

St Aidan's Newsletter

March 2023



Welcome back to everyone! I hope you all had a fantastic break and a really relaxing time off school.

Dates for This Term

I have attached an updated list of dates for this half-term. It is only a short one – 5 weeks in all – but there are a few additional dates that have been planned by the School Council so they can continue their fundraising.

A reminder that we pray together as a school on a Monday afternoon at 2:45 - any parents/carers are always welcome.

I have decided to hold off on parent/carer meetings until the first week after Easter. Our assessment week will be the last week before we break up which should allow us to update you of your child's progress.

An update on SEND

Miss Marshall is our Special Education Needs and Disability co-ordinator. Some of you may not know her very well or that she held this role. Below is a quick interview carried out by Poppy and Ismay in Year 4 so you can get to know her...

What is your job?

I look after Reception class and people who need extra help.

How long have you worked here?

8 years.

What do you like about your job?

That every day is different and I have fun. Teaching makes a big difference to everyone.

What is your favourite subject to teach?

Literacy and 'Show Club'.

What is the most important thing you do?

To make sure of the children in school find what works for them.

What do you do in your spare time?

I like to go to the theatre, the soft play and to read.



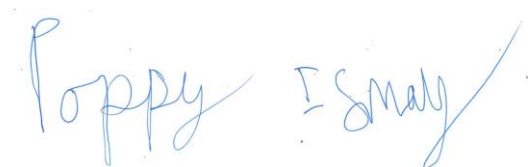
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Do you have any children?

A little girl – Alyssa, aged 4.



Well done to our two little journalists!

An update from Miss Marshall...

We are very proud to say that our new 'Rainbow Room' is up and running. The sensory space has been a tremendous hit with our children and staff alike! We have worked really hard to create a safe space for children to come to when the classroom or wider school environment proves challenging. If your child is currently on a Pupil Passport and Pupil Profile you will have recently or will shortly be receiving their updated paperwork which will include their updated targets and progress towards their individual outcomes – these will be shared with you ahead of parent/carer consultations.

Miss Marshall

If you have any concerns about your child's learning or wish to speak to the SENDCo, an appointment can be made via the school office.

School improvements/School Entrance and Exit

You will have noticed that the fence surrounding the school yard has disappeared – not stolen as some of the younger children suggest! It makes the place look so much more welcoming and a whole lot bigger. It has hopefully helped with funnelling the children up the path towards the exit and made exiting the site much easier which I'm pleased about.

The next stage will be to have the yard marked and the bike/scooter storage installed. There are plans to make a garden area in the quiet yard and install some planters – I am hoping that the rest of this stage of the work will be carried out at Easter if not before.

I really hope it improves the outdoor environment for the children and they get as good an experience outside of the classroom as they get in it.

School Uniform

While we are generally quite accommodating of children when they outgrow a pair of school shoes etc. I have noticed a number of children are consistently wearing trainers to school which is not in line with school uniform policy. Please can you ensure that proper school shoes are worn.



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There is a significant amount of spare uniform in good condition and we can always support with cost if this is needed. Please speak to me if you require this or any of the office team.

I have also noticed a number of children have had their ears pierced and have been wearing tape/plasters to cover them. Please remember that children need to be able to remove them and wear plastic retainers for school. **If there is not enough time for these to be put in, children should not have their ears pierced.**

From now on, I will be asking for earrings to be removed as it is a health and safety risk, particularly for PE.

If you wish for your child's ears to be pierced, the Summer Holidays are the best time to allow them to heal sufficiently.

Activities/Trips etc

There are so many exciting activities and trips taking place. I am delighted that we will be taking Year 5 to London again this year and they will get to experience their capital city. It is a wonderful experience for the children and something that completely astounded last year's group. I feel it is so important for the children to see and do as much as possible and understand the impact they can have.

I am also delighted that Year 3 and 4 will be having their bush craft and sleepover experience on the school field. A specialist company will set up a tee-pee tent and the children will learn survival skills and camp out. It will be a fantastic experience and one that the children will never forget.

Both of these supports our children in achieving:

Confidence Resilience Independence

Three of the skills parents said they wished their child to leave school with during their time with us.

I am delighted that the Show Club and Mini-Movers have had a workshop with the Northern Ballet on Thursday – something completely new to the vast majority of them.

I am pleased that we have also had some entries from our Year 6 children in the Catenian Public Speaking competition. We have chosen a school winner and forwarded them to the BBCET competition – a trust wide set of entries.

Public speaking is a real skill and another thing all children will benefit from. There was a huge amount of hard work from our children and a real range of topics.



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Well done to Ethan, Ava, Meghan and Evie from Year 6 who all wrote speeches and presented them to some classes in school. They were all about things they were passionate about. Our winner from school was Evie – whose recording of her speech was sent to the final panel on Wednesday Morning.

We'll keep our fingers crossed that we get through.

Attendance

Below are the attendance figures for each class last half term.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Saplings	89.77%
Sycamores	96.03%
Poplars	93.78%
Maples	96.44%
Elms	96.50%
Hawthorns	95.67%
Chestnuts	94.39%

Clubs

Uptake on guitar lessons has been fantastic. I am delighted that the children are benefitting from this experience and I must say thank you Mrs Owen – the Vice Chair of the Governors – who has given up her time to do this.

I am pleased that we also have a KS1/KS2 art club which will run from now on – it should be at full capacity from next week following strike days.

As part of the Big Lent Walk – we're also hosting a parent/child running club. Hopefully, our first one will be in Newbiggin and meeting on the promenade next Friday at 4pm. Parents must accompany children. Please don't be afraid of taking part, there will be speeds/groups for any ability and you can walk if you wish. It is a brilliant way to promote fitness with your children.

Social Media

The best way to stay up to date with all the wonderful things happening in the classroom is to follow our Instagram account. It is full of photos of all of the wonderful things the children get up to. The tag is @staidansashington.

Length of the School Day

The government white paper requesting that schools lengthen the school day has been suspended so we will not be consulting with parents regarding this at present. Any future developments will be communicated accordingly.



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School Council Update

A message from our Head Girl and Head Boy...

Thank you to everyone who has been so generous with their support of our events. We have some events we've arranged: -

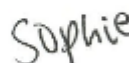
- Children and Parents Bingo night – prizes of chocolate **with a final game cash prize!** **Wednesday 29th March – 6pm-8pm.** Hosted by Mr Whitelaw.
- Non-uniform day – **Friday 17th March** – a donation of an Easter Egg/some chocolate for Bingo Night would be great.
- Tuck shop after school **Friday 24th March** – open in school hall.
- Egg decorating competition – entries due in on Monday 27th March. Optional entry donation of £1.
- Family quiz night – Date TBC after Easter.

Thank you for your generosity. We are really pleased that we have been able to raise money to improve the school for our friends.

Head Boy



Head Girl



Finally

Thank you again for your continued support. I look forward to all this term brings for our lovely little community.



Mr M Moran

Headteacher



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