



2nd February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we enter February it is welcome to see the lighter mornings and evenings start to break through, a sure sign that spring is just around the corner. We have had a very busy few weeks in school and lots will be happening between now and half term, as outlined in this newsletter.

Collective Worship

We were pleased to welcome the 'Open the Book' team into school on Monday to lead Collective Worship. Some of our Year 3 children supported the team in telling the story of Matthew the tax collector and how he came to follow Jesus. Matthew did not always act responsibly as a tax collector, but his outlook changed following his meeting with Jesus. During our reflection time, we thought about ways in which we may not have acted as we would have hoped and how the beginning of a new week gives everyone the opportunity for a clean start, just like Matthew did in the story.

New Headteacher Coffee Morning

Thank you to the parents and carers that attended yesterday's coffee morning. During the morning, I briefly outlined how my philosophy for education is aligned to the school's own Christian Vision. I am very keen to ensure that this continues and that we are 'opening the door to learning' in allowing our children to 'live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). This is not just limited to academic achievement; it extends to providing children with life opportunities (such as school trips, residential trips or visitors into school), pastoral care and chances to express themselves through a range of subjects and disciplines. I, and the rest of the staff, are determined to ensure that all children leave St. Andrew's having achieved to the best of their ability during their time at the school so that they are ready for the next stage of their education. I look forward to working in partnership with all parents and carers to achieve this goal.

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening will take place for the whole school on Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th February 2024, between 4pm and 7pm. Appointment bookings via WisePay will go live for Parents' Evening on Monday 19th February. Please note that there will be no teacher-led clubs during Parents' Evening week (week commencing Monday 26th February).

Parent Code of Conduct

The school adopts the Lincolnshire County Council agreed Parent Code of Conduct. This can be found on the website, under Key Information/Policies. Please refresh yourselves with this document. I would like to remind all parents that email enquiries to the school should be made through the new 'enquiries' email address (enquiries@st-andrews.lincs.sch.uk). There have been some instances of parents using Microsoft Teams for general enquiries – this is a learning platform and should only be used for submitting homework set by the classteacher. Thank you for your support in this matter.



Year 6 Hilltop/SATs Meeting

A reminder that our Hilltop and SATs meeting for parents and carers of children in Year 6 will take place on Monday 5th February at 5pm in the school hall. As mentioned in the letter, the meeting is aimed at parents and carers and not children – all children will have the information presented to them in a child-friendly way at a later date.

Sports Events

Some of our children have had the opportunity to represent the school in different sporting events over the last couple of weeks. On Friday 19th January, a small team from each of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 attended the C4L Combat Event. Then, on Friday 26th January, our Year 5 and 6 football team took part in the local finals event, having progressed from their qualifier last year. Well done to all the children that took part, particularly for how they represented the school in terms of our shared values. Special thank you to Mrs Allenby and Mrs Lee for transporting and supervising the children at both events. You can view some of the photos from the C4L Combat and Football competitions on our Twitter/X page (@LeasStAndrews).

Sleaford Children's Centre

Please see the link below for a range of activities taking place at Sleaford Children's Centre over the forthcoming half term holiday.

[Sleaford Children's Centre half-term timetable - Half-term events at children's centres – Lincolnshire County Council](#)

Safer Internet Day

Each class at St. Andrew's will be taking part in activities in school to mark Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 6th February. Attached to this newsletter is information relating to Artificial Intelligence (AI) as well as a flier for the NSPCC Webinar: Online Gaming and Keeping Children Safe. As you are aware, it is important to keep up to date with the changing world of online technology and particularly how this can affect the children both now and in the future. I would strongly recommend taking some time to read through the attached information and, if possible, book onto the NSPCC Webinar for next week.

Parking Outside School

Please can I ask parents and carers to be considerate when dropping off/collecting children from school. Please do not park on the zig zag lines outside school as it does present dangers with oncoming traffic and for pedestrians attempting to cross the road. It is much safer to park at the village hall and walk the short distance to school. Thank you for your support in this matter.



We are fast approaching the half term holiday, with our last day of term falling on Friday 9th February. As this is the final newsletter before half term, I would like to wish you a very enjoyable and restful week away from school and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 19th February.

Yours sincerely

Mr M W Baker
Headteacher

AI Chatbots What is it ?

While online your children frequently encounter artificial intelligence (AI) in various forms. One increasingly common application is the AI chatbot, a computer program designed to simulate conversation with humans. They access information from across the internet and use it to generate responses that mimic human conversation. AI has a wide range of uses from providing information, engaging in conversations or assisting with problem solving. It's a powerful tool that offers exciting possibilities for children and young people, but like any tool, it also comes with potential dangers.

Examples of Chatbots;

- ChatGBT**
Generates human-like responses to text-based conversations
- Replika**
An AI companion that is paired with a 3D avatar
- My AI**
My AI is a chatbot available on Snapchat
- HiAi**
HiAi allows users to create a character to talk to
- AI Friends**
Has pre set fictional characters for user to chat with
- WOMBO**
An app that makes pictures based on text prompts

The dangers;

Harmful and inappropriate content:
While AI Chatbots may seem intelligent they are not able to determine what information is good or bad. This can often result in responses that may be harmful or inappropriate for young people. Some apps try to get around this by creating rules and filters for the chatbots to follow. However, whilst investigating this issue we found that most available ai chat apps would jump to sexualised, toxic and abusive conversations with little input from the user, making them inappropriate for the given age rating.

Misinformation and manipulation:
AI can be used to create deepfakes (a video of a person in which their face or body has been digitally altered) and generate realistic but fabricated content. Children may struggle to discern real from fake information, making them vulnerable to online manipulation and propaganda.



The dangers continued; ✕

Connections and wellbeing:

AI Chatbots are designed to be a virtual friend, users can create fictional characters or create a persona from scratch. It is important to understand why children are seeking friendship in this way and if there is a need to seek further wellbeing support. We found that some of the AI apps merge AI and live chats in a way that was not overly clear. Making it possible for strangers to contact children undetected. It is essential to check for these features before giving children or young people access to these apps.

Privacy and data collection:

Many AI apps collect your personal data, including children's online activity and interactions. This data can be used for target advertising, profiling, or even sold to third parties. AI should be treated as though it is a stranger, never sharing private and personal information. Be careful of adverts whilst most AI Chat apps are free to download these include popup adverts. We found that these adverts were often for live chat apps that were not age appropriate for the rating they were given.

5 tip for safe useage; ✕

- 1. Know your tools:** Research the chatbot and test it out before letting your child use it, understanding its features, age appropriateness, and potential risks. Check to see what parental features they have. Remember may on the chatbots we used were inappropriate so it's important to explore first.
- 2. Open communication:** Talk openly about the risks, encouraging your child to share their experiences and ask questions about things that feel uncomfortable. Try to avoid judgment or dismissiveness that could put them off sharing.
- 3. Set boundaries:** Establish time limits and nonprivate spaces in the house for chatbot use, prioritizing real-world interactions and offline activities.
- 4. Fact-check together:** Teach your child critical thinking skills, encouraging them to double-check information shared by the chatbot through reliable sources.
- 5. Be the guide:** Explore chatbots together, demonstrating responsible online behaviour and showing how to interact respectfully and safely.

Remember Ai isn't all bad, however it is a new technology that requires adult supervision whilst the safety features catch up. AI even helped write some of this newsletter.



To learn more about AI and all parents need to know, visit [InternetMatters.org](https://www.internetmatters.org). A full range of step by step parental controls guides are also available.

For advise and support on young people's mental health and wellbeing check out Healthy Minds Lincolnshire for self help guides. You can also call the Here4You Line on 0800 234 6342 to speak directly to one of the practitioners who will talk through how you are feeling.





NSPCC

Online gaming and keeping children safe

Do you know your whispers from your skins? Your Fortnite from your EA Sports FC 24?

As part of the NSPCC Game Safe Festival, we're encouraging parents, carers and those working with children and families to have conversations about online gaming.

GamCare will be sharing expert advice, and you'll hear directly from young people.

Our webinar will help you:

- understand how young people game online.
- learn about tools and resources that support safe play.
- gain the knowledge you need to keep children safe.

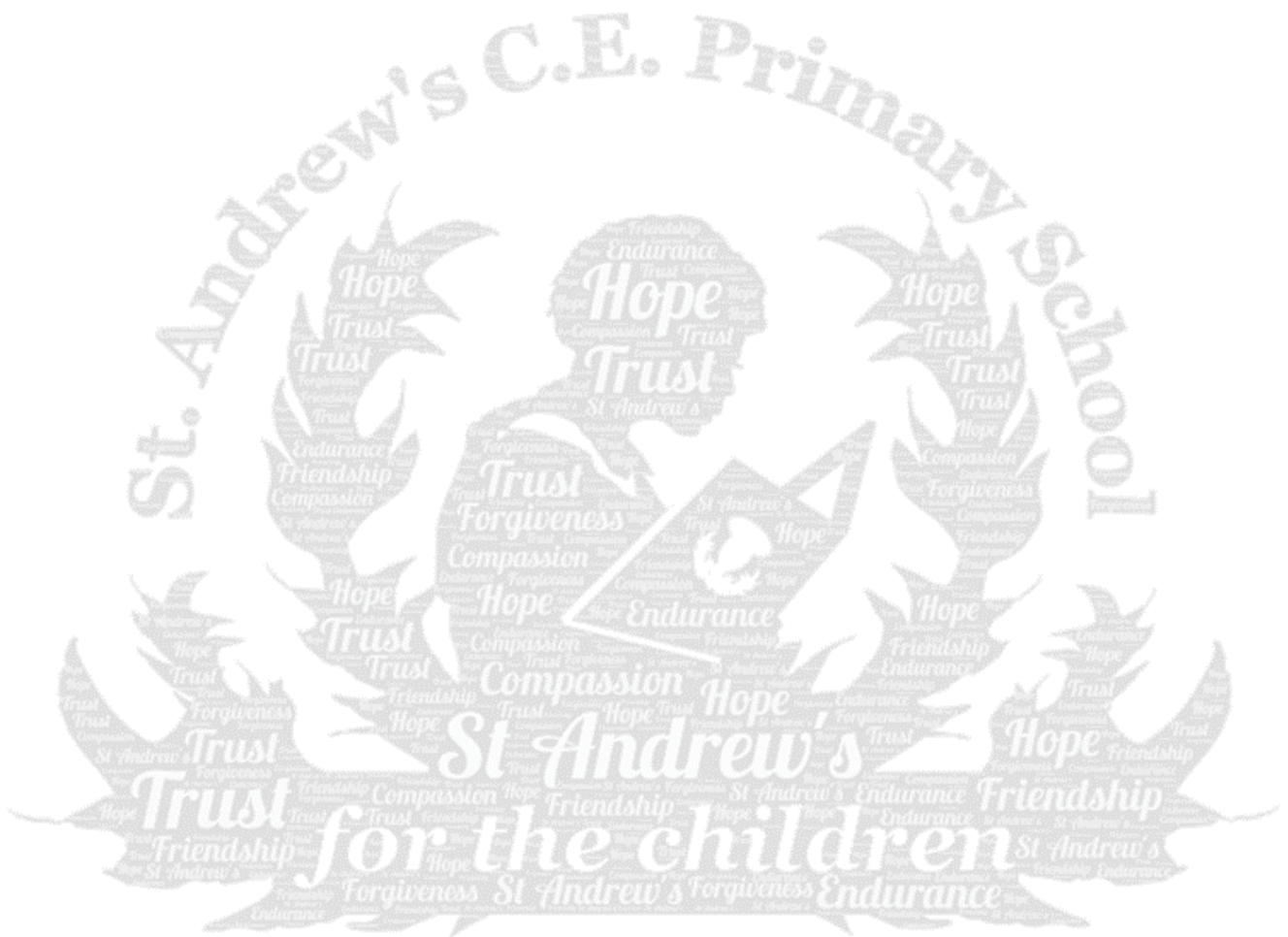


**GAME SAFE
FESTIVAL**

7 February 2024, 7pm-8pm, via Zoom. Book your place via this link: nspcc.org.uk/gamesafe/tickets

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

NSPCC 2023 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Registered charity England and Wales 218900, Scotland SC037717 and Jersey 285. Children and adults portrayed are models. Photography by Tom Hunt, 2022-2023.



Lincoln Road, Leasingham, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 8JS
Tel: 01529 302388

Headteacher: Mr M W Baker

enquiries@st-andrews.lincs.sch.uk www.st-andrews.lincs.sch.uk