goods should be brought into school by Thursday 5th February. If items are in Tupperware, please ensure they are clearly labelled so we can return these to you.

Thank you in advance for your support - we can't wait to see (and taste!) your creations!



**Valentine's Non-Uniform Day!**

**Celebrate the love!**

**Friday 13th February**

**Wear something pink or red**

**£1 per child**

**Let's make the day full of smiles!**

**NON-  
UNIFORM  
DAY £1 PER  
CHILD  
FRIDAY 13TH  
FEBRUARY**



**The book fair is returning next week.**

**Remember browsing dates/times for parents and children are:**

**Friday 6th and Thursday 12th, 3.30-4pm**

Fun Family Event!

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January

11 - 2pm

# WINTER FAYRE

St Mary's Church Hall  
Hobs Moat, B92 8PN

**FREE ENTRY!**

- Tombola
- Tuck Shop & Popcorn
- Jumble Sale
- Cake Sale
- Samosas
- Glitter Tattoos & face painting
- Thrift Clothes Sale
- Teddy Tombola
- + So much more fun!

Come help us raise funds to send local  
scouts and explorers to the World Scout  
Jamboree Poland 2027!

[elaine@dickensheathscouts.org.uk](mailto:elaine@dickensheathscouts.org.uk)

Solihull  
Libraries



Children's  
author  
Kate Jones

Book your  
FREE place



SCAN ME

FREE Children's Story telling event  
The Core Library  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 4.30pm





# Midland Schoolwear

[www.midlandschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.midlandschoolwear.co.uk)

ONLINE SHOP AVAILABLE

## WE STOCK A COMPLETE RANGE OF

- Official School Uniforms
- Trousers, skirts, blouses, shirts and jumpers.
- Sportswear and Swimwear
- Boys & Girls Footwear, Trainers, Football Boots and Plimsolls
- Brownies, Rainbows, Cubs, Beavers and Scout Regulation Uniforms
- Leavers' Hoodies, Fleece Jackets, Reversible Fleece Jackets,
- Corporate Wear - available for small / large businesses, nurseries, tradesmen, clubs and teamwear.
- On site embroidery service (We offer a complete design and logo setup, embroidery service in store.)
- Garment Printing



**Embroidery Service Available.**  
**Student Foundation Trust Grants / Vouchers Accepted**

**0121 707 2033**

Shop 9, 1160 Warwick Road, Acocks Green, B27 6BP