

— 30th January 2026 —

St Andrew's News

'Everything you do, do in love'



School Vision

At St. Andrew's, we seek to be a safe and happy environment, inspiring our school family to be positive participants in the world community. A place where we are all encouraged, through love and service, to be the very best.

'Love one another, as I have loved you'

John 13:34

Headteacher's Message

We are now almost at the end of the month of January, but already so much has happened in school. In this latest issue of the newsletter, you will find updates from Year 5 and Year 6, as well as thoughtful contributions from our Collective Worship Leaders ahead of Racial Justice Sunday. Additionally, there is important information about an upcoming Artificial Intelligence event organised by the Stay Safe Partnership, aimed at helping our community stay informed and vigilant.

We are also excited to share details about the upcoming PTFA Magic Show. The PTFA work incredibly hard to support our school, and we are looking forward to this special event specifically designed for our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend ahead.

Mr M Baker
Headteacher

Southwell Update (Year 6)



This term, Year 6 have started an exciting and important new history topic: World at War. This unit of work will help pupils develop a deeper understanding of a key period in British and world history, while building empathy, critical thinking, and enquiry skills. We have written some poems from the trenches in World War 1. Figurative language was our focus – similes, metaphors alliteration and personification- we hope you like them.

Ten Things Found In a Soldier's Pocket

A somber, duggy ditch burbling with bodies,
Tears rolling down faces whilst thinking of their loved ones,
The power of a sniper: piercing through the soldier,
punching the enemy, grinding through the pain,
A platoon of memories like a heart-warming conversation,
giving you courage,
The bitter of wind, silently sending you messages to your heart,
A covering of peace, silencing the pain over no man's land,
The soft, comforting feel of liberty shining, freedom always close but always away,
The erupting of the bombs leaping in the dry sky at the time of night,
The disease of mental trauma, circulating the troops,
The stinging stench of sour blood combined with rotten flesh,
rancid, crushed and the bitter smell of rats tails
filling the trenches with foul, burning scents,
The suffering soldier grits to the last breath, crying
heavy pockets as deep as despair as well as never-
ending hopes and dreams slowly and silently slipping away,
Tugging onto the only thing they possibly can: peace.

By Lizzie

Ten Things in a Soldier's Pocket

A dark, flumped ditch lethal with lice,
Sweat sliding down their face while they reload
their gun,
The recoil of a rifle: following the opponents, persuading
you to pull the trigger and slaughtered from a distance,
The delicate essence of mum's perfume like a warm bed
of roses,
Faint freedom being a step away
In ocean of opportunities over no man's land shielding
the troops,
A loss of liberty standing tall, just a step away,
so close but so far,
A giddy pomp rattling, setting the scene of this
hostile atmosphere,
The excruciating agony of lice proceeding through their
bodies,
The ride of soldiers infiltrating the air entwining with
the metallic blood of unwarred bodies and the
foul stench from rotting flesh, which produces sweat
When the moon rises and the sun sets the soldiers with
pockets as deep as a sinkhole, have their memories, goals and
dreams escaping one by one,
Clinging on to the only thing they can: faith.

By Olivia

Next the children will explore when and why World War II began, which countries were involved, and how the war affected everyday life, particularly in Britain. Topics will include evacuation, rationing, air raids, the Dambusters and the experiences of children during the war. We are also looking forward to our trip to the International Bomber Command centre.

Norwich Update (Year 5)



Norwich Class have launched the new term with an out-of-this-world experience as we began our exciting new Science topic on space. A visit from StarLincs Mobile Planetarium provided a truly memorable start to learning.

Inside the planetarium, our astronomer Lucy guided the children on a fascinating journey through our galaxy, the Milky Way. The children explored the Sun, planets and spectacular constellations, with plenty of “wow” moments.

One particularly exciting discovery was learning about Earth’s position in the Goldilocks Zone – where conditions are just right for life: not too hot, not too cold, but perfectly balanced.

Back in the classroom, the excitement continued with a range of hands-on activities. The children designed and built moon landing vehicles using Lego, tasted astronaut freeze-dried fruit, and even created their own imaginative planets. It was a day filled with curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm for learning.

We have also taken part in a valuable Internet Safety workshop, delivered by Jan from the Lincolnshire Stay Safe Partnership (LSSP). During the session, the children explored what it truly means to be a friend online and how to recognise whether someone is a genuine friend. They discussed the importance of knowing people in real life and reflected on the difference between friends and online followers. The workshop also covered practical strategies for staying safe when using the internet and encouraged thoughtful discussion. The children engaged maturely with the topics and demonstrated an increasing awareness of how to protect themselves online.



Staffing Update

After over six years of dedicated service at St Andrew's, our SENDCo, Mrs. Allen, will be retiring at the end of this academic year. Mrs. Allen has been a cornerstone of support for many children and families, helping to secure additional learning provision and ensuring that every child's needs are carefully met. Her commitment and kindness have made a lasting impact, and she will be greatly missed by us all. We have already begun the process of advertising for a new SENDCo and will keep you informed as this develops.

We are also saying goodbye to Mrs. Brenchley, who has served our school community for an incredible 27 years as a Midday Supervisory Assistant. Mrs. Brenchley has been a familiar and friendly face, predominantly serving meals from our kitchen and ensuring lunchtime runs smoothly and safely for our children. We will miss Mrs Brenchley very much when she leaves us at Easter.

I am sure you will join me in wishing both Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Brenchley a happy and fulfilling retirement when the time comes later this year.

Mobile Phone Policy and Communication

At our recent Personnel Committee Meeting of the Governing Body, we reviewed and approved the current Mobile Phone Policy. This can be accessed on our school website by clicking [here](#). The policy takes into account Department for Education (DfE) legislation around use of mobile phones in schools, which you can read [here](#). Please familiarise yourselves with this policy, particularly the section relating to smart watches and air tags. For your convenience, please see the below statements taken directly from the policy:

Smart Watches are not allowed in school. This is due to them having the ability to link to the internet and some having cameras, which can cause privacy issues and/or concerns around cyberbullying.

Air Tags must not be placed on children's bags whilst on school trips. This is due to the potential risk this can cause to individual and group safety.

In addition to this, please be reminded that email communication with class teachers should be made via the official school email address – enquiries@st-andrews.lincs.sch.uk. Please avoid using staff email addresses or making contact via Microsoft Teams Channels.

Many thanks in advance for your support in the above matters.

Racial Justice

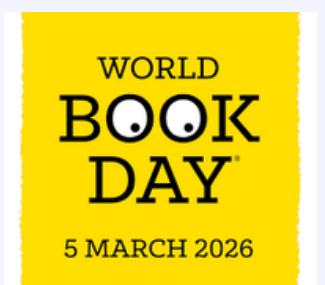


Our Collective Worship Leaders were invited by The Diocese of Lincoln Board of Education to make contributions for this year's Racial Justice Service. The service will take place at Lincoln Cathedral on Sunday 8th February, focusing on the theme of 'Love Thy Neighbour'. The children listened to the story of the Good Samaritan, and considered how this relates to our school values. The children agreed that each of our twelve values could be applied to this story in different ways. They designed jigsaw pieces conveying each of our values, and created prayers asking God for guidance in overcoming hatred and division in our world, as well as finding strength to be courageous and compassionate in seeking justice for others.

We are sure that the cathedral congregation will enjoy our children's contributions to the display at the service. You can see a collection of these in the photograph below.



World Book Day



We are once again excitedly looking forward to celebrating World Book Day at St. Andrew's on Thursday 5th March. This year, we would like the children to come to school in their pyjamas and bring their favourite bedtime story to share with their classmates. Throughout the day, the children will be read to by a surprise adult. We will also be spending time in each class working on a shared book, which will culminate at the end of the day in a special Collective Worship to share the work we have created. We are very much looking forward to this wonderful opportunity to celebrate reading in our school.

National Year of Reading - 2026



National Year of
Reading 2026

This year is a particularly exciting year for both established and new readers as The National Year of Reading has just launched. This important UK wide campaign led by the Department for Education and the National Literacy Trust will aim to tackle declining reading habits by inspiring people of all ages to find or rediscover the joy and relevance in reading promoting it as a modern and purposefully meaningful activity which integrates digital life.

Go All In is the central message to encourage people to delve deeper into their passions (music, history, gaming, science, baking, crafts etc) through reading in any format (books, audiobooks, digital).

For more information please click this [link](#).

Reading at St Andrew's

As school we share a passion for books and reading both in terms of teaching children to read but also to read for pleasure. We share and have a variety of high-quality texts that span the whole curriculum. As we continue to inspire children through our love of reading, we will over the year host some different activities linked to national campaign to continue to raise the profile and Go All In.

We have already begun with two year groups having virtual author visits and children signed up to The Winter Reading Challenge (please see previous correspondence and don't forget to bring in your certificates).

Local events

Waterstones are hosting again the Waterstones Children's Book Festival in February. There is a fantastic range of events taking place, many of which are free. Please use the link below to explore.

[Waterstones](#)

**A national movement to
get everyone reading**

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a UK-wide campaign designed to help more people rediscover the joy of reading.

Year 6 Parents Meeting - SATs and Hilltop Residential Trip



Parents and carers of children in Year 6 are invited to a meeting on Monday 9th February at 5:00pm in the school hall. At this meeting, we will provide final details for the impending residential visit to Hilltop (Monday 9th - Friday 13th March 2026) and give you the opportunity to ask any questions that you may have.

During this meeting, we will also be sharing information about the end of Key Stage 2 SATs assessments, which children in Year 6 will undertake during the week commencing Monday 11th May. Again, there will be an opportunity to ask questions about these assessments.

The meeting is for parents and carers only – the children will all receive the same information in a child-friendly presentation in class at a later date. Information from the meeting will be available for any parents/carers unable to attend.

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check Meeting

We will be inviting parents and carers of children in Year 4 to a meeting on Wednesday 11th February at 5pm in the school hall. At this meeting, information will be given about the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check, which children in Year 4 will take during the month of June. The information will include the format of the assessment, along with practical tips as to how you can support your children at home. There will be opportunities during this meeting for parents and carers to ask any questions they may have about the Multiplication Tables Check.

The meeting will be for parents and carers only, with the children receiving all the information they will require in class. If you are unable to attend, information regarding the content of the meeting will be available once this has taken place.



★★★

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.. THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY - PARENT WEBINAR



Stay Safe Team



Safer Internet Day Parent Event

Tuesday 10th February

6pm-7pm

Microsoft Teams event

★ Curious about AI and your child's world?

Artificial Intelligence is part of everyday life—from homework helpers to fun creative tools. But how can parents make sure it's used safely and wisely?

Join our free webinar “AI: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly” to learn:

- ✓ How AI can support learning and creativity
- ⚠ What to watch out for, like chatbots and misinformation
- 💡 Simple tips for family conversations and using parental controls

Empower yourself to guide your family confidently in the age of AI!

★★★

<https://www.tickttaillor.com/events/staysafepartnership/2024139>

SAFEGUARDING NEURODIVERSE YOUNG PEOPLE



RECOGNISING RADICALISATION RISKS AND BUILDING RESILIENCE



This workshop will help families keep young people safe from risks such as online extremism, grooming, radicalisation, and wider harms.

THESE SESSIONS WILL:

- Explore how to recognise when a young person might be at risk of radicalisation
- Support you to manage challenging conversations around online safety and wellbeing
- Help distinguish between red flags and everyday neurodiverse behaviours
- Support you to connect with local safeguarding provision

For more information please email:
kanika@groundswell.world

SCAN THE QR CODE OR CLICK THE LINKS BELOW TO REGISTER NOW

In-person (click [here](#)):

- **Thu 26th Feb, 1pm-3pm**
At Community Safety, Lincolnshire County Council, Myle Cross Centre, Macaulay Drive, Lincoln, LN2 4EL



Online (click [here](#)):

- **Tue 13th Jan, 10am-12pm**
- **Sat 31st Jan, 10am-12pm**
- **Tue 10th Feb, 7pm-9pm**
- **Wed 25th Feb, 1pm-3pm**
- **Wed 4th Mar, 10am-12pm**



Magical Evening Alert!

★ PTFA Presents: ★

A MAGIC SHOW!



Friday, 6th February



Time: 5:00 PM



Tickets: £6.50 per child



—★ Important Info: ★—



1 Adult per family **must attend** with children

TICKET ONLY EVENT



Order via:
School Office



Email: leasinghamptfa@gmail.com

★ For Key Stage 1 Only: ★

Reception, Year 1 & Year 2



An Evening of Fun & Magic Awaits!

Ready Steady go to School



This is a short free online session aimed at Parents/Carers of children who will be starting school in September 2026. Come along and meet one of our Early Years Team to explore practical activities and top tips to help your little one on their journey to school

Monday 2nd February 7.00-8.00pm

Wednesday 4th February 1.30-2.30pm

Thursday 23rd April 6.00-7.00pm

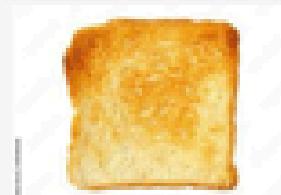
Wednesday 29th April 1.30-2.30pm

Please use the link in the email to join your preferred session.

ST ANDREW'S PTFA



St Andrew's PTFA are always open to new members, whether you can help out at the fayres or just provide your time to help us organise events, we appreciate any help.



What do we do?

- ~ Toast
- ~Ice lollies
- ~Pre-loved uniform sale
- ~Summer Fayre
- ~Christmas Fayre
- ~Support the Duke Jingle and much more



Everyone is welcome, please join us and help raise money to support the school.

JOIN US!

Fb: St Andrews Leasingham PTFA

E-mail : leasinghamptfa@gmail.com

Find one of us at school.

We are an Operation Encompass School

For further information, please come and see us.



OPERATION ENCOMPASS

In every force. In every school. For every child.



Operation Encompass is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and all police forces.

“ Children who live in homes where there is domestic abuse, or who experience domestic abuse in their own teenage relationships, can be negatively impacted by this experience.

“ We have ensured that a member of our staff, (Designated Safeguarding Lead) known as a Key Adult, has been trained about Operation Encompass procedures. This allows us to use the information that has been confidentially shared with us by the police, to understand how a child may be impacted by domestic abuse and to then offer support to the child/ren in our care.

“ This information means that we can understand a child's behaviour and support that child in whatever way they may need or want.



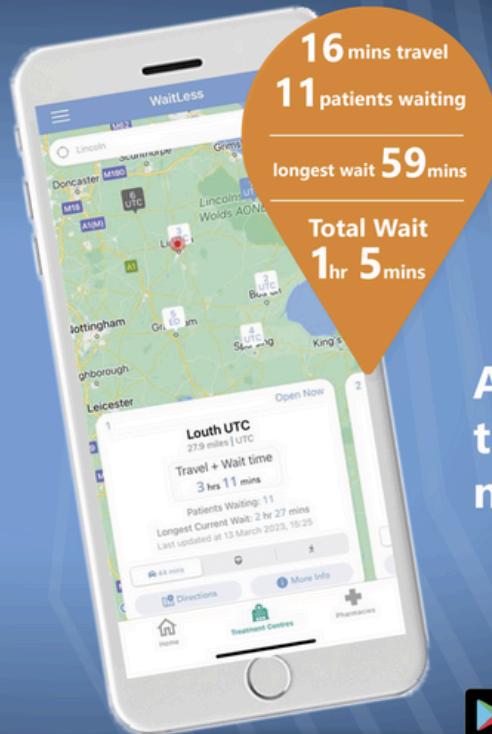
“ Children who experience domestic abuse are recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right¹.

“ Operation Encompass means that our school will be told, prior to the start of the next school day, when police have attended an incident of domestic abuse where there is a child or young person who attends our school who is related to any of those involved in the incident

“ We are keen to offer the very best support possible to all our pupils and we believe that being part of Operation Encompass helps us to do this.



Don't wait.
Download **WaitLess** now.



Avoid long wait times when you need urgent care



Your guide to health services in Lincolnshire



Self Care

Treat aches, pains, coughs, and colds at home. Stock up your medicine cabinet with over the counter remedies.



Pharmacy

Visit your local pharmacy for advice on minor injuries, allergies, constipation, headaches, cold and flu symptoms, and earache.



Your GP Practice

Contact your GP practice about symptoms that aren't going away. They can offer you an appointment or signpost you to other services.



NHS 111

If you have an urgent health need but are not sure what to do, think NHS 111. Call 111 or visit 111.nhs.uk. Available 24/7.



WaitLess

Download the WaitLess app to view live waiting times, queue numbers and travel-time information for our urgent care facilities.



Urgent Treatment Centre

Seek help for sprains, fractures, minor burns, and skin infections. Simply walk in or book an appointment via NHS 111.



Dental Treatment

For urgent dental care please contact your normal dental practice, or for advice out of hours call NHS 111.



Mental Health Crisis

If you are worried about your mental health, call 111 and choose Option 2. Available 24/7

In a medical emergency call 999. This is when someone is seriously ill or injured and their life is at risk.

For more information visit www.nhs.uk

Useful Links for Parents

Healthy Minds Lincolnshire

Providing support and treatment for children, young people and their families, who are experiencing emotional wellbeing difficulties.

<https://www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people/lincolnshire/young-people/i-need-more-help/healthy-minds-lincolnshire>

Place2Be

Place2Be is a children's mental health charity working with pupils, families and staff in UK schools.

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/>

Mind

Providing support for people experiencing, or supporting someone with, a mental health problem.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/> Tel: 0300 123 3393

Family Lives

Providing early intervention and crisis support to families.

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/> Tel: 0808 800 2222

Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum

LPCF is specifically tasked with working alongside the Local Authority and Health to help ensure that the services they plan, commission, deliver and monitor meet the needs of children with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs. You will need to register with them for free before being able to access the resources and support.

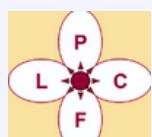
<https://www.lincspcf.org.uk/>

Luminova - digital therapy enabling children to build confidence and manage their worries - luminova.app/lincolnshire

Please also see the Pastoral section on our website for more helpful links.



Improving children's mental health



Turn your daily shopping into everyday magic for us with easyfundraising

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- 2 Sign up and search for us
- 3 Your favourite brands donate to us whenever you shop with them

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[Viking](#)

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[BT](#)

[Uber Eats](#)

Important Dates

- **Tuesday 3rd February** - Year 6 Educational Visit to The International Bomber Command Centre
- **Tuesday 3rd February** - Year 4 School of Noise Workshop
- **Friday 6th February** - PTFA Magician Evening (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 - see attached flyer for details)
- **Monday 9th February** - Year 6 Parents Meeting - SATs/Residential (5:00pm)
- **Wednesday 11th February** - Year 4 Parents Meeting - Multiplication Tables (5:00pm)
- **Friday 13th February** - PTFA Toast
- **Friday 13th February** - Last day of Term 3



Nut Free School

A reminder to please ensure that your children do not come into school with any food containing nuts. This is due to some children having nut allergies. If you are unsure of whether food you are intending to provide contains nuts, please check with staff in the school office. Information regarding nut allergies from the NHS can be found via the following link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/food-allergy/>



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