



Autumn Term 2017

Dear Parents

What a busy year we have had at St Andrew's so far. I hope that your children have settled well into their new classes and routines.

We are looking to review our transition arrangements and have therefore sent a questionnaire for parents of children who had additional transition arrangements this year. We would be grateful if you could let us know whether these helped your child as well as any suggestions we may be able to include in future.

We have also been able to reintroduce art therapy sessions in school having found an excellent art therapist to take on the role.

SEN Focus for the year

This year we are focusing on refining our 'Graduated Response' cycle to ensure the very best support for children with emerging Special Educational Needs.

We are also ensuring that the whole staff team have a high level of knowledge with regards to high incidence SEN such as Dyslexia, Speech and Language Difficulties and Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Inclusive Sporting Events

Mrs Williams has been working with the Hitchin Sports Partnership to enable our students with disabilities to participate in a wider variety of competitive sports and children from the school are taking part in two different events locally. Our Year 6 class have also enjoyed a visit to the Olympic Legacy Event at Knights Templar to try out lots of different inclusive sports. They have given me great feedback about the day which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Accessibility

Over the half term holidays there will be a few changes to the school grounds to make our school buildings more accessible. This includes installing a ramp to the hall and our reception class. We are also going to be adding a notice board for information about courses and events that may be of interest to our parents, both to the wall outside the junior entrance and on the website

If you have any questions about SEN Provision at St Andrew's don't forget to check our SEN Information Report on our website or make an appointment to see you child's class teacher in the first instance. Kind Regards, Mrs Thorp INCo

Opportunity to take part in St Andrew's SEND Focus group

We want our SEND provision to be the best it can be and are looking for volunteers to join me in a focus group once per half term in the evening to discuss various aspects of our provision with the view to making improvements that benefit everyone.

I would like to gather a small group of parents from across the school both those with children currently receiving SEN provision **and** those who don't have identified SEN needs who would be willing to work with me on this. It would be an opportunity to discuss and make suggestions for provision for the whole school and not about your specific child. We are looking for people with enthusiasm to make a difference to all the pupils at St Andrew's by making positive suggestions for the school.

I would be grateful if you would let the office know if you are willing to take part and whether you are available on a Monday or Tuesday.

Updates

I am pleased to confirm that I have now passed my SENCo award with the Eastern Learning Partnership. I have also been recently been asked to take on the role of Cluster Rep for the SENCO's in the local area which is an excellent opportunity to ensure our school is at the heart of SEN provision locally.

Lots of staff have been busy attending training relating to the needs of individual children this term and we are also we are taking part in the Hertfordshire wide Autism Education Trust schools training initiative. All staff have received their Autism Awareness training.