

— 6th September 2024 —

# St Andrew's News

*'Everything you do, do in love'*



## Headteacher's Message

Welcome back to this new academic year. I hope you have enjoyed the summer break and are ready for the new year ahead. The first days of term always bring about a mix of emotions, ranging from much excitement to tinges of apprehension. It has, however, been lovely to see so many smiling faces around school this week and I know that I speak for all of the staff when I say that we are delighted to welcome every single one of our children back to St. Andrew's.

A special mention also to our new Reception children in York class, who have started school for the very first time this week. They have settled in very well to our school routines and already become used to their new surroundings.

I would like to say thank you to all of our staff for their hard work in preparing classrooms for the new school year, to ensure your children are returning to a welcoming and caring environment.

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# New School Vision

In Collective Worship on Wednesday, we were delighted to be able to launch our new school vision with the children. Towards the end of the last academic year, we spoke to a range of different stakeholders to gauge their views on how they would describe our school and what they would like the school to strive towards. This included children, staff, governors, parents (through the parent survey sent out in May), as well as representatives from St. Andrew's Church and the Diocese of Lincoln Board of Education. Having taken these views into account, we have formed the following vision statement:

**'Everything you do, do in love'**

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**

## Why this vision, for this school?

From taking in the views of different members of our school community, three words were mentioned more than any others when describing the school - **love, happy, family**. There is a clear sense of **family** within the school, underpinned by the way in which everyone strives to help and support one another. Due to this sense of family, we aim to create a **happy** environment where children and adults are encouraged to strive towards being the very best. This links directly to the words of our school song, as shown below:

*This is our school, St. Andrew's  
A happy place to be,  
Sure enough, together,  
We are a family*



LOVE  
one  
another.  
john 13:34

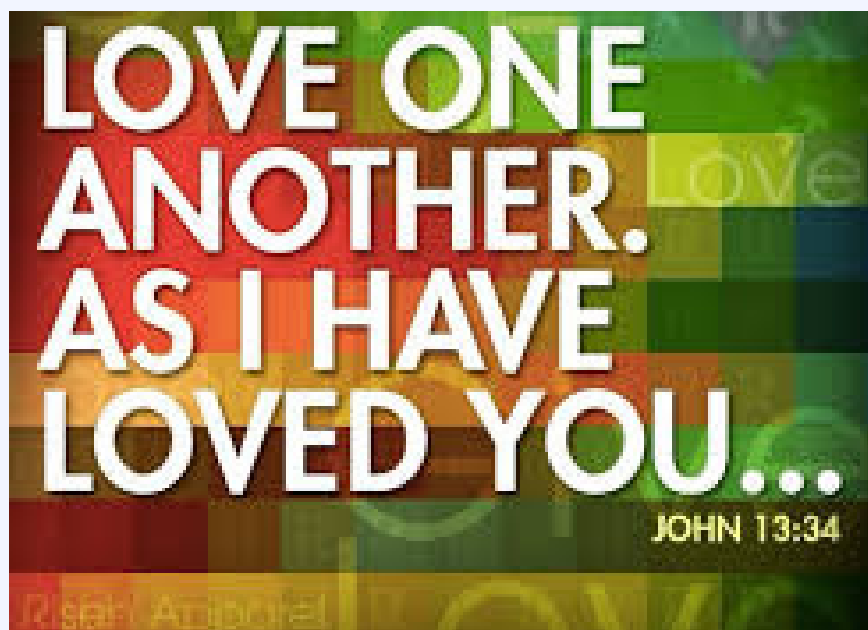
# New School Vision

The link to **love** was something that came through when consulting with staff, which demonstrates the care, support and guidance that they ultimately strive to give the children at this school. This complements words from our St. Andrew's School prayer, which we say regularly as a community in both Collective Worship and the classrooms:

*Let love be all around  
Love of one another  
Love of all people  
And love of life and living*

The vision still encapsulates some of the previous wording, such as developing the children into positive participants in the world community. This continues to be a key priority for the school as we look to develop our children to be ready to embrace success and deal with the challenges in the world of the 21st Century. However, expectations on schools have changed in the most recent Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) framework, whereby a school vision must cover the development of all children and adults within the school. The wording 'for the children' will remain on the school badge, as ultimately we want the very best for each and every one of the children we serve.

The governors and staff are committed to working towards achieving our new vision, as we look to continue to provide a safe and happy environment, where all members of our school family are given the opportunity to thrive and succeed in all that they encounter.





# Building Work Update



We are pleased to announce that work has begun on the construction of a new classroom and resource area at the back of the school. This will replace the current mobile classrooms, where Year 4 (Salisbury) are currently based. This will have an impact over the course of this academic year, with less space to use outside whilst work is being undertaken. As a staff team, we will do our utmost to minimise the impact on the children and continue to ensure that high quality teaching and learning is taking place on a daily basis. We have put in place new routines, for example entering and exiting school and split playtimes due to the decrease in space outside. I am pleased to report that the children have adapted to these routines extremely well, for which we are very proud of them.

This week, the builders have been focusing on:

- Completion of the pouring of the concrete foundations
- Reducing the ground in the new building footprint in readiness for the new floor slab
- Starting to install drainage connections to the new rooms

I will continue to keep you updated as the building work progresses over the course of this year.



## Open Classrooms

As you are aware from previous communication last term, we will be having another Open Classrooms evening on Wednesday 11th September. This will take place between 3:40pm and 4:45pm. This will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's new class teacher, ask any questions you may have about routines and to have a look around the classroom. You are welcome to bring your children with you or attend without them. This session will replace the previous Parent Information/Meet and Greet Evenings, allowing parents and carers with more than one child at the school to visit all classrooms on the same evening. The information slides that were previously presented will be running on a loop in the classrooms and will then be uploaded to the website.

We would ask that parents and carers enter the school via the main entrance (this will be opened at 3:40pm). Staff will be on hand to direct you to your child's classroom (although if attending with your child, I am sure they will be only too keen to show you the way!). The school bell will ring at 4:45pm, which will denote the end of the Open Classroom session, at which point we would ask you to vacate the building. Please note that there will be an opportunity to discuss your child in more detail at the formal parent/teacher consultations next month. We hope you will be able to take the opportunity to look around your child's new classroom and meet their new teacher!

## Staffing Update

I am delighted to welcome two new members of staff to our midday assistant team. Mrs Lintin and Miss Louth both began their new roles this week, joining us for our training days ahead of the new term.

We have also welcomed Miss Savage back to school, in her new role as a student teacher. Miss Savage has been an integral part of our team as a teaching assistant and we are delighted that we have the opportunity to support her with this next stage of her career. Miss Savage will undertake her student placement in Year 3, ably supported by Mrs Bell.

I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Lintin, Miss Louth and Miss Savage all the very best in their new roles.

## Mobile Phone Policy

The governors of St. Andrew's have approved a new Mobile Phone Policy. This can be found under the 'policies' section of our school website. Please note that the policy states that only children in Years 5 and 6 are allowed to bring mobile phones into school - these must be switched off upon entering the premises and handed into the class teacher for storage during the day. We also do not permit children to wear smartwatches, 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. Thank you in advance for your support and adherence to this policy.

# Important Dates

- **Wednesday 11th September** - Open Classrooms (3:40pm - 4:45pm)
- **Monday 16th September** - Individual Photos
- **Wednesday 18th September** - Rhubarb Theatre in school
- **Thursday 3rd October** - Key Stage 2 Harvest Service (9:30am St.Andrew's Church)
- **Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th October** - Parents' Evening

*Further communication will be sent shortly with a more comprehensive list of dates for the term ahead.*



# Nut Free School

Please can I ask all parents and carers to 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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