

16 January 2026



# St Andrew's News



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## Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week the children have been working hard on their new writing units. It has been lovely to see our classroom washing lines full of modelled writing and word banks.

Some of our school governors came to visit this week, once to look at reading and then again to observe teaching and learning techniques used by teachers. They were really impressed by the focus of the pupils and how they collaborated so well in talk-partners. They loved sitting down and reading with some of the children and learning about how we have been developing our reading strategies across the school.

We always try and allow pupils to access the field, even when the grass is wet, as long as they have a spare pair of shoes. Please do pop a spare pair of trainers or wellies in a named bag for your child. That way, they have even more choice for where they would like to play at lunchtimes.

Hope you have a restful weekend.

Stina Witkowski

 **nurtureuk** St Andrew's is proud to be working with **nurtureuk** this year to further embed our

school culture of ensuring that our children feel they belong, feel understood and are given the time and support they need to thrive.

**nurtureuk** is a national charity dedicated to improving the social, emotional, mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. Their work is founded on over 50 years of research and practice in supporting children's development, especially those who may face barriers to learning or need a little extra emotional support.

At the heart of **nurtureuk**'s approach are the **Six Principles of Nurture**, which we are following to create warm, predictable and caring environments where children can build confidence, resilience and strong relationships. We want every child at St Andrew's to flourish both academically and emotionally.

Over the coming weeks, I will share more details about each of the six principles. If you would like to know more, you can visit [www.nurtureuk.org](http://www.nurtureuk.org) ( Mrs Johnston )

### Reading Wall

The children shared their favourite reads from 2025 and these now feature on our 'Love Reading Wall.' Some books have already been borrowed by our eager readers! It is the National Year of Reading! (Mrs Johnston)

The reading wall is updated every few weeks. The creative themes and book choices are loved by both children and staff and inspire children to read. Thank you to Mrs Johnston for facilitating this.



Year 5

Year 5 enjoyed an energetic PE dance session with Mrs Bayat this week, She taught them a routine to Dua Lipa. A fun lesson enjoyed by all.



Year 5, continued their topic 'Groundbreaking Greeks'. They studied the social hierarchy of Ancient Greek times and role played how people from different social classes would have felt about their lives. The children were great at showing expression and creativity during their performances - well done to them. (Ms Blackman)

Year 4

Year 4 started their swimming lessons at the American Community School this week. They will be having small group lessons over the next eight weeks. We are grateful to ACS for providing the pool, swimming trainers and transport .

Year 6

Quelle heure est-il? It's time for Year 6 to learn some French! This week, we've been looking at how to ask what the time is and to say what the time is. We used clocks to practise with each other and completed a mini quiz on 'time!' ( Mrs Ellard)



A Guide for managing children's digital lives

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has published a new guide written with the direct involvement of children in England.

What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives.

Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play.

Parenting today can feel overwhelming — especially when childhood looks so different from what we grew up with. There's no manual, and it can be hard to keep up with the fast-changing digital world your child moves through every day. This guide aims to make those conversations easier and help you support your child with confidence.



Just Play Music Academy will be coming into school on Wednesday 21 January to offer children a free workshop to experience playing piano, guitar, ukulele or singing. All instruments will be provided. To book your child's spot at these taster sessions please sign up here [Music Workshop sign up](#)

Following the free session on Wednesday, Just Play have a number of lunchtime and after school clubs starting, as well as the option for one to one or paired lessons. (see attached flyer)

**Best Class Attendance**  
**Hamilton**

**House Points**  
**Boxhill**

**Next week's value**  
**Integrity**

Celebration Certificates

Value– Respect

- Teresa:** William
- Parton:** Jackson
- Henry:** Arthur
- Craig:** Phoebe
- Hamilton:** Luna

Achievement, Progress or effort in Maths/English

- Teresa:** Nyla
- Parton:** Matthew
- Henry:** Armi
- Craig:** Hubert
- Hamilton:**Cooper

