



ST ANDREW'S
SCHOOL

St. Andrew's School
Inverurie



St Andrew's School News

1st July 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and all Staff

I hope that this newsletter finds you well. As I sit in the hurly burly of the last week of term I am able to reflect on the school, on where we are and where we need to be. Within these reflections there is the overarching pride in Team St Andrew's. This has been the most challenging two years that I can remember and yet St Andrew's has continued to evolve and improve. We can all be grateful for having a staff who are truly invested in the school and the pupils and whose resilience and strength of character has allowed the St Andrew's to flourish in the most difficult of circumstances.

Improvement planning for the future

Our standards and quality review and our improvement plan for next session can be found on our school website. A selection of our many improvement highlights for this year are listed below:

- Duke of Edinburgh introduced and offered to all pupils – 11 pupils achieved Bronze level and many will go on to Silver next session.
- A formalised programme of outdoor learning was introduced to all pupils
- St Andrew's school was successfully reaccredited by the National Autistic Society and is now moving on to complete advanced level accreditation.
- MOVE silver award was achieved and St Andrew's School will aim for gold status and Centre of Excellence level next session.
- Rebound Therapy Centre of Excellence status is on track achieved next session
- Music Therapy sessions and Makaton Choir commenced

Staffing

At the end of this session we say goodbye to Laura Alexander who was the teacher in Room 8 and Room 4. Laura is moving to a Vision support post at Westhill and we wish her luck in her new Role. We will be interviewing for her replacement during the holidays.

Holiday Cover

Marni will be available at standrewsinv.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk at some points during the holidays so the emails will be manned. However if your query is urgent then please text Gina on 07810481263 and leave a message – I will get back to you.

Medical Forms

New medical forms will be due to us on the first day of term. We are endeavouring to convert these forms to an electronic format in which case we will send out the link during the holidays for completion.

I hope that you all enjoy a peaceful holiday and that the weather is kind to us. We look forwards to seeing you all again in the new academic session.

Yours sincerely

Gina Drummond

Headteacher St Andrew's School

Room 1



This year Room 1 have had lots of fun in our outdoor area and during outdoor learning time. We have really enjoyed sensory play sessions - the messier the better!

We have explored a variety of musical instruments.

We have learned about the Zoo, Day and Night and Transport.

We have been on lots of outings in the minibus to Kemnay, Oldmeldrum and Rothienorman.

And we had a very successful jubilee tea enjoyed by pupils, staff and parents.

Room 2



2021-22 has been a busy year in Room 2. After a really disrupted year due to Covid, it was so lovely to have all the pupils back in school together. We started off with our Pirate topic. Pupils joined in with some very loud stories, using the sound bar to add in sound effects, and exploring different props.

We had a great time at Christmas, with a lovely Christmas party, complete with dancing and tasty snacks.

In Term 3 pupils had a great time creating art through some very messy process art activities. We painted with hands, slid through paint, swung it from a bucket, printed with sponge and bubble wrap and rolled items through paint – lots of fun!

They also really enjoyed their Kodaly sessions with Janet, she always gets them smiling and joining in!

Room 2 have been on trips to Kellands Park as part of MOVE Day, and also for Race for Life. They had a fantastic time playing in the playpark, as well as taking part in a treasure hunt around the park.

One of the absolute highlights of this year was definitely going to Kids Out. Room 2 pupils had a fabulous time, playing on bouncy castles, grooming horses, playing drums, seeing the magician and going in a pony and trap.

Room 2 have really enjoyed Outdoor Learning sessions this term, with a wide range of different activities set up outside for them to enjoy.

They have been experiencing the Immersion Room for the first time this year, which has taken them on boat, train and bus trips, as well as into outer space and underwater.

It's been a really great year, I've loved working with all the Room 2 pupils, and it's been a pleasure to watch them grow and learn through the year. Wishing you all a very happy holiday, thank you all for working so hard this year.

Mrs Cameron

Room 4



As we come to the end of this academic year it's a great opportunity to reflect on some of the highlights, in term one we enjoyed exploring the theme of the circus and the opportunities it presented for dressing up and exploring the fun and creativity the circus offers. Whilst still enjoying the last remnants of the summer we embarked on a number of trips to Haddo House Estate, which was a great way for our pupils to spend time together and explore the riches of the grounds of Haddo estate. Going into term two we took the opportunity to explore using money by presenting the opportunity for the pupils to purchase drinks and sometimes even traybakes at the café, this was most definitely a highlight for the class.

Going into terms 3 and 4 we enjoyed the opportunity to explore the theme of Space and enjoyed many a story being read by the members of the International Space station in zero gravity and the art opportunities it offered.

Throughout this year we have continued to enjoy the opportunity to explore our local area visiting Inverurie and in particular the Acorn Centre, we can thoroughly recommend the pancakes!

Room 5



What a busy year room 5 have had! We have studied the famous artist Kadinsky, learnt about The Great Fire of London, celebrated Chinese New Year, Burns and gone to Space. We took on Children in Need as our class enterprise which everyone took part in; planning, advertising and organising. We had the whole school joining in with a spotty paper napkin challenge.

Baking has been a firm favourite and we have been challenged to make sure all our recipes are gluten free. We have now perfected gluten free shortbread and the boys are great at rolling out the mixture and using cutters and of course eating it! Lots of sensory experiences have been on the go; foam, gloup, foot spa, shredded paper and many more – the messier the better!

We have been enthusiastic participants in Kodaly, swimming, pe and music.

Room 6



Room 6 have had a great year this year. On a weekly basis we have enjoyed walks to the train station, swimming, weekly mile, rebound, P.E, Yoga, outdoor learning, music and Makaton choir. As well as that we have loved our time in the immersion room and the dark room. We bake every week and have science sessions and technology sessions too. We have loved picking our favourite photos to write about and we completed a book study on 'The Owl who was afraid of the dark'. We have taken part in lots of fund-raising activities throughout the year and celebrated birthdays and special events. The go karts and bikes in the playground have been a big hit with everyone at playtime. We have been lucky to have Claire a student work with us on Mondays and Wednesdays. We have had a great time working together and the boys have approached all their activities with enthusiasm and energy. We hope everyone has a lovely summer and look forward to seeing you all in the new term.

Room 7



The year 2021/22 academic year has been very eventful in Room 7. The pupils have had great time exploring different areas of the school to access PE, Yoga, baking, swimming, rebound therapy and sensory rooms. Swimming and Rebound therapy have always been their favourite. We also had the opportunity to experience Drake Music in term 3, whereby the pupils used accessible instruments and technologies to make music. In term 4, we had bus trips on Friday afternoons to explore different playparks and they loved being on the bus. Also, a whole school outdoor learning program started this term with different stations set up and the pupils picked and chose the stations they wanted to play at. It has been a fun learning experience for the whole class. Another highlight for the year was the winning of the recycled paper competition on Move Day. The class worked hard to make a sensory monster and our own paper from scrap paper. The staff have all enjoyed working with the pupils and we wish them all the best in their next classes. Happy holiday

Room 8



All the pupils in Room 8 have had a very busy year, from starring in the Nativity show, to Mrs Hamilton winning the Busy Bee award for the tidiest classroom.

We enjoyed our topics this year which included Music Through the Decades, Creation, Mood Monsters, and Pirates. The children created beautiful artwork and made some wonderful sensory items.

Sadly we also had to say goodbye to two of our pupils this year.

It was lovely to have a Platinum Jubilee celebration and the children loved sharing this with their family members. Even the Queen made an appearance!

Room 8 have achieved so much this year, including winning the competition for the best recycle monster, which was made for the MOVE Day. It looked amazing!

Lily won the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh medal for her amazing efforts at fundraising and physical activity, raising money for Charlie House. She was runner up for the Kindness cup as she just loves to look after and interact with the other children.

Also, a big well done to Noa who was the runner up for the Endeavour cup. Noa comes back to school ready to learn new things and to try her best.

Rory was the winner of the Achievement award. At first, he was not so keen in participating with Kodaly, but now he has achieved acceptance and loves singing along with Janet.

Room 10



What a busy year it has been in Room 10! We started the year looking at harvest, where food comes from and trying lots of different foods. We made smoothies, fruit kebabs, pizzas, scones and tortilla chips and rounded off the term with a visit to Inverurie West Church and the Acorn Centre. From October to Christmas we looked at pattern and texture as we crafted our way through Guy Fawkes, St Andrew's Day, Children in Need, Remembrance and Christmas – we even made our own wings and wands for the Christmas show!

We have also been working hard on communication and emotional regulation. All the children have made fantastic progress and each day they make requests for food, toys or activities and express how they are feeling using symbols, signs, picture boards and their talkers. Now that everyone can express themselves better, we have been able to work on emotional regulation and some of our children now ask for time out or for activities that they know will help them feel calmer, such as the sensory integration room, the play park or a weighted blanket.

It has been wonderful to be part of these changes and to see how happy and settled the children are. We are so proud of their achievements and wish everyone a wonderful summer break!

Room 11



What a busy year it has been in Room 10! We started the year looking at harvest, where food comes from and trying lots of different foods. We made smoothies, fruit kebabs, pizzas, scones and tortilla chips and rounded off the term with a visit to Inverurie West Church and the Acorn Centre. From October to Christmas we looked at pattern and texture as we crafted our way through Guy Fawkes, St Andrew's Day, Children in Need, Remembrance and Christmas – we even made our own wings and wands for the Christmas show!

We have also been working hard on communication and emotional regulation. All the children have made fantastic progress and each day they make requests for food, toys or activities and express how they are feeling using symbols, signs, picture boards and their talkers. Now that everyone can express themselves better, we have been able to work on emotional regulation and some of our children now ask for time out or for activities that they know will help them feel calmer, such as the sensory integration room, the play park or a weighted blanket.

It has been wonderful to be part of these changes and to see how happy and settled the children are. We are so proud of their achievements and wish everyone a wonderful summer break!

Room 12





What a busy year we have had in Room 12! In literacy we have particularly enjoyed learning about different sayings like 'oops-a-daisy', 'seeing red' and 'not my cup of tea'. We have developed our knowledge and skills by exploring topics such as Famous Artists and The Victorians. As a class we also worked together to organise Red Nose Day fundraising and events at St Andrew's School. It has been an active year for us all with weekly walks round the campus and delivering our school soft plastic recycling to Tesco. We love our sessions in the fitness suite and PE with Mrs Plavec. A highlight of our week is swimming in the 25m pool where we continue to develop our skills and confidence, particularly in deep water. Spending time in the playground makes everyone smile and we have had fun using new equipment in our outdoor learning sessions. We have practised different cooking skills whilst baking in the Life Skills area and enjoyed eating some delicious treats! As individuals we are proud of our achievements at school and beyond, such as RDA sessions, Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award and attending clubs in the local community.

Room 14



Room 14 have been very busy this year. Activities we have enjoyed include using Control Technology. The Helpkidzlearn app has games such as the BigBang which we can play individually or in pairs. We have really enjoyed having Kev too for Sounds, Lights, Sensory on Wednesdays. He uses different sensory apps with us and instruments for 1 to 1 time which has been fun. The sensory rooms in the school have been good with the dark room for relaxation and the immersive room with sensory walls showing different scenes.

Getting outside in the better weather has been appreciated where we can relax on an acheeva or spend time with pupils from other classes. Outdoor education has started this term and we have played games or worked with different sensory materials such as sand and water. We have also gone walks out and about in Inverurie.

Swimming continues to be very beneficial for room 14 and we have all coped well in the water this term. Doing different leg and arm exercises has been great for our bodies and it's good to have the option of the hydrotherapy pool which is nice and cosy if we'd like more relaxation.

Room 15



Room 15 have had a fantastic year! We have been learning about different cultural celebrations, developing our number skills and exploring the country of France. We also developed our life skills by making regular trips to the shops and learning how to make different snacks. The children loved their Kodaly sessions as well as their music sessions with Mrs Vickers and Drake Music. As a class we have enjoyed lots of walks and trips this year. Some of our favourites were: going to the train station, visiting the garden centre, going bowling and going to the aquarium. The S4 and S5 pupils worked very hard towards their Duke of Edinburgh awards this year, raising £170 for the British Heart Foundation charity and completing a two-day expedition! Meanwhile, our S6 pupils have had some exciting transition visits as they prepare to leave us at the end of the term. We wish Neil and Ben the very best in their adventures after school!

Other News

MOVE

We have had a busy year this year. The MOVE pupils have been receiving Rebound sessions and swimming sessions alongside their MOVE sessions. We have added more pupils to the full MOVE programme and have started to plan for a new Steps, Slopes and Uneven Grounds group to start in Aug 22. We have worked hard and been awarded the Bronze and Silver Quality Marks.

DofE

This has been our first year of running Duke of Edinburgh at St Andrew's School. We had 11 pupils register for the Bronze Award this year. They have worked hard on each of their 4 sections Volunteering, Skills, Physical and Expedition. For the Skills section everybody took part in the Drake Music Dr Who Project, with the final video being launched live on YouTube. The expedition was to look at the two rivers in Inverurie, the River Don and the Ury and we ended up with a BBQ in Kellands Park. For the physical and volunteering sections the pupils have taken on a range of activities, including fundraising for charities, collecting soft plastics recycling and food for food bank, swimming, dancing and Rebound. All pupils are hopefully continuing on to Silver next session and we hope to have 3 new Bronze participants.



Interview with Laura Alexander



I've had the pleasure of working at St. Andrew's school for the past two years, mainly in rooms 7, 8 and 4. Throughout this time, I've worked with the most amazing and dedicated staff, and have taught the most inspiring and talented children.

There is never a dull moment at St. Andrew's and my favourite times are when I see the children laughing, smiling and having fun. The children are so caring and kind, so I am definitely going to miss all the lovely hugs that I'm often given. I will also miss the funny stories that the children like to tell me, as well as the mischief that some pupils like to get up to.

I am sad to be leaving St. Andrew's as it is such a wonderful family and community-oriented school, but I'm also excited to be starting my new role as a Vision Support Teacher. It will be a new challenge for me, and I hope that my new position may include me working with some of the children at St. Andrew's in the future.

Thank you for all the wonderful memories and I do hope to see you all at some point soon.

Medical Forms

New medical forms will be due to us on the first day of term. We are endeavouring to convert these forms to an electronic format in which case we will send out the link on August 1st for completion. Thank you for your support.
Marni Smart

New Classroom Names

When pupils return to school in August, we will no longer know the classrooms as numbers. The pupil council made a decision for the rooms to be known as castles. The rooms will now be known as:

| Old Name | New Name August 2022 |
|----------|----------------------|
| Rm 1 | Craigievar Castle |
| Rm 2 | Barra Castle |
| Rm 4 | Midmar Castle |
| Rm 5 | Pitcaple Castle |
| Rm 6 | Tillycairn Castle |
| Rm 7 | Fyvie Castle |
| Rm 8 | Castle Fraser |
| Rm 10 | Huntly Castle |
| Rm 11 | Crathes Castle |
| Rm 12 | Wardhill Castle |
| Rm 14 | Cluny Castle |
| Rm 15 | Slains Castle |

Sports Day

