



St. Andrew's Newsletter 10 25/26

No: 10 || Thursday 05 February 2026



National Nurturing
School Award
2025

St Andrew's Primary School



Dear Parents / Carers,

Term 4 is fast approaching to an end and just a reminder that it is an INSET day on Friday 13th February.

Last academic year, we paid to sign up to a UWE research for a Parental Smartphone Survey Report. 69 parents engaged with the survey and we have had the survey results shared with us and are beginning to review them.

Currently there is no LSP guidance on parents giving phones to pupils and as you might be aware the stronger guidance from the government, and consultation on banning social media for under 16s continues the discussion in the media and wider community.

From the survey, parents expressed a clear preference for restrictive approaches to smartphone use in school. The most favoured options were requiring all phones to be handed in at the start of the school day or implementing a total ban on smartphones on the school site (with or without allowance for non-smart “brick” phones). A majority reported that they would actively support or feel positive about a total smartphone ban, with very few indicating opposition. Qualitative responses suggest that support for restrictive policies is driven by perceptions that smartphones are unnecessary at primary school age and pose

risks related to distraction, bullying, peer pressure, and exposure to age-inappropriate content. Where reservations were expressed, these were primarily linked to safety and communication needs for older pupils, particularly those walking home independently in Year 6.

The current St Andrew's guidance for parents is that only Year 6 pupils are allowed to bring in mobile phones to school and this was originally agreed due to parental requests many years ago as this was an age where pupils were walking to and from school alone and parents wanted to be able to have a means to communicate together. Our school policy for Year 6 pupils is that:

- The Y6 children deposit their phones into a safe place that is locked in the morning on arrival.
- The phones should be switched off in the storage place.
- The phones remain locked away until the end of the day.
- The children are not allowed to have access to them or use them on school grounds.

It is our intention to formalise our expectations around this area in a policy that also seeks partnership with parents in them signing up to it should they wish their child to have a phone in school. We are not currently planning on banning Y6 pupils bringing their phone to school as we feel the measures in place already stop the areas of concerns shared by parents in the survey.

The survey also reported that 63% of parents would find it useful for school to provide guidance on issues re smart phones. We currently have annual sessions to educate our pupils. Last half term, KS2 pupils all had our annually arranged online safety workshops. These workshops focussed on smartphones and the dangers of social media including appropriate app use. Next Tuesday is the annual Safer Internet Day. The theme this year is - "Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI". Next week each class will be working through some resources prepared by our computer lead Mrs Gee and for KS2 it is an opportunity to follow up on what they learnt from last term's workshop. Our Year 6 digital leaders have put together an "online safety" quiz which each class will be taking.

Working in partnership together regarding phone usage, we wanted to remind parents the importance of following guidance around their children using app and online games that are not age appropriate. We often hear under age children discussing playing online games for example Fortnite which is a suggested age of 12. Another area of concern is pupils using social media outside of school like Instagram, TikTOK, Snapchat and You Tube which are all age requirements of 13+. The age requirement of WhatsApp is even older at 16 years of age.

We hope that the following information is supportive for parents around these area as they also support in how parents can add parental control features:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/alternatives>

There is further information for parents about the use of social media later in the newsletter.

Fran Martin,

Headteacher

YACWAG Birdwatch Visit

This week we welcomed Trevor, Jon and Sue from Yatton and Congresbury Wildlife Action Group into school to assist members of staff and youngsters with the BirdWatch. Once again many birds were emboldened by the sunshine; Green woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Goldcrest and more especially, two Mistle Thrushes, were highlights among the more usual species.

Interested and curious children were eager to talk about murmuration, night vision cameras and visits to Slimbridge. We were even shown a tiny nest, low down in a hedge, immediately adjacent to the school building. They were, as ever, delightful to be with and we hope we have deepened their enjoyment of the natural world.

The school site was a real hotspot for Blue Tits nests last spring with all eight nest boxes containing a nest. I think this is the first full house in almost twenty years!

We look forward to keeping a watch out for these beautiful creatures and learning more about them.





Christian Value: Courage



Author visit Joffre White

We have been lucky enough to win a FREE full day author visit from Joffre White. He will be visiting St Andrew's on Monday 9th February to work with children in Key Stage 2. He will be running a reading motivation workshop with all KS2 classes. He will then be running a creative writing workshop with Year 4 and question and answer session with Years 3,5 and 6. This is such a fabulous opportunity and we thank Joffre for his generosity. If you would like to purchase a book to get a signed copy, please see the poster or you can purchase a book after school directly from him. Joffre will be around at the end of the school day to meet and get books signed.

www.joffrewhite.com ¹

- JOFFRE WHITE -



AUTHOR, A UK PATRON OF READING AND READING & WRITING MOTIVATOR

A truly inspirational author and superhero reading champion to children, teachers, TAs and School Librarians.¹ –

Gareth Evans, Librarian Abbeyfield School, Chippenham.

A member of the National Association of Writers in Education and a UK Patron of Reading, he actively promotes the importance of reading, literacy and creative writing by visiting

¹<http://www.joffrewhite.com/>

primary and secondary schools, colleges, libraries and literary events in the U.K. delivering his acclaimed, interactive, motivational and inspiring sessions designed to excite and energise young people’s imagination and interest in the power of words.

His talks and workshops to all audiences including adults, give a humorous and informative view of an author’s journey, including a wealth of useful and practical information to inspire any would-be or practicing writer.



Touring since 2010 and taking in venues across the UK, featuring on BBC Radio programmes, and appearing at events including, Hampshire Children in Care Awards, International Kid’s Lit Quiz,

Swindon Youth Festival of Literature, Appledore Book Festival, Furness LitFest, Penzance

Literary Festival, , The Berkshire Book Award, Wessex Amazing Book Award, The Concorde Book

Award, Sherborne Literary Festival, The Earl’s Court Literacy Festival, Wells Festival of Literature, and The Frome Festival.

Joffre has now made more than 2500 appearances with return visits requested regularly.



www.joffrewhite.com ²

²<http://www.joffrewhite.com/>

World Book Day

Thursday 5th March is World Book Day! Children are invited to come in dressed as a favourite book character if they would like to or in pj's/comfortable clothes so they can settle down and enjoy lots of reading time. They are also invited to bring in a blanket or cushion to help make reading more comfortable. We do not expect families to spend money on providing their child with a costume. Our main focus is to ensure we enjoy a day dedicated to enjoying reading. Thank you. **Competition!** This year we will be focusing on recommending books to each other. Children are invited to enter a competition to win a £5 voucher for the school book fair (12th- 18th March). Please make a poster to promote your favourite book. Why are you recommending it? Who is the author? Posters should be A4 size with your name and class on the back. Try to make it colourful and exciting as they will be displayed in the library. 1 poster from Reception/KS1 and 1 poster from KS2 will be chosen to win a £5 voucher. Please give your posters to Mrs Gilbert by Friday 27th February. Good luck!

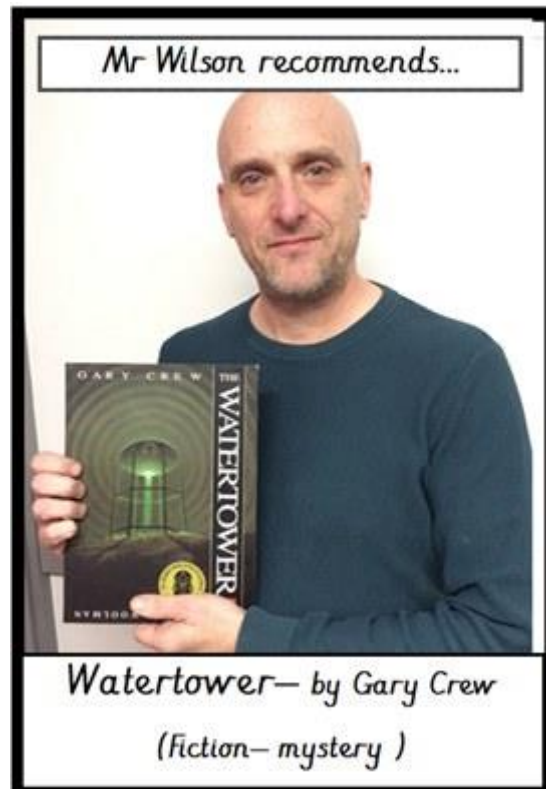
Mrs Gilbert (Reading lead)



We Love Reading - Teacher's Book Recommendations

Mr Wilson- *The Water Tower* by Gary Crew

The Watertower by Gary Crew is recommended for children because it introduces them to mystery and suspense in an accessible way, encouraging curiosity and critical thinking. With its eerie, detailed illustrations and intriguing story, the book engages young readers' imaginations and invites them to explore themes of friendship, secrets, and the unknown



20 IS PLENTY

20 is plenty!

Children who read for 20 minutes a day will...

- Improve focus and concentration
- Develop a love for learning
- Have a world of imagination and creativity opened to them
- Learn how to develop empathy
- Be exposed to 1.8 million words a year
- Have stronger writing skills
- Have a broad vocabulary
- Improve test results
- Improve critical thinking skills
- Improve and strengthen memory
- Have better general knowledge
- Improve communication skills
- Have reduced stress levels

A colorful graphic with a pink and blue border. At the top, it says '20 is plenty!' in large pink and black letters. Below that, a pink banner reads 'Children who read for 20 minutes a day will...'. The main content is a grid of 13 book icons, each with a benefit of reading. A central book icon is larger and contains the text 'Be exposed to 1.8 million words a year'.

Mental Health Week - "This is my place"



The theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2026 is 'This is My Place', and the aim is to support the systems around children and young people to help them feel they belong.

We know that our sense of belonging as individuals, in our friendships, in school, and in communities plays a vital role in our mental health.

To know our place and really feel part of our environment is a basic human need. It can have powerful and long lasting impacts in lots of areas of our lives, including our physical and mental health, education, employment and relationships. When we feel we belong, it empowers us to contribute to the world and make a real difference.

During this year's mental health week, the aim is to encourage families, schools and communities to create inclusive and nurturing environments, where children and young people feel they belong and can say "This is my place"

On Monday Ms Slee and Mrs Mayo will deliver an assembly to help the children to think about their Mental Health and how to use their voices.

During the rest of the week there will be class and art activities alongside a daily class challenge.

Safer Internet Day



Tuesday 10th February 2026

Tuesday 10th February is **Safer Internet Day**, where schools and youth organisations celebrate and campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology. The theme this year is “**Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI**”. Each class will be exploring what this means through discussions and activities in the classroom.

We would be delighted if you could join us in celebrating the day by continuing the conversation at home. To help you with this, the UK Safer Internet Centre have created some free activities and information for parents and carers which are available at <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Whether you have 5 minutes to start a conversation or hours to spare, there are top tips, quizzes and films which you can use at home with your child. If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do get in touch with your child’s class teacher.

Kind regards,

Mrs Gee,

Computing Lead

Helpful internet and social media information

There's a very good chance you've heard of Fortnite, but what exactly is it? And why is it so popular amongst young people? Fortnite is an online multiplayer "battle royale" game developed by Epic Games, and is playable on PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, PC and mobiles. It gained popularity in late 2017 and has since become the biggest game in the world, thanks to its rapid and engaging gameplay. As with most games, Fortnite itself is a highly enjoyable and safe experience, but it pays to be vigilant, as the safety is not water tight.

13+ PEGI RECOMMENDATION

What parents need to know about FORTNITE BATTLE ROYALE

BATTLE ROYALE
Fortnite Battle Royale is an online multiplayer "battle royale" game developed by Epic Games. It is a free-to-play game where up to 100 players drop into a map, build structures and weapons, and fight to be the last person standing. Each game can take up to 20 minutes to complete, and is available on PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, PC and mobile devices.

IS FORTNITE ADDICTIVE?
Fortnite Battle Royale is an online game, and as such, it can be addictive. Parents should be aware of their child's gaming habits and ensure they are not spending too much time playing. The game is free to play, but there are in-game purchases for skins and other items.

FREE TO PLAY... OR IS IT?
Fortnite Battle Royale is free to play, but there are in-game purchases for skins and other items. These purchases are optional and do not affect the game's balance.

SEASONAL UPDATES
Fortnite Battle Royale is updated with new content every 10 weeks. These updates include new weapons, maps, and game modes. Parents should be aware of these updates and ensure their child is using the latest version of the game.

CROSSPLAY IS AVAILABLE
Fortnite Battle Royale is available on multiple platforms, including PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, PC, and mobile devices. This allows players to play with friends on different devices.

IS FORTNITE VIOLENT?
Fortnite Battle Royale is a battle royale game, and as such, it contains violence. However, the violence is cartoonish and not graphic. There are no blood effects, and the game is rated PEGI 13+.

Top Tips for Parents

BUYING V-BUCKS
Fortnite Battle Royale is a free-to-play game, but it contains in-game purchases for skins and other items. Parents should be aware of these purchases and ensure their child is not spending too much money on them.

GAMING WITH STRANGERS
Fortnite Battle Royale is an online game, and as such, it can be played with strangers. Parents should be aware of this and ensure their child is not interacting with strangers online.

LIMIT TIME, BUT BE FLEXIBLE
Fortnite Battle Royale is a free-to-play game, and as such, it can be played for long periods of time. Parents should be aware of this and ensure their child is not spending too much time playing.

TALK TO OTHER PARENTS / CARERS
Fortnite Battle Royale is a free-to-play game, and as such, it can be played with other players. Parents should be aware of this and ensure their child is not interacting with other players online.

CAN DEVELOP SOME IMPORTANT SKILLS
Fortnite Battle Royale is a free-to-play game, and as such, it can be played for long periods of time. Parents should be aware of this and ensure their child is not spending too much time playing.

PLAY THE GAME YOURSELF
Fortnite Battle Royale is a free-to-play game, and as such, it can be played for long periods of time. Parents should be aware of this and ensure their child is not spending too much time playing.

Meet our expert
Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 13 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the former gaming editor of one of the biggest gaming magazines in the world, IGN. He has also worked for several other gaming magazines and has written for various gaming websites. He is a frequent speaker at gaming conferences and has been featured in several gaming publications.

#1 VICTORY ROYALE

www.nationalonlinesafety.com | Twitter: @nationalonsafety | Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety

WhatsApp safety guide for parents

13+ WhatsApp's minimum age in the UK

58% Kids aged 3-17 who use WhatsApp

37% Kids under 13 who use WhatsApp

5 tips to keep kids safe on WhatsApp

- 1 Review privacy settings** WhatsApp has a range of privacy and security settings to keep users safe. Customise groups, app access, live location and more.
- 2 Customise contacts** Show your child how to report and block unwanted contacts. Then, work with them to add their friends and family. Review and talk about their contacts regularly.
- 3 Talk about personal information** Make sure your child understand what personal information is. Talk about the importance of keeping that information private on WhatsApp.
- 4 Show them where to get support** If something goes wrong or they see something worrying on WhatsApp, make sure they know to come to you, and talk about other sources of support.
- 5 Check in regularly** Once you've done all of the above, check in with them regularly to review settings and how they use WhatsApp.

InternetMatters.org | @IM_Org | @InternetMatters

Online safety: top tips

Going online is a huge part of most young people's lives so it's important to talk to them about online safety. Here's our tips to get you started.



Chat to them about what they like to do online

The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to talk to them and have regular conversations so that online safety is part of everyday discussion. Ask them open-ended questions like 'What's your favourite game or app to play on?'.

- Listen to what they have to say and show an interest. They could give you a demo of their favourite app or show you their favourite YouTube or TikTok account.
- They will probably be able to teach you things you don't know! This will also give you an opportunity to chat about any safety settings they might already have in place.
- Regular conversations with your child will encourage them to come to you if they ever need support or advice.

Talk about who they are in contact with online

There are lots of different ways that children can talk to people online - messaging apps, on social media, and less obvious ways such as chat on online games. Talk to your child about who they are talking to and what they are sharing with them.

- Use settings to help limit who can contact your child.
- Remind your child that they shouldn't share personal information with people they don't know online.
- Let your child know they can come to you or another trusted adult if any conversation makes them feel uncomfortable.

Help manage what they see and do online

Parental controls and privacy settings can help you manage how your child spends time online and help to keep them safe.

- Device settings - manage things like location sharing, screen time and in-app purchases. Most tech and gaming companies have dedicated pages to support with setting these up.
- App or game settings - in-app tools that can help to keep your child's account private and manage who they're talking to. You can normally find information on these in account settings or directly on the platforms website.
- Mobile or network provider settings - help to manage browsing access and stop your child from visiting inappropriate sites or downloading apps that aren't suitable. Contact your mobile or broadband provider for more information about setting this up.

Make sure to talk to your child first before implementing any new settings and explain to them how they help to keep them safe.

Remember it's ok to ask for help!

Remember you don't have to be an online safety expert - that's our job! We're here to help, with resources and advice to help support you and your child.

If your child asks you a question you don't know the answer to, or speaks to you about a negative experience they had online, here are some of things you could do:

- Visit the NSPCC online safety hub: nspcc.org.uk/online-safety
- Call the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000 to speak to an advisor
- Ask another parent
- Speak to your child's teacher
- If your child needs more support, they can contact Childline: childline.org.uk



NSPCC

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Lunar New Year - Thursday 12th February

Aspens are providing a special menu on Thursday 12th February for Lunar New Year. Please see details of the menu below. You will need to make your selection via Aspens in the usual way.

**FOOD
FESTIVAL**



LUNAR NEW YEAR

12th February

**Sticky Chinese Chicken Rice
with Mixed Green Vegetables**

Or

**Sticky Chinese Veggie Rice
with Mixed Green Vegetables**

And

**Chinese Five
Spice Cupcakes**



**FOOD
FESTIVAL**



LUNAR NEW YEAR

12th February

ALLERGY FREE MENU

**Sticky Chinese Chicken Rice
with Mixed Green Vegetables**

Or

**Sticky Chinese Veggie Rice
with Mixed Green Vegetables**

And

Ginger Cookies



After School Sports Clubs

PH Active are back again next term continuing to provide some exciting sports activities for the children after school. If you would like your child to attend, please book directly with PH Active. Information is on the flyer below.

After School Sports Clubs

St Andrews Primary School

Monday	Wednesday	Thursday
Netball & Basketball (All Years)	Gymnastics (All Years)	Multi-Sports (All Years)
£35.70 (6 Weeks)	£35.70 (6 Weeks)	£35.70 (6 Weeks)
Owen J	Archie M	Archie M

All clubs run **3:20-4:20pm**
Clubs start the week commencing **23/02/2026**

Our after-school clubs are a fantastic opportunity for your children to enhance their learning and physical development in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Book Here

PTA School Disco - Thursday 12th February



The PTA are excited to invite your child to the St. Andrew's School Disco on Thursday 12th February with entertainment provided by DJ Matt! There will be music, dancing, games and more. Light refreshments will be provided in the way of snacks and drinks. Don't forget to purchase your ticket!

Should I keep my child off school?

UK Health Security Agency **NHS**

Should I keep my child off school?



Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No
but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



Advice and guidance
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrcr.de/minfnc>.

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Community News

Festival of Stories



https://www.papertalesshop.com/events?fbclid=IwdGRzaAPpMtpjbGNrA-ky0mV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydgMGYXBwX2IkDDM1MDY4NTUzMTcyOAABHie9xCuztUZHRTF0ki8G0q5yxEehWvedMZtIQD-r4ynFmUuMF5V9Wn2XGW1j_aem_CbwWlp-

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Congresbury FC Needs your Help!

Congresbury FC are looking for help with the development and maintenance of the Lane to Congresbury Football Club. Please read the link below for more information.

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/congresburyfc?utm_medium=CF&utm_source=C](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/congresburyfc?utm_medium=CF&utm_source=CL)
[L](#)



Game Design Workshop

An interactive workshop for aspiring young game designers. Your child will dive into the world of pixel art and game creation using a 2D game design engine.



Codingbug

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CODERS & MAKERS

Game Design Workshop

An interactive workshop for aspiring young game designers. Your child will dive into the world of pixel art and game creation using a 2D game design engine.

What they'll learn

- ✓ Plan and design a game
- ✓ Create a story for the game
- ✓ Create characters using pixel art
- ✓ Debug and problem solve
- ✓ Collaborate with others

WHERE

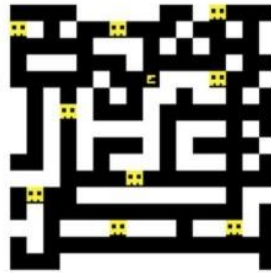
Yatton library
48 High St, Yatton,
BS49 4HJ

WHEN

Thursday 19th February
10:00 – 12:00

FOR AGES

Children aged 8–12 years
For curious beginners and
those up for a fun challenge



HOW TO JOIN

Scan the QR code to join
and book a spot.

Limited spaces available!

<https://codingbug.co.uk/game-design-workshop/>



codingbug.co.uk

info@codingbug.co.uk

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

Term Dates 2026-2027

Term 1 - Thursday 3rd September 2026 - Friday 23rd October 2026

Term 2 - Monday 2nd November 2026 - Friday 18th December 2026

Term 3- Monday 4th January 2027 - Friday 12th February 2027

Term 4 - Monday 22nd February 2027 - Thursday 25th March 2027

Term 5 - Monday 12th April 2027 - Friday 28th May 2027

Term 6 - Monday 7th June 2027 - Friday 23rd July 2027

INSET days 2026-2027

Thursday 3rd September 2026

Friday 4th September 2026

Friday 20th November 2026

Friday 15th January 2027

Monday 22nd February 2027

Monday 12th April 2027

Annual Planner - Dates to Remember

Dates to Remember 2025 - 2026

Author Visit: Monday 9th February

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

PTA Mufti Day: Thursday 12th February

PTA School Disco EYFS 3:30-4:30pm, KS2 5:00-6:00pm - 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.uk³

School Phone Number: 01934 832505

³<mailto:office@standrewsprimary.org.uk>