



St. Andrew's Newsletter 09 25/26

No: 09 || Thursday 22nd January 2026



National Nurturing
School Award
2025

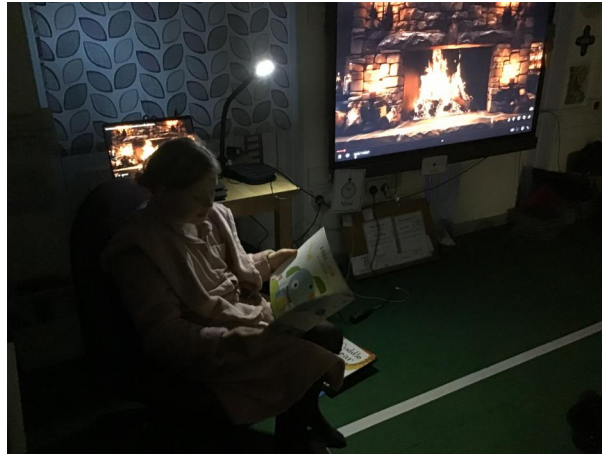
St Andrew's Primary School



Dear Parents / Carers,

Last week, we reopened the school at the end of the day to support "Bedtime stories". This year is the National Year of Reading ! It is the biggest campaign in a generation designed to help more people discover or rediscover the joy of reading and make it part of their everyday lives. The crew members that returned to school enjoyed having stories read to them in their pyjamas sat on cosy blankets. It was a fantastic opportunity to all connect together and thank you to the PTA who provided refreshments! A big thankyou and credit needs to be given to the three girls from Falcon crew that helped to set up and read stories so confidently to our younger children. What super role models they were!





Mrs Gilbert continues to passionately lead reading across our whole school. Our team will continue to recommend books for the children to read in the newsletters; Miss Slee's turn this week!

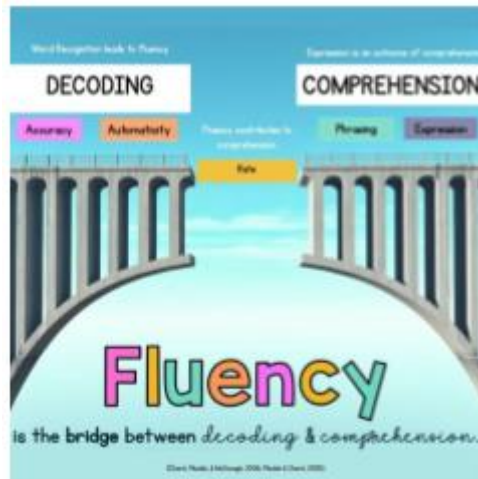
Fran Martin

Christian Value: Courage



Supporting your child with fluency in reading

At our school, we aim to develop confident, fluent readers and to foster a love for life long reading. Reading for just 10 minutes a day can make a year's additional progress. Fluency in reading refers to the ability to read text accurately, quickly, and with appropriate expression. It involves effortlessly recognising words and understanding the text at the same time. The more fluently pupils can read, the more motivated they are, which supports them to enjoy reading for pleasure and to read more widely. Below are some tips to help your child with fluency.



Supporting Emerging readers

Repeated reading- if your child struggles with a couple of words in a sentence, encourage them to go back and read it again to support fluency. Try focussing on reading 3 pages a few times, rather than the whole book, to support fluency, confidence and understanding.

Tracking each word with a finger or book mark.

Re-reading texts 3 times for emerging readers to build fluency.

Book talk- what is happening on the front cover? what can you remember from last time?
Can you retell the story?

Modelling – reading back to your children to show what it should sound like.

Regularly reading to your child so they hear fluent reading.

Prosody- responding to punctuation. Pointing out punctuation before you start so they know where to change their voice (for ? or !) Using expression.

How to support more established readers with fluency.

Lots of reading- practise makes progress! AT LEAST 10 minutes every day.

Repeated reads- read the same passage/page a number of times to develop fluency. They should read it at the speed they talk.

Tracking with a finger, book mark or ruler.

Book talk- what is happening on the front cover? What can you remember from last time?
Can you summarise what we have read?

Modelling – reading back to your children to show fluency. Then they have a go.

Encourage prosody- Is it exciting to read and exciting to listen to? If not, how can we make it better? Try again with more prosody (expression) and fluency. Looking for punctuation so

they know where to change their voice (for ? or !) Ask them- Are there points you could pause? Or make their voice louder? Or whisper?

If reluctant – listening to audio books and following along or just hearing fluency modelled by an adult is SO important. Read to your child regularly no matter their age. For more information please follow this link <https://youtu.be/i0cQu7vnDzs>

If you would like more support please speak to your child's teacher or Mrs Gilbert (sarah.gilbert@standrewsprimary.org.uk)

Thank you

Sarah Gilbert (Reading Lead)



We Love Reading - Teacher's Book Recommendations



Somebody Swallowed Stanley by Sarah Roberts tells an important story about ocean pollution in a way children can easily understand. The book encourages empathy and helps young readers see how their choices can affect the environment. With simple language and beautiful illustrations, it is an engaging and meaningful read for kids.

Managing winter illness

Here are some useful links regarding winter illness.

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2023/01/05/back-to-school-5-things-to-do-to-help-manage-winter-illness/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Secondary School Transition Support

Secondary School Transition Drop-in sessions for parents “Would you like to know more about your child's transition to secondary school? Do you have any questions about the process? Come along and meet Katie Bray Virtual School Extended duties lead and Laura Pfister Re-integration officer, from North Somerset Council.

"Castle Batch Family Hub•06/03/2026 - 09:30 - 11:00

Oldmixon Family Centre•10/02/2026 - 09:30 - 11:00

Clevedon Library•16/03/2026 - 09:30 - 11:00

The drop-in is a relaxed and friendly place where parents, and professionals from a range of services are on hand to offer support, a listening ear, advice, and signposting. Free refreshments. Free to attend.

Children In Car Seats

A message from PCSO 7948 Kate Turner

I would like to raise the subject of children in car seats. I have noticed on a few occasions when on patrol, that some parents are not adhering to the law when it comes to securing their children into car seat.

Using a child car seat or booster seat Children must normally use a child car seat until they're 12 years old or 135 centimetres tall, whichever comes first. Children over 12 or more than 135cm tall must wear a seat belt.

You can choose a child car seat based on your child's height or weight.

Height-based seats

Height-based seats must be rear facing until your child is over 15 months old. Your child can use a forward-facing child car seat when they're over 15 months old.

You must check the seat to make sure it's suitable for the height of your child.

Only approved height-based child car seats can be used in the UK. These have a label showing a capital 'E' in a circle and 'R129'.

Weight-based seats

The seat your child can use (and the way they must be restrained in it) depends on their weight.

Only approved weight-based child car seats can be used in the UK. These have a label showing a capital 'E' in a circle and 'ECE R44'.

You may be able to choose from more than one type of seat in the group for your child's weight.

Group Seats

0kg to

10kg 0 Lie-flat or 'lateral' baby carrier, rear-facing baby carrier, or rear-facing baby seat using a harness

0kg to

13kg 0+ Rear-facing baby carrier or rear-facing baby seat using a harness

Group Seats

9kg to

18kg 1 Rear- or forward-facing baby seat using a harness or safety shield

15kg to

25kg 2 Rear- or forward-facing child car seat (high-backed booster seat or booster cushion) using a seat belt, harness or safety shield

22kg to

36kg 3 Rear- or forward-facing child car seat (high-backed booster seat or booster cushion) using a seat belt, harness or safety shield

Manufacturers can now only make booster cushions approved as group 3. This will not affect any existing booster cushions in group 2 and you'll still be able to use them.

Fitting a child car seat

You must only use a child car seat if your car's seat belt has a diagonal strap, unless the seat is either:

- specifically designed for use with a lap seat belt
- fitted using ISOFIX anchor points

You must also:

- deactivate any front airbags before fitting a rear-facing baby seat in a front seat
- not fit a child car seat in side-facing seats The Child Car Seats website has information on how to choose a seat and travel safely with children in cars.

Parking at the Church Car Park

We would like to remind car park users to be respectful to everyone when using the Church Car Park and also be mindful of where you are parking. We are lucky to be able to have access to this car park during the school drop off and pick up times. It is also shared with the rest of the Church community users and it would be a real shame if we lost the privilege of using it.

Children who have gone above and beyond

Celebration Assembly





19/12/2025

Robin Crew Jacoby Adamandios

Kingfisher Crew Alice Elliot

Jay Crew Zach Kian

Owl Crew Amber Alice

Kestrel Crew Edward Mia

Falcon Crew Caleb Mason

Eagle Crew Archer Amelia

23/01/2026

Robin Crew Louie Zeni

Kingfisher Crew Rihanna Isabella

Jay Crew Zach Danny

Kestrel Crew Elise Robyn

Falcon Crew George Zoe

Eagle Crew Natalia James

Community News

Community Health Services

Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board are working closely with the local authorities, NHS providers and voluntary organisations to review existing health services and to identify strengths and areas for further improvement.

This survey explores views on a wide range of services including health visiting, school nursing, speech and language therapy, mental health services and ADHD and Autism assessment services. Here is the parent survey link for you : Children's Community Health Services - Parent/Carer Survey¹

Churchill Academy and Sixth Form Present

HARVARD LAW NOW IN PINK

Churchill Academy & Sixth Form

LEGALLY BLONDE
The Musical.

25th - 27th February 2026

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Tickets are available from The Playhouse Theatre
WWW.THEPLAYHOUSE.CO.UK

Music and Lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe & Neil Benjamin

Book by Heather Hach

THE PLAYHOUSE

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI
www.mtiintl.com

¹<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K6CJYKX>

Coding Club



MINECRAFT CLUB

Inspiring the next generation of coders and makers



Coding with Minecraft

Turn your child's Minecraft passion into coding fun!
A monthly club where your child will use code to build worlds, create mini-games, and bring their ideas to life using Minecraft Education. Your child will develop creative, collaboration and problem solving skills.

Suitable for children aged 8 – 12.

For more information and to register:
codingbug.co.uk/coding-in-minecraft/

WHERE

Yatton Library
BS49 4HJ

WHEN

Saturday 31st January 2026
From 10:00am - 12:30pm

codingbug.co.uk
Email: info@codingbug.co.uk or call 07909226520



 facebook.com/codingbug/

Future Talent Create Day



future talent

West of England
MUSIC
& ARTS

**BRISTOL
CREATE
DAY**

With Siobhan Clough

Sunday 8th February 2026
10:30am-3:30pm
Future Talent & West of England
Music and Arts

SIGN UP HERE

This Create Day will focus on **Open Scores** - a flexible, creative way of making music that welcomes all instruments and experience levels. Young musicians from **Future Talent** and **WEMA** will join together to explore ideas, experiment, meet new friends, and create new music as a group.

Trinity Academy
Romney Avenue
Lockleaze
Bristol
BS7

School Calendar Dates

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

Term 3 - Monday 05 January 2026 to Friday 13 February 2026

Term 4 - Monday 23 February 2026 to Thursday 02 April 2026

Term 5 - Monday 20 April 2026 to Friday 22 May 2026

Term 6 - Monday 01 June 2026 to Wednesday 22 July 2026

INSET days 2025 – 2026

Friday 13 February 2026

Friday 27 March 2026

Annual Planner - Dates to Remember

Dates to Remember 2025 - 2026

Worship for Parents Owls: Monday 9th February @ 2:45pm

PTA Mufti Day: Thursday 12th February

World Book Day: Thursday 5th March

Family Breakfast: 27th February

Parents Evening: Tuesday 24th March @ 4:00-7:00pm

Parents Evening: Thursday 26th March @ 3:40-6:40pm

Worship for Parents Kingfishers: Monday 30th March @ 2:45pm

Y6 Lifeskills: Tuesday 31st March @ PM

Rocksteady Concert for Parents & KS1: Thursday 2nd April

PTA Mufti Day: Thursday 2nd April

PTA Easter Egg Hunt: Thursday 2nd April

SATs Week & SATs Breakfast: Monday 11th – Friday 15th May

Worship for Parents Kestrels: Monday 18th May @ 2:45pm

Y6 Camp: Monday 18th – Friday 22nd May

PTA Mufti Day: Friday 22nd May

Sports Day Wednesday 17th June KS2AM / KS1PM

Reserved Sports Day Wednesday 24th June KS2AM / KS1 PM

Permission to Play: Friday 3rd July

Worship for Parents Jays: Monday 6th July @ 2:45pm

Rocksteady Concert for Parents & KS2: Thursday 16th July

Y6 Leavers Service: **TBC**

PTA Mufti Day: Wednesday 22nd July

Contacts

School Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Education-Website/St-Andrews-Primary-School-Congresbury-631401120595092/>

School Office e-mail Address: office@standrewsprimary.org.uk²

School Phone Number: 01934 832505

²<mailto:office@standrewsprimary.org.uk>