



ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL NEWLETTER

Christmas 2020

'We hope that all of our lovely parents, carers and pupils have a fantastic Christmas, a brilliant New Year and a wonderful 2021'

Best wishes from all at St Andrew's School

Room 1



All the children in room 1 have settled into our new school. They are all enjoying our sessions in the soft play and relaxation sensory room. We are going to focus on colours in the relaxation sensory room and shape in the soft play room. Over the next couple of weeks Christmas will be our theme, we will have various Christmas themed sensory trays, tough trays and water play. We will be using plenty of glitter in our arts and crafts! We will also be doing some baking which will be eaten as a snack in class.

Room 2



The children have all moved and settled into their new classroom and are adding lots of Christmas artwork to make it look even more special! We have set up different areas in the room: a relaxation corner, a soft play area, a technical and problem-solving area and two workspaces that can be used for individual work or as a whole class. The big touch screen is a favourite amongst the children, and they are enjoying the interactive lessons. We have our own entrance to the playground and the children particularly like the playpark and using the adapted bicycles on the race-track. Several times a week they go to the sensory room and the soft playroom and are thoroughly enjoying these new spaces.

Room 4

Room 4 boys are 'fair chuffed' with their new school. They have loved climbing, sliding, swinging and playing on the new equipment in the playpark, especially as we have our own allocated slot. Bikes and scooters in the main playground area have also proved a hit. We have had enormous fun exploring the softplay and sensory rooms and are really looking forward to starting swimming again next week. We have been busy with our numbers, sounds, speaking, handwriting and stories as usual. Last week we put our skills to good use writing a class letter to Santa and posting it outside Strachan's during our weekly galivant around Inverurie. We followed this with a well-earned hot chocolate and fine piece in the Acorn Centre. We have been busy with seasonal artwork and decorating our own Christmas tree. Gradually we are getting to play with all the new toys Friends of St Andrew's have enabled us to buy for our new classroom.



Room 5

All the pupils and staff helped to pack boxes in the old school and unpack them in our new classroom at the new build. We have settled into our new classroom and are having lots of fun exploring all the new experiences. Outside we have had fun on the slide and swings as well as having fun on our train which we took from the old school. In the relaxation room we can control the equipment ourselves using consoles which has allowed us to set the environment to how we want it. In the soft playroom we have great fun picking sounds and music from the hand board and then we work on our gross motor skills: climbing and negotiating our way over and through the equipment.



Room 6

Room 6 have really enjoyed settling into the new building. All the children have loved exploring the outside area and playground area. The climbing frame and basket swing are firm favourites. We are also enjoying the Interactive Sensory Room, especially the wind machine and disco lights. We have used the words “fun”, “amazing” “satisfying” and “relaxing” to describe this space. During Term 3 we will be using the life skills area for our cooking and baking lessons – I am sure there will be lots of yummy smells drifting from this area in the coming months.

We have been busy learning about polar animals. We have learnt that there are two polar regions and have been learning about penguins and polar bears. We were being creative when we made penguins using paper, cotton wool and googly eyes and created a snowy display scene for them to live in. Next week we will be learning about reindeer which will link in with some crafts for Christmas too.



Room 7

Pupils in Room 7 have been settling in to their new classroom. We have a new smartboard and nice tables and chairs. We also have a relaxation space to use if we'd like. There is an Interactive Sensory Room which we use on a Monday afternoon. It has a bubble tube, wind maker, musical touch pads and projector which are great fun.

Here are some photos of what we have been up to inside and outside.



Room 8

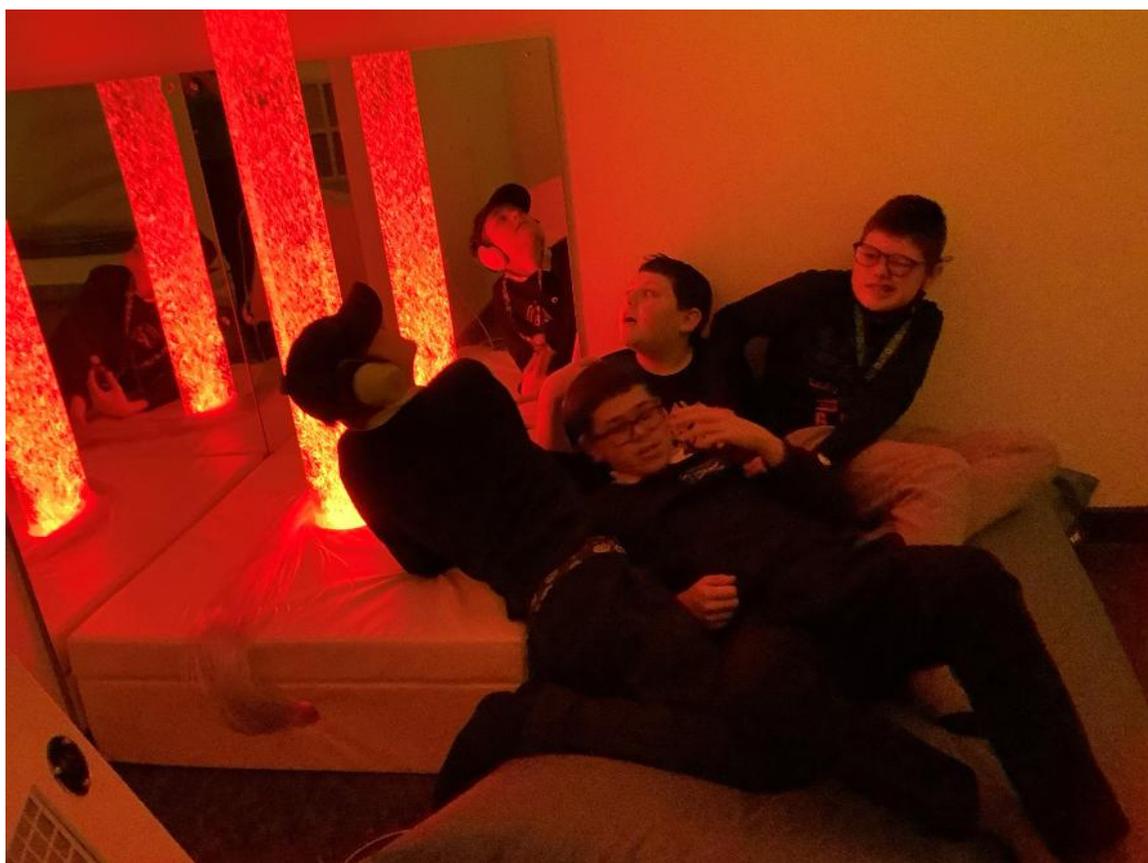


Room 8 have had a busy term getting settled into our new classroom. The past few weeks we have had fun decorating our room for Christmas with stained glass pictures, wreaths and angels. For our Christmas theme we have been finding out about the nativity and have just started our own “Polar Express” sensory story. We plan to enjoy our story in different settings by using the immersion room and dark room and trying out all the amazing lights and scenes such as the moving train and snow storms.

Room 10

This term Room 10 have been looking at the topic of Changes, focussing on the change in the seasons, the change of teachers from Mrs Fearn to Mrs Kane and the biggest change of all – the move to the new school! The children have done us proud with how well they have settled into our new classroom, the new school and their new routine. We have been reading A New Home for Tiger and Jake’s First Day which are about moving and going to a new school. Jake’s First Day is also a pirate story and the children have enjoyed lots of pirate themed activities like small world play, exploring messages in a bottle and making and sailing pirate ships. Over the next two weeks of term we will be celebrating Christmas Jumper Day and doing lots of craft, language and numeracy activities around the theme of the 12 Days of Christmas and enjoying a few festive treats like a disco in class and mince pies. From the children and staff in Room 10 we wish you all a very Merry Christmas!





Room 11

The pupils in room 11 have settled into the new school and have been enjoying exploring the outside space and all the wonderful facilities inside.

The boys particularly like the Life Skills area where they eat lunch and enjoy baking lessons each week. The area has a small library where they can come and read and have some quiet time and computers which they enjoy using. The interactive sensory room is wonderful. The staff and pupils had fun trying out all the equipment. The pupils are looking forward to swimming again and trying out the warm water pool. Outside in the playground the boys have been busy planting bulbs and plants that we brought from the old school. We hope eventually to plant all the raised beds that are in the playground and that will provide a lovely splash of scent and colour next Spring for everyone.

In class this term Mrs Fearn has been reading *Fantastic Mr. Fox* by Roald Dahl which the boys have really enjoyed, especially the descriptions of the characters and the illustrations throughout the book. The boys are encouraged to take turns reading to the class and enjoy bringing favourite books from home. They have been working hard learning about grammar and punctuation and regular exercises help to reinforce their learning. In maths this term we have been exploring the concept of shape and form, working with different 2D and 3D shapes. They have learned about the properties of different shapes and forms. They all enjoy using the Clever Touch interactive smartboard and have fun watching the maths videos and trying the exercises.

Room 12



This term in Room 12, our topic has been Festivals and Celebrations. Each week we have focused on a different celebration: Halloween, bonfire night, Diwali, St Andrew's Day and now we are learning about Christmas. For each celebration, we have looked at how it is celebrated in Scotland and other parts of the World. This has led to us participating in activities linked to the celebration.

During our Bonfire Night learning, we learnt about the gunpowder plot and made our very own rockets which we blasted into the air with a bicycle pump – it made us all jump! For Diwali, we made coconut ice, created diva lamps from airdry clay and used coloured rice to make Rangoli patterns – they looked fantastic.

For St Andrew's Day, we created flags, weaved our own tartan and tried speaking a bit of Doric – head, shoulders, knees and toes was best!

Now we are learning about Christmas and have created our own advent wreaths, which we will add a flame to each week on the countdown to Christmas. We are very excited about the next few weeks in our new class and our Christmas learning! Merry Christmas everyone from Room 12!

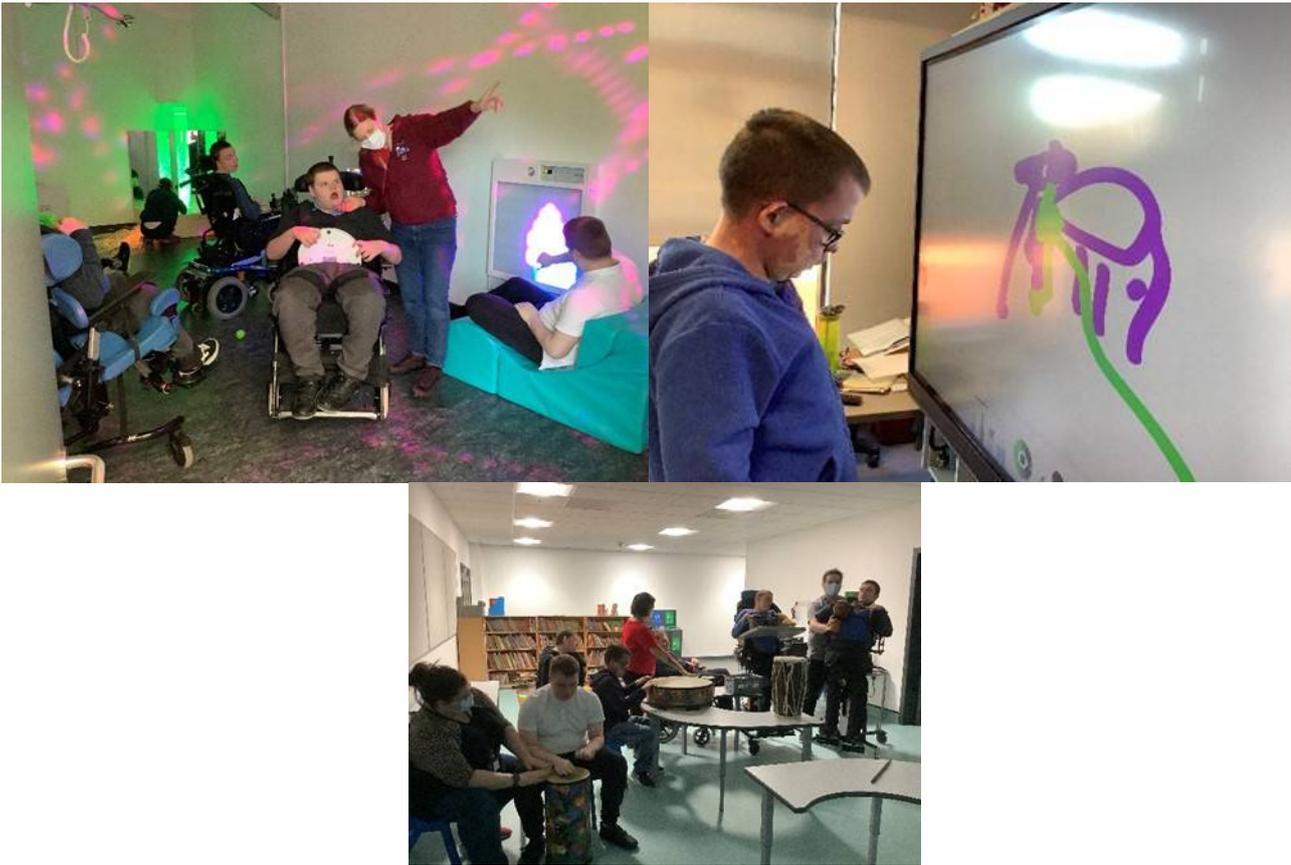
Room 14 News

I am delighted to say that all the Room 14 pupils have had a great transition to the new school. Everyone is settling in well and enjoying the new facilities. Our first week in the new building was Scottish week, when we enjoyed stories about Hamish the Highland Cow (including a visit to the hairdresser in the Immersion Room) and the Gruffalo in Doric. We're now well into Christmas crafts, songs and stories, and the Immersion Room is a fantastic way to enhance our stories. Pupils have been to the glaciers in Iceland, a ski resort in Austria, and on a little trip to Narnia. It's interesting seeing which of the immersive environments each pupil enjoys.



The Dark Room has been made good use of, with the heated waterbed proving to be a big hit with all the pupils, especially with the resonance board under it which amplifies musical vibrations. The sensory lights in the dark room have their own control pads, enabling pupils to make their own colour/speed choices, which gives them more autonomy in controlling their environment. We've been out regularly to the play park, using the wheelchair swing and roundabout and enjoying the different textures and colours of the new playground. Well done to all Room 14 pupils for taking the move in their stride!

Room 15



We have all faced a few difficulties this year and we have done well and have risen and adapted to all challenges that 2020 has laid down.

We often go outside to enjoy the daily mile and participate in outdoor learning in the park. Here we collected autumn leaves and cones which we made into nature art back in the classroom.

Now we are in the new building we have access to use the interactive sensory room, the life skills room where we bake our tasty snacks and do our drumming and fully use the new playground which is wheelchair friendly. The children really enjoy these new facilities.

On Wednesday and Monday, we do relaxation and Santa yoga, the Physio also joins us for this activity. We provide relaxing lighting, beautiful music and aromatherapy scents for the pupil's enjoyment.

At the moment the children are busy making Christmas decorations and Christmas cakes. They are learning Makaton Christmas songs with Mrs Vickers and Scottish country dancing is enjoyed by all in our new GP room.

In the future we are excited to use the rebound facility and get back to swimming regularly. Mrs Plavec is keeping us all physically fit!

Our topic this term is "People who help us" and the children are learning the Makaton signs for doctor, nurse, fireman and police.