



Happy New Year

Welcome to a new year and our Spring Term. We are thankful and grateful that the term has started with such positivity,

despite the numbers of staff and children absent with COVID. The school is working extremely hard to ensure minimal disruption to classes, as well as keeping staff and children safe. As government guidance continuously changes, we ask parents to please check emails regularly, so that you are kept up to date with the latest isolation guidance.

Please remember that if you need to speak to someone, there are numerous members of staff outside in the mornings, ready to help you. Class teachers are also available after school, after they have dismissed the class.

What's been happening at school?

At St. Andrew's, we are always striving to give opportunities for children to learn in a variety of ways. Many children learn best through doing and these past two weeks have seen plenty of this! In **Year 1**, as part of their science unit on Light and Dark, the children wanted to see how dark they could make their room. So they set about making dens in the classroom and then crept inside to experience the dark. Each group tried to make their den as dark as possible. What great fun!



Meanwhile, in **Year 5**, the children had been looking forward to the visit from Auriga Astronomy and their mobile planetarium. Set up in the hall, the children entered the huge dome, where they were learned about the Solar System, stars and the Apollo Missions to the Moon.

Later, the children created a service structure, which would be used to support engineers, while they service rockets. A huge thank you to the Year 5 parents for contributing to this fantastic workshop.

Thames 21 Tree Planting Project

Following on from their successful tree planting with the Thames21 team last term, the Year 5 children will soon have the chance to plant some small whips, including hawthorn, oak and cherry trees in our school grounds. We are so excited for these children to plant trees, which will be seen by generations of children to come.

After a rather disruptive year learning to play the recorder, the **Year 4** children finally concluded their lessons with a recorded performance. Miss Jones and Mrs Statham were pleased to see how well the children had remembered all the songs from last term. Some of the melodies were very difficult but the two classes produced a lovely sound together. We look forward to Year 3 children beginning their lessons next week. Continuing with their weekly class music lessons, the Year 4 children are now improving their knowledge of notation and rhythm, using the glockenspiels.



Curriculum Letters

At the beginning of every term, the class teachers complete an overview of the areas of learning, which will be taking place each term. Trips, workshops and other information is also added to the letter. These will be emailed out this week and will also be available to view on the website.

Finding Information

There are a number of ways in which parents can be kept up to date with events and information.

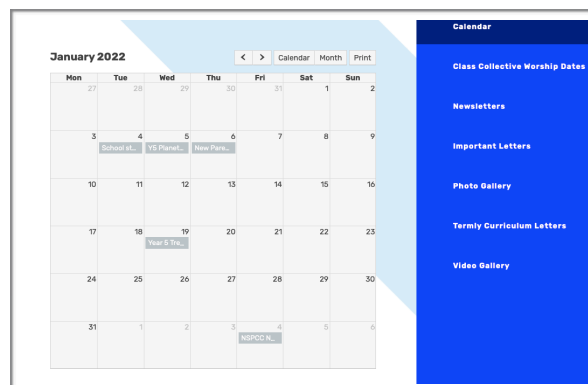
Our fortnightly newsletter appears on the website; with the link being emailed to all parents.

Our calendar at the bottom of our website homepage is updated regularly.

Emails are regularly sent to parents. Please make sure the school has your current email address.

Letters are emailed directly to parents. Please check your emails regularly.

PTA Facebook Page provides information about key events and how to help the school.



Dates

Wed 19th Jan - Year 5 Tree Planting in the school grounds

Thurs 20th Jan - Year 3 recorder lessons begin

Fri 21st Jan - Year 1 Songsack continues

Thurs 3rd Feb - Year 3 visit to St. Andrew's Church

Tues 8th Feb - Safer Internet Day

Mon 14th - Fri 18th Feb - HALF TERM HOLIDAY