

New Parent's Evening

Wednesday 10th June 2020 5.00 pm

I would like to warmly welcome you all to St Andrew's CE Primary School and thank you for choosing our lovely school for the next phase of your child's education.

I am sorry that the global pandemic has necessitated a change to our original induction programme, which we have moved to the beginning of September. It is important that we consider the safety of our children and staff as we make the preparations for the wider opening of the school.

If you have specific questions or concerns that you would like to discuss with either myself, or Mrs Hedges, please do contact us via email and we will be very happy to discuss any items with you at any time.

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St Andrew's School is a very happy and safe place to learn. Our focus is on the holistic development of each individual child and we are determined that every child will achieve their very best. We believe that children need a broad balance of all curriculum areas so that they are exposed to the wealth of possibilities – be that sport, music, art, science, writing or exploring the past, to name a few. We have no idea what jobs and careers will be waiting for our children in the future so we need to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to follow their dreams.

We will be very keen to get to know your child and to learn all about their individual gifts and talents so that we can support them and guide them in their learning and development. We are fully aware that your child has been learning and growing for the last four years and will have had many different learning experiences in the home and at a pre-school setting. We want to build on their prior learning and help them to be the best that they can be. I wholeheartedly encourage a strong partnership between home and school in order to achieve this aim.

Therefore, my door is always open (when we are not socially distancing) and you are encouraged to speak to us about any aspect of your child's learning, no matter how big or small, so that we can find mutually agreeable solutions, together.

Our newest projects in school are The Big Hug and the Science Classroom. I would like to tell you about the progress we have made with these activities, to date.

The school used to have a swimming pool, which became too expensive to run. Having spent time talking to the children, they asked for the space to be turned into a place of calm and quiet where they could sit and enjoy the beauty around them.

The children worked with Andrew and Lesley from a charity called, 'Operation Future Hope' and they wrote a story about a 'Lost and Lonely Hug'. They decided that they wanted a hug with nature and they produced a beautiful draft which Andrew created into a painting/design. The design is in the shape of an 'Owl' and the names of the other classrooms have been incorporated into the design, e.g. the kingfisher dive, the otter den, etc. They named the area The Big Hug and we have been busy building and planting since the beginning of the year.

Like all projects, progress has slowed due to the coronavirus and we hope that the Big Hug will be completed before the start of the new term in September. This play space will provide an alternative to the football field and the sports pitch for children who wish to spend their break times in peace and quiet.

The old changing rooms will be transformed into a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) classroom. We have been gifted with a grant of £10,000 from The Boyles Trust to refurbish the building, which will be known as 'Boyles Building'. We are hoping that this project will be completed by December 2020.

As a school, we are continually seeking ways to improve the provision for our children and we hope that you will be active partners with us.

We look forward to working with you and your children over the next seven years.

Julie Simpson

Head Teacher