

St. Andrew's C of E Junior School Newsletter



13th October 2023 Issue 3

Executive Head Teacher: Mrs K.Smith
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Diary Dates

Thursday 19th Oct

Year 6 Robinwood Presentation

9.05am

Fri 20th Oct

Year 3 & 4 Disco

3.30pm—4.45pm

Year 5 & 6 Disco

4.45pm—6.00pm

Weds 25th Oct

Individual School Photographs

Fri 27th Oct

Always Assembly

&

School closes for half term

Mon 6th Nov

School Closed

Training Day

Tues 7th Nov

School reopens

Mon 13th—Fri 17th Nov

Anti-Bullying Week

Fri 17th Nov

Children in Need

Non-uniform day



Headteacher's Message

Thank you to the parents and carers who attended our parent's evenings this week. We hope that you found these meetings useful.

This week I have been reminded about why our CARING vision is so important and part of what we do here at St. Andrew's. Some pupils attended a lovely session at a local care home where they got to know some fantastic residents. Our school council also visited Brighouse Central Foodbank as they delivered our harvest collection. The children had the opportunity to listen to what the foodbank does, who it supports and how our donations help so many. It's important to us that we work with our local community to learn about what it offers and also that we play our part in supporting those around us.

Next week, we have our school disco. All pupils are invited to attend and tickets can be purchased through the school money app. Children have the opportunity to buy sweets, snacks and small toys (such as glow sticks) and are asked to take responsibility for their own money. Children in Years 3 and 4 can bring their disco clothes to school on Friday and will get changed in the classroom.

Our Chair of Governors, Ms Glenys Phillips has stepped down from her position as chair. She has been Chair of Governors for 12 years and has been part of our journey towards receiving our OUTSTANDING judgement. Glenys will continue to be part of our governing body. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all of her years of service, commitment and loyalty to the school. Our new Chair of Governors is now Mrs Jill Flavell.

Mrs Jocelyn, Head of School





Dear Lord,

Thank you for looking
after our school.

Thank you for loving each
and every one of us here.

Help us to learn, play and
share together, so that
the wonderful world you
have made becomes more
beautiful every day.

Amen.

OUR SCHOOL VISION

Promoting excellence within a
caring, Christian community

Confident - We embrace challenge and
persevere

Aspire - We aim high

Respectful - We are friends and
cherish God's world

Inclusive - We welcome everyone and
are all of equal worth

Nurturing - We look after each other
so we can all flourish

Generous - We give to each other and
our community



"Love each other as I have loved
you."

John 15:12

Congratulations

Today we say farewell to Miss Barker... as she is
returning on Monday as Mrs Caygill!

Miss Barker is getting married tomorrow. We
wish her all the very best for her special day!

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Caygill.

Chat around the table

This month we have been thinking about Black
History Month during our whole school worship.
Whilst we ensure that our whole curriculum
celebrates diversity throughout the year, it would
be lovely if families could chat about what Black
History Month is.



Families could talk about:

- Who is inspirational?
- Who has brought about change to our society?
- Who should be celebrated and why?

We keep our children safe by



. . . asking that parents and carers do not send
their children into school with smart watches. We
ask that children do not use watches in school
which connect to the internet or can send or
receive text messages or calls. We would not
want our pupils making calls when unsupervised
(such as whilst using the bathroom) as this could
potentially put some children at risk. The watches
are also very expensive and risk being lost or
damaged in school.

Thank you for your support with this.

Arts & Crafts Afternoon

Last week six of our Year 5 pupils were chosen to attend an arts and crafts afternoon at Bridge House Care Home in Brighouse.

The children took part in Halloween activities including pumpkin painting, designing Halloween costumes and spooky leaf painting.

They were joined by 4 of the care home residents, the oldest being 92 years young.

The residents and children all loved the event and it was a wonderful experience for both.

The residents and staff commented on how polite, kind and well-mannered our children were and we have to agree they were wonderful ambassadors of our school.

We will continue to boost our community links when we take the choir carol singing to the home in December.



Robinwood Presentation—Thursday 19th October



Our Year 6 children had an amazing time at Robinwood last week. They took part in many activities including archery, giant swing, trapeze, raft building to name but a few.

We have prepared a presentation for our Year 6 parents on Thursday 19th October at 9.05am in the school hall. It would be lovely if you could join us to see what a fabulous experience this was for the children and what a fun time they had.



School Council Trip to Brighouse Central Foodbank



On Friday our lovely school council visited the foodbank. Their aim was to find out more information about how it works.



Our children were put to work. They had to write the dates of each use by date on each product.

The children then had to bag up the food so that each family would have enough food for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks to last three days.



All of the food in the foodbank is given by donations.

It is run by volunteers who give up their own time to help.



Speak to Mrs Jocelyn or Mrs Brearley if you feel you require support from our local foodbank.



Accessibility Questionnaire Results- September 2023

Thank you to the parents and carers who took the time to complete the accessibility questionnaire we sent out. We had a total of 83 responses. As we continue to ensure we 'Promote excellence within a caring Christian community', we have outlined the actions following the feedback we have made.



You said	We did
Signs could be clear around the school building so that parents can see which class is which.	We've ordered some classroom signs to go outside each classroom stating the year group and the name of the class.
Some parents were neutral about the information we send home being clear.	We have made sure that the school website can be translated into different languages. If adaptations (such as enlarged text) need to be made, please inform the school office and we will be happy to accommodate.
One parent stated that the site is not accessible	Our school site has ramps leading to each outside classroom door. It is all on one level. We have a disabled parking space which can be used for any visitor or pupil with a disability and requiring close access to school.
Two parents stated 'maybe' to the meals being accessible for children with medical needs.	Menus are sent home and available on the website. Our cook is aware of all allergies if parents have informed the school. She meets with any parents of children who require adaptations to be made. For example, she will make dairy free alternatives for any menu items. Please speak to the office if you feel your child's dietary requirements are not being met.
Some parents commented on the road safety outside of school and lack of school crossing patrol	As you are aware, we no longer have our usual crossing patrol outside of school. They are employed by Calderdale Local Authority and they have assured us that they are currently recruiting for this post.
A couple of parents are unsure as to whether their children will be able to access the residential in year 6.	Please be assured that we meet with the staff at Robinwood to ensure children can access all that they can on the residential. For example, some pupils may use specially adapted harnesses so that they can climb and go on a zip wire. Some pupils use specially adapted canoes and have additional adults in place. Some pupils go into smaller dormitories so that they have a calmer time at bedtime. We inform the staff of all additional needs and make the necessary adaptations. All pupils have always been included on our residential regardless of medical needs or disabilities.
A few parents commented on how it is better now that the top gate is open after school.	We will do our best to open the top field gate to reduce congestion at the end of the day. On very windy days, we will have to keep the field gate shut.
One parent mentioned a walking bus for breakfast club would be helpful.	We ask that parents or carers take their children to breakfast club as some children come very early and whilst we register them when they get here, we would have no way of knowing that they should have arrived much earlier. It is the responsibility of parents and carers to ensure their child gets to and from school safely.

TUESDAY 24TH OCTOBER

Kids

Light Party

3:30pm -5:00pm

St Martin's
Brighouse

JOIN US FOR:

 LIGHT THEMED CRAFTS 

 MUSIC & DANCING 

 PARTY GAMES 

 SNACKS 

FREE OF CHARGE!

(DONATIONS WELCOME)

A Halloween alternative party

Children must be supervised by an adult



HALIFAX YOUNG SINGERS

Halifax Young Singers is an inclusive, open access Youth Choir, aimed at creating high quality music making experiences for young people across Calderdale.

FREE Open Evening

Thursday 19th Oct
times as below

Come along and see
if HYS is for you

There will be a showcase performance toward the end of each rehearsal - everyone welcome to stay.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR - Ages 7-11

every Thursday 6pm-7pm
(during term-time)

YOUTH CHOIR - Ages 12-21

every Thursday 7.15pm-9pm
(during term-time)

VENUE: CALDERDALE MUSIC, THE OLD COURTHOUSE, BLACKWALL, HALIFAX HX1 2DL

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