



St Andrew's Catholic Primary School

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

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Instagram - Standrewsschoolb92



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

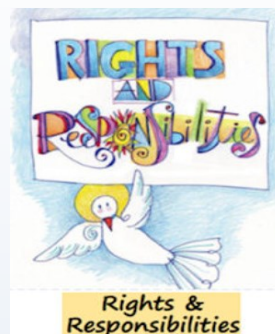
Twitter X - StAndrewsOLAAS

Friday 13th February 2026

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.

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



Most of what I stumbled into by following my curiosity and intuition turned out to be priceless later on.

(Steve Jobs - American businessman)

In the words of Pope Leo XIV...



The quality of human life is not dependent on achievement - it is dependent on love. ... Your sufferings offer an opportunity to discover and affirm that love is the measure of our humanity.

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

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HAPPY HALF TERM!

What a wonderfully vibrant and uplifting final week of the half term it has been! Our school has been alive with colour, music, faith, and generosity, making it a truly memorable end to a busy and successful half term.

The week began with our joyful Mardi Gras celebration, which brought the school community together in a burst of colour, rhythm, and creativity. The children embraced the spirit of the occasion, wearing the special colours of purple, green and gold, with great enthusiasm, filling our school with energy and excitement.

We were then blessed to come together for a beautiful Mass led by Year 2 to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The children led the liturgy with confidence and reverence, creating a prayerful and reflective atmosphere that was deeply appreciated by all who attended.

Throughout the week, pupils also took part in a number of wonderfully reverent Celebrations of the Word, including a special celebration for Holy Family, which offered meaningful moments of reflection and worship across school.

We finished the week on a high note with a magnificent cake sale. Thanks to the generosity of our families and the hard work of our staff and children, we raised an impressive amount of money approximately £200 for The Birmingham Dogs Trust- a charity thoughtfully chosen by our Key Stage One children. It was heart-warming to see their compassion and commitment to helping others in action.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this final week so special. We wish all our families a restful and enjoyable half term break!



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
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
Mon 9th March	Reception and Year 1	Animal man
Tue 10th March	All	Individual School Photos
Fri 13th March	All	PTA Mother's Day Boutique
Wed 18th March	Year 4	Trip to Cadbury World
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, 5 & 3-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 for the brilliant Attendance and Punctuality this week.

Class	Attendance	Unauthorised Absence. Excl Holidays
Reception	91.03%	0
Year 1	88%	0
Year 2	93.33%	0
Year 3	98.62%	0
Year 4	98.33%	0
Year 5	96.67%	0
Year 6	94.84%	0
Class	Lates before registers close	Lates after registers close
Reception	8	0
Year 1	2	0
Year 2	1	0
Year 3	3	0
Year 4	4	0
Year 5	6	0
Year 6	7	0

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

Nursery have been so busy this week before we break up for half term.

In PE this week we had a special visitor, the Smoothmoves dance teacher Rosie to teach us a zootopia animal themed dance, the children really enjoyed it and even performed what they had learnt for Mrs Hipkiss.

We have been learning all about Chinese New Year (year of the horse). Our roleplay area this week was a chinese restaurant. The children have been decorating lanterns, tasting noodles and took part in a dragon dance.

Outdoor learning this week has been focused on maths and literacy activity opportunities, they children have enjoyed dice games using water and paintbrushes and have been doing lots of number writing using different resources available.

This week Nursery have been celebrating Mardi Gras, we have made masks using the colours green, purple and gold which represent faith/Justice and Power. Also this week we have discussed Valentines day that is coming up this weekend and the children have made a card for someone they love.

Such a busy and fun filled week, happy half term all.



Reception

What an exciting week we've had in Reception!

We've enjoyed celebrating Mardi Gras by creating our own special masks, learning all about Chinese New Year, especially in our role play area! It's been a lovely week and a great way to end the half term.

We hope you all have a wonderful break.

From the Reception staff



Year One

Year 1 have had a fantastic time this week learning about different celebrations and cultures. We celebrated Chinese New Year by practising using chopsticks to develop fine motor skills, writing our names in Chinese characters, and learning about our zodiac signs as we celebrated the Year of the Horse. The children were really engaged and loved finding out more about these traditions.

We also learned about Mardi Gras and created some wonderful, colourful masks. The children proudly wore their masks in our own school procession to celebrate their hard work and creativity. The children have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity throughout these activities, and we are very proud of them.



Year Two

Year 2 have had a fantastic week! In particular, Tuesday was a very special day. We began with a beautiful Celebration of the Word, where the children prayed reverently and reflected thoughtfully. This was followed by lots of creativity as we designed and made our own Mardi Gras masks in preparation for our carnival celebrations.

Year 2 also led Mass this week, and they did so wonderfully. They were respectful, confident, and truly shone like Jesus in the way they participated. Well done, Year 2 - I am so proud of you.



Year Three

Over the last couple of weeks, Year 3 have been completing their Design and Technology projects. The children enjoyed designing their own cushions and bringing their ideas to life using sewing and appliqué skills, developing confidence with stitching and design.

They also explored pneumatic force by designing and building their own investigations using air to create movement. By using balloons and air pressure to make things move, the children discovered how air can be used as a powerful force. It was an exciting, hands-on way to combine creativity, problem-solving and practical science.

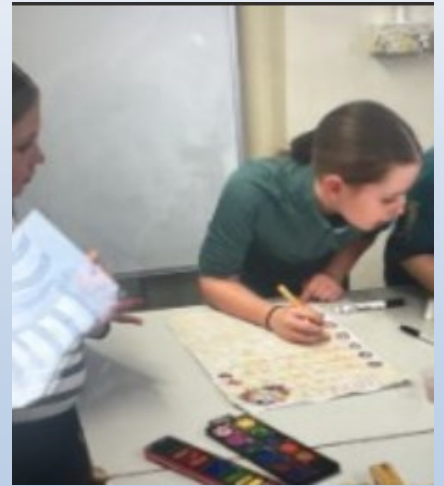


Year Four

Wow, what a busy and exciting half term it has been! Year 4 have worked incredibly hard and achieved so much. This week, the children proudly mastered playing APT. on their brass instruments - a fantastic accomplishment that has showcased their dedication, perseverance and growing musical talent. We have also enjoyed celebrating Mardi Gras, learning about its traditions and joining in with the festivities. To top it all off, we have completed our swimming sessions for the half term. It has been wonderful to see the children develop such confidence in the water and make excellent progress in their skills. I am so proud of all they have achieved!

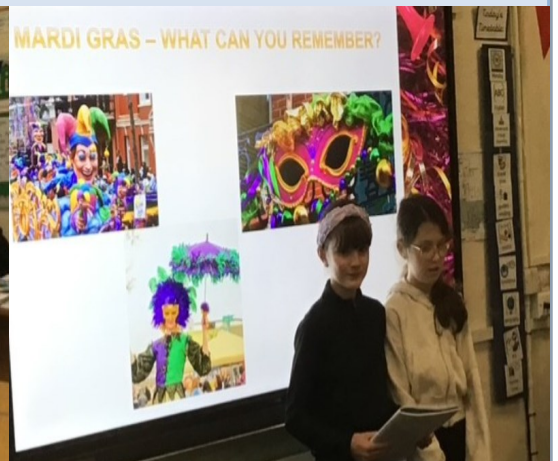
Year Five

This Tuesday, Year 5 took part in the school's Mardi Gras day. They learnt about what Mardi Gras means and the importance of the Mardi Gras Colours. The children were set the task of making people charters for a new city. We spoke about what a fair city would look like and what morals and values a city should have. We also linked these values to our Catholic Social Teaching.



Year Six

Year 6 loved learning about the Mardi Gras traditions this week and particularly enjoyed writing their own raps about a new city ruled with justice, faith and power. Many of us performed these to the school as part of our Mardi Gras celebrations. Well done on working hard this half term, Year 6 - we wish you all a lovely half term break.



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**



A huge thank you to everyone who supported last week's Sweet Tooth cake sale.

Thanks to your generosity (and some truly delicious baking!), we raised an amazing £265!

THANK YOU



Midland Schoolwear

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

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