St Andrew's Church of England Junior School

Head Teacher: Mrs A Cornwall, Chair of Governors: Mr B Levitan
Clerk to Governors: Mrs L Powell

Newsletter May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

School activity update

Looking back since our last update in October, school has continued to provide a wide range of experiences for the children, above and beyond core teaching. Many of you will have attended the dance show in November, where pupils displayed their talents both in solo and ensemble pieces. This was followed in March by a visit to the Buxton Dance Show (paid for through fund-raising within school). We are grateful to Mrs Trigg for providing a dance class for the children. I'm sure the many parents who attended the packed Christmas Carol service at St. Andrew's Church will have been delighted by the enthusiasm and competence shown by the children, as well as by the singing. The school Christmas fayre was also well attended, and we were very happy this year to link up with Hadfield Infants so that parents could visit both schools at the same time, and Infants also joined us for a whole school Remembrance Assembly in November. Another outing that was thoroughly enjoyable was taking the Tree Ambassadors to an Expo at the Open Eye Gallery in Liverpool on 27th March – as we are a Beacon School for the Tree Council, our Tree Ambassadors took an active part in this. We are very proud of the many activities that our Forest School has undertaken, including tree planting and rewilding. The Year 3 play 'Superstan' was performed on 20th March, and many people commented on the professionalism and excellence of the acting.

In February we re-introduced class cafes (and most year groups have now held one). These have been well attended and I would like to thank all parents/carers who attended and took part in the various activities (I particularly liked the rocket making).

As you will know, Rev. Felicity retired last year, and whilst she has not yet been replaced, we have been delighted to welcome Rev. David Mundy, from All Saints Parish Church Glossop and Acting Area Dean of Peak, who has taken an active interest in the school, and regularly leads collective worship.

School premises and inspection

I'm sure you will have shared our frustration during the recent flooding that affected year 6 and the library. It was unfortunate that it happened over the Easter holiday because if it had been caught earlier the damage might not have been so extensive. We now know that the design of the flat roof is not a good one, and the drains had clogged up over time leading to water pooling on the roof and ultimately breaking through. Although we have regular premises inspections, this had not been picked up on because it was not obvious until the event occurred. Future inspections will now take this into account. Refurbishment will take place over summer, but until then we at least have temporary measures in place so that the classrooms can be occupied

again. We also had boiler problems in January, leading to some very cold days in school. Like many schools with older premises, we sometimes struggle to keep up with the maintenance of old equipment and the lack of available funding to replace it.

As I write, we have just had our SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection. As noted in the October update, this looks at how well the Christian ethos is reflected right across the school. I am not at liberty to give the outcome just yet as the official report has to be prepared, but you will be advised when that is available, and you will be able to read the outcome in full. Personally, as Chair, I am very proud of our school, and particularly of the way that our Christian ethos is reflected across the whole curriculum, with our vision's aim of developing compassion, responsibility and resilience, underpinned by mutual respect.

New Governors needed

We are very pleased that a new Foundation Governor has joined our team, Mr Joel Singleton. Joel is one of the leaders of Elim Pentecostal Church in Glossop so adds to the breadth of Christian experience amongst our Foundation governors (one of whom is Anglican and the other Methodist). This leaves us with one new co-opted governor vacancy to fill as Mrs H Billingham has resigned her post. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this post, please ask them to contact the school's Clerk, Mrs Powell.

Tell us what you think

As ever, we are interested in receiving feedback from parents, and you can contact any of the school governors via the school office. We would love to hear from you.

Bruce Levitan, Chair of Governors