



# St. Andrew's C.E. Primary School Newsletter

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Harvest Festival last week was our first gathering as a whole school this year. It was a thankful celebration and theme was 'Harvest for the World'. The singing, dancing and drama from the children were a delight to see. Harvest Festival is such an upbeat occasion and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

I should like to thank everyone for generously donating to our Harvest Festival. Thanks goes to the school team for ensuring that the children were well prepared for the service and those who worked behind the scenes, preparing the gift boxes, displays and refreshments. The donations were very much appreciated by those who received parcels.

Today and tomorrow will be parents' evening. This is a chance to find out how your children have settled in to their first term. It is also an opportunity to discuss how we can work together to support the children in both their academic achievement and their love of learning. This year our governors will also be available for you to meet, discuss school developments or answer questions you may have.

May I also remind you, you are invited to see the children in class this Friday so they can share their work with a particular focus on their 'Explore the World' topic. You are able to collect your children after the event. What a great way to start the half term a trip to a continent! You could end up in any one or two of these destinations:

- EYFS – Asia – India
- Year 1 – Africa
- Year 2 – South America
- Year 3 – North America
- Year 4 – Australia
- Year 5 – Europe
- Year 6 – Antarctica



I look forward to seeing you and hope you enjoy your visit.

Finally, thank you for your support this term. I really do feel with us working together we can ensure the children get the best out of school. Have a brilliant half term. I look forward to term 2 and all that it brings.

Annette Mashru - Headteacher



	Your child received a snap band today to support International Walk to School Month.
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Mr and Mrs Collier have a new addition to their family. Alec Kim Collier was born 03.10.17 at 3.06 am! He was 7 pounds 15 ounces. What a beautiful baby. We are looking forward to a visit very soon.

### Governing body update - October 2017

The school governing body would like to pass on a huge thanks to Annette and her team, our parents and carers and of course all the children for how well everyone has settled back into school since the start of the new academic year. It's a great testament to Wendy Heritage and Annette, that the change in leadership has been so seamless. Thank you to both of them.

As a governing team we are keen to being accessible and we look forward to meeting some of you at our first governing surgery which will run during the October parents' evenings. Please do stop by our desk to say hello and tell us your thoughts on any aspect of the school. We are very interested to learn how we and the school can improve further. If you feel that you would like to help and support please do get in contact via the governors email address.

The school governing body have been working incredibly hard through the summer and have now concluded our review of the academic year 2016 / 2017. Running in parallel to the review we have defined our strategic priorities for this academic year, 2017 / 2018. The governing body's annual report will be available within the next couple of weeks and will capture both areas in more detail. If you would like a copy of the report then please request one via the school office or at the relaunched school website which is coming very soon.

We truly appreciate everyone's support for the school as we strive to ensure we further improve the outcomes for all of our children.

Thank you – Simon Pollard  
Chair of Governors

### Outside developments

You will have seen work has started to brighten up the school grounds. This weekend the painting of the brown wood to white or blue was under way. This will continue every weekend and when the weather is unsuitable for outdoor work painting will take place inside. I am extremely grateful to the Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company for their support. The children will benefit from having a more colourful area to play and learn. Alongside this, I am obtaining quotes from playground marking companies to offer the children alternative play at playtime. I have also been working with one of our parents whose company is able to support with graphics. These things do take time especially when the school budget demands in other areas but I do consider this a school priority. If you are able to help in any way i.e. creativity, donating materials or wood stumps for our forest school please contact the school office.



### SASA – Thank you

Thank you to Jo Wills and Mary Whyman our retiring chairs for leading SASA with such enthusiasm and perseverance.

We wish Nykki Greaves all the best for this year in her new role as Chair of SASA.

I should like to thank SASA for their commitment and hard work. Not only do they fund a school trip in every year group but they provide wonderful opportunities for our children to socialise and attend a range of events throughout the year.