

St Aidan's Newsletter

May 2023



Welcome back to everyone! I apologise for the delay in sending this out – the first couple of weeks have been incredibly hectic.

Dates for This Term

Important events are attached to this form. It certainly is a busy one.

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

SATs

Year 6 have now finished their SATs assessments. They were more than prepared for them and have worked their socks off this year and gone about it in such a mature and determined manner. Mrs Teer left them well prepared to tackle anything and I have high expectations that they will achieve incredibly well.

Thank you to Mrs Burgess who made sure she provided a really good breakfast option each day.

I must also thank Mrs Teer for the work she has put in this year. She has seen such improvement in them all and they really have such a positive relationship with her.

School improvements

The yard markings have arrived and are currently sitting in yard of GMS – the grounds maintenance people who will be installing them. They need a period of consistent warmer and dry weather to install them but it should be within the next few weeks. I can't wait for the children to be able to have the games to play. One they're in, we're installing some metal goal/basketball rebounders to create a little pitch at the bottom of the yard.

I have just set the budget for the school next year and have set aside a significant amount of funding to rip out the old ICT suite and create a purpose-built library filled with fantastic new reading resources. It will be specifically designed to be inviting, comfortable and attractive to promote a love of reading with the children. Myself and Miss Givens are consulting with several companies and we have appointments booked for people to come and measure up soon. Hopefully we will have a fantastic new library ready for September, with work carried out over the holidays.

Our Prayer and Reflection space has also been officially blessed and opened by Fr Shaun. It is such a lovely space and has been paid for by fundraising from the school council a grant from the Mercy Project. The children love to come and sit in it during break and use it so



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respectfully. A special thankyou to Mrs Shortt and Miss Givens who spent so much time sourcing and planting the flowers. We've decided to dedicate it to Mrs Leslie's Dad and brother who sadly passed away during her last couple of years as Headteacher. We've purchased a plaque and we'll share a liturgy with her the next time she comes to visit.

We are also drawing up plans to improve the outdoor provision in Nursery and Reception. Watch this space...

Meet a Staff Member

This week, two of our staff interviewed Miss Wright, the Nursery teacher: -

What is your job?

Nursery Teacher

How long have you worked here?

6 Years

What do you like about your job?

Working with the Nursery children when they come to school and join us for the first time.

What is your favourite subject to teach?

Maths and numbers.



What is the most important thing you do?

Help all of the new children settle in and be ready for the rest of their journey at St. Aidan's.

What do you do in your spare time?

I enjoy reading and going to the quiz.

What do you want to do in the future?

Continue to work at St. Aidans and make our new outdoor area fun and accessible.

Thank you to Ava and Josie for their Interview!



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Activities/Trips etc

There are a number of upcoming trips. We have subsidised all visits quite heavily through various sources of funding to try and make these as cost effective as possible. There is also the choice to pay for any visits in instalments via the ParentMail app.

Can all parents look to clear any balances for activities such as the Year 3/4 campout, Year 5 London and the Year 6 residential inline with the deadlines communicated.

If you are struggling financially, please let us know and we will support you wherever possible. A lack of financial means will never be a barrier to one of our children attending an activity or trip that enhances their learning or makes a memory.

All classes will enjoy a trip between now and the end of the year. Teachers are busy planning them and trying to find something as cost effective as possible but the increase in fuel etc. is making some journeys in coaches incredibly expensive. Please bear with us...

Attendance

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

<u>Class</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Saplings	93.70%
Sycamores	95.51%
Poplars	96.53%
Maples	95.85%
Elms	94.28%
Hawthorns	96.47%
Chestnuts	93.21%

Clubs

The art clubs have been fantastically well received.

I am also pleased that we have been able to continue running club along the Promenade at Newbiggin. It is fantastic to have so many families attend and walk/run at their own pace. All are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult. We meet at 4:00pm, in the car park at Church Point. At the time of writing, we might well be beaten by the weather though...

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.



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School Council Update

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

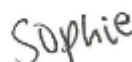
We had our latest SC meeting this week. We discussed a few things that are happening and we have some updates for you.

- The yard will be marked over the next couple of weeks with our new games. They have been paid for and have arrived, the company are waiting for dry weather to put them down.
- We are meeting with a few companies and Miss Givens to spend the money we have raised on a new library. It will be designed by us and everyone will love to read in it!
- We're going to have another Bingo Night planned because it was so successful.
- We've decided to plan some fun events for everyone after half term (and some treats – paid for using our fundraising!).
- We will send dates out as soon as we agree them.

Head Boy



Head Girl



Finally

I always look forward to this term. It gives the best opportunities for parental involvement and there are always so many fun and memorable activities. It really is the best time to be in school and the children are always so much bouncier around this time. I look forward to all the wonderful things that we have to look forward to.



Mr M Moran

Headteacher



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