



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

To strive for respect, enjoyment and excellence for all!

25.03.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of everyone, I hope that everyone celebrating Eid enjoyed the celebrations over the weekend. I have seen photos of parties and outfits. You all looked like you had a marvellous time!

Collective Worship

In Collective Worship we are focusing on Easter, particularly ‘when darkness turned to light’ (Ephesians 1.7)
Our Music genre is Calypso (steel pans) next week.

Sharing/Celebration Assemblies

It's our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Music Celebration on Friday 27th March 9am. All are welcome. There isn't a Sharing Assembly next week but there is...

St Andrews Got Talent Competition (and Spring Raffle)



Children have been auditioning and rehearsing, preparing to perform on Wednesday 1st April (no April Fool!). The show starts at 1.45pm. All parents are invited and entry is free. The Spring Raffle will be

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drawn at the event. This is a wonderful way to end our Spring Term and I'd like to thank Mrs Birkett and Mrs Smart for organising the event. This is the first time that some of our children will be performing alone on stage so I am so proud of everyone!



Parents Evenings

Parents' evenings are a good opportunity for parents to meet with staff and look at children's work. We are delighted to be able to host these meetings in person on 30th, 31st March. All families should now have received appointment times.

Meetings will last between 5 and 10 minutes. If you feel that you would need longer then please arrange an alternative time with the teacher. Children are not invited to these meetings and there are no staff available to supervise children whilst parents meet with teachers. A lot of meetings will be held upstairs and, as St Andrews does not have a lift, it is difficult to carry prams and buggies upstairs. There will be a 'buggy park' in the small teaching room near my office. Property is left at owners own risk.

I will be available on both evenings for any consultation and feedback concerning the changes detailed below:

Department For Education Relationships and Sex Education changes 2026

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

As part of updated national guidance from the Department for Education regarding Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), schools are required to review their RSE provision and ensure that parents and carers are given the opportunity to share their views.



Guidance from the Church of England Education Office

The legislation makes it clear that all schools should approach RSHE in a faith sensitive and inclusive way, seeking to explain fairly the tenets and varying interpretations of religious communities on matters of sex and relationships and teach these viewpoints with respect. The Church of England Education Office supports the approach taken by the government, including recommending an age-appropriate provision of sex education at primary level.

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At our school, we believe that strong relationships between home and school are essential. We want to ensure that the curriculum we provide supports our pupils to grow up healthy, safe and well-informed, while remaining appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Relationships and Sex Education helps children to:

- develop positive and respectful relationships
- understand how to keep themselves safe
- recognise and manage emotions
- learn about personal boundaries and respect for others
- understand how to seek help if they need it

<https://jigsawpshe.online/>

<https://barnardosrealloverocks.org.uk/>



Real Love Rocks
Healthy Relationships & Exploitation
Education Resources



Key changes affecting primary schools

- Sex education itself is not compulsory in primary schools (only relationships education is).
- Updated guidance recommends that body changes, puberty and personal development should generally not start before Year 5. Here at St Andrews we teach these elements of the curriculum in the Summer Term in Year 5.

Primary teaching continues to focus mainly on:

- friendships
- families
- respect and kindness
- personal boundaries and consent (in simple terms)

Expanded safeguarding and life-skills topics

The new guidance broadens the range of wellbeing and safety topics that primary pupils should learn about, including:

- Online safety and harmful online influences
- Recognising unhealthy or harmful relationships
- Positive role models and challenging harmful ideas
- Bereavement and emotional wellbeing
- Practical safety topics (e.g., fire or water safety)

Stronger focus on families and inclusion

The curriculum continues to require teaching that families come in different forms, including:

- single-parent families
- adoptive families
- same-sex parents

The guidance emphasises age-appropriate explanations and balanced teaching.

Greater parental engagement and transparency

Schools are expected to:

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- Consult parents more actively about RSHE content.
- Make policies and materials easily accessible.
- Explain what will be taught and when.

Parents still have the right to withdraw children from sex education (but not relationships education).

Guidance on gender identity in schools

Separate government guidance released in 2026 clarifies how schools should respond if children question their gender identity:

- Schools should not initiate discussions encouraging social transition.
- Changes like new pronouns or names must involve parents and formal procedures.
- Such changes are expected to be very rare in primary schools.
- Access to single-sex facilities remains based on biological sex.

What has NOT changed

Primary schools must still teach Relationships Education, including:

- healthy friendships
- respect and kindness
- bullying and online behaviour
- family relationships
- basic understanding of privacy and body boundaries

These requirements were originally made compulsory in 2020.

As part of our review, we would really value your feedback. Your views will help us ensure that our approach reflects the needs of our community and supports our children effectively. Our updated policy can be viewed here:

<https://www.standrewsprimaryeccles.co.uk/school-policies/>

If you would like to share your views and discuss the curriculum further, I will be available on both Parents Evenings. Alternatively, please contact the school office and we will be happy to arrange a conversation. Following this consultation, we will review the feedback and finalise our RSE policy. The updated policy will be shared with parents and published on the school website.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in helping us provide the best possible education for our children.

Lledr Hall

Letters have gone out to invite our current Year 4 and 5 children to our annual trip to Lledr Hall in September 2026. It's the highlight of the year and I encourage everyone from Year 4 and 5 to attend. It's so good that I have a waiting list of staff who want to attend and have had to pull names out of a hat before now! It's an amazing experience.

Why should children go to Lledr Hall?

- Wide range of exciting outdoor activities - Children can try things like climbing, canoeing, gorge walking, mountain biking, and ropes courses
- Builds confidence and independence - Activities push children out of their comfort zone and help them become more self-reliant
- Encourages teamwork and social skills - Group challenges help children cooperate, communicate, and build friendships

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- Develops leadership and problem-solving skills - Tasks like raft building and orienteering require thinking, planning, and leading others
- Improves physical health and fitness - Outdoor adventures involve lots of movement and exercise in a fun way
- Learning outside the classroom - Children learn about geography, nature, and the environment through real-life experiences
- Boosts motivation and enjoyment of learning - Outdoor education can increase enthusiasm and engagement when back at school
- Safe and well-supervised environment - Activities are led by trained, qualified staff with strong safety standards
- Tailored to different abilities - Programmes are adapted so every child can succeed and feel included
- Creates lasting memories and friendships - Residential trips help children bond and remember the experience for years
- Time away from screens and technology - Children stay busy with real adventures instead of phones or games
- Beautiful natural setting - Located in Snowdonia, surrounded by mountains, rivers, and lakes



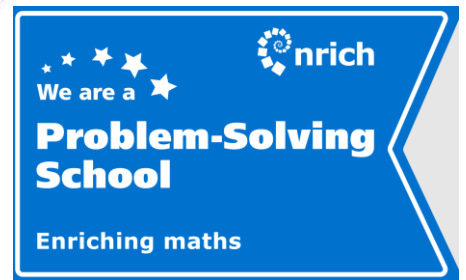
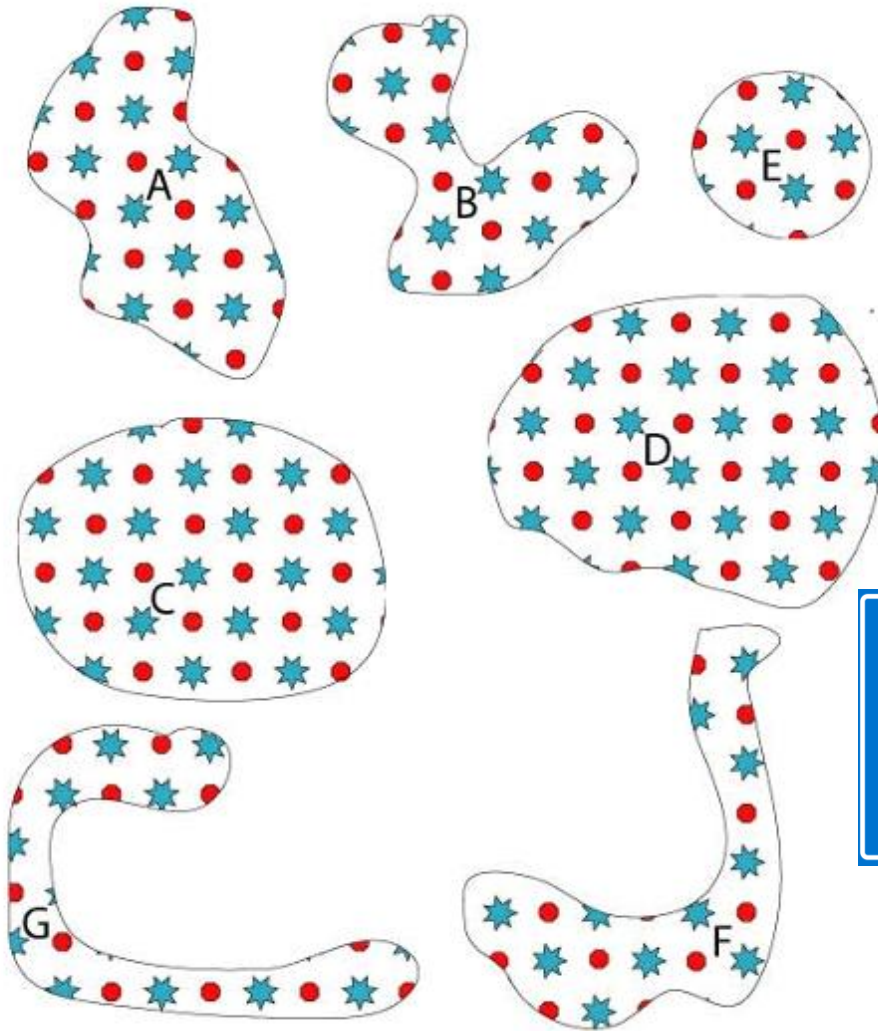
If you have any questions or worries about the trip, finance, health and safety, sleep arrangements etc. then please come and see me. I will be in the office on both Parents Evenings. I have been a number of times so happy to help.

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Shapes



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Maths Problem of the Fortnight – Year 3, 4, 5, 6



Six Numbered Cubes



The aim of this challenge is to find the total of all the visible numbers on the cubes.

We are using six cubes. Each cube has six faces of the same number.



The shape we make has to be only one cube thick. The shape on the left is built correctly, but the shape on the right would not be allowed as it is two bricks thick in places.

The total of the shape on the left is 70. Can you see why?

CHALLENGE 1

Start by making a staircase shape. An example is shown below:



- What is the highest total you can make by using this staircase shape?
- What is the lowest total you can make by using this staircase shape?
- How did you calculate the totals for a) and b) above? Why did you choose the method(s) that you did?
- Have a go at making a total of 75 using a staircase shape.

CHALLENGE 2

Using **any shape** of single cube thickness, what is the **lowest total** you can make?
How can you be sure this is the lowest total whatever the shape?
Can the lowest total be found in more than one way? Justify your answer.

CHALLENGE 3

Using **any shape** of single cube thickness, what is the **highest total** you can make?
How can you be sure this is the highest total whatever the shape?
Can the highest total be found in more than one way? Justify your answer.

CHALLENGE 4

Prove the following by logical reasoning, rather than by calculating the answers:

If the cubes are arranged in a single vertical tower (like this)



then no matter what order the cubes are in, the total cannot be 80.



Spring/Summer Term 2026 Key Dates (correct at time of writing)	
March	
26.03	Y1 Trip Wrigley Roadshow (EYFS) in school
27.03	Reception & KS1 Music Celebration
30.03, 31.03	Parents Evenings
April	
01.04	St Andrews Got Talent Final + Raffle Standards & Welfare Committee
02.04- 20.04	Easter Break
20.04	Children Back In School
27.04	After school clubs start
29.04	Full Governing Board Meeting Year 4 Trip
May	
04.05	School is closed for the Bank Holiday
08.05	Reception Sharing Assembly
11.05	EYFS Church trip (tbc)
11.05- 14.05	Y6 SATS
15.05	Y5 Sharing Assembly
19.05	Y6 Shakespeare Festival Project Launch
22.05	Year 2 Sharing Assembly
25-31st	Half Term
June	
1 st /2 nd June	Eid?
8-12 th	Year 1 Phonics Screening Year 4 Multiplication Check
12.06	Year 3 Sharing Assembly
16.06	Buildings and Finance Committee
19.06	Year 4 Sharing Assembly
25-26 th	Y6 High School Transition visits
26.06	Reception, Year 1 and 2 Music Celebration
30.06	Sports Day (depending on weather) Standards and Welfare Committee
July	
02.07	EYFS Trip
03.07	Year 2 Sharing Assembly
07.07	Year 6 Shakespeare Festival (until 8.30pm)
09.07	Sports Day (if 02.07 postponed)
10.07	After School clubs finish Key Stage 2 Music Celebration
13-17 th	Transition visits to new classes, meet new teachers
15.07	Year 5 Trip
14.07	Full Governing Board meeting
16.07	Summer Fair
17.07	Reports go home
22.07	1.30 Y6 Leavers Assembly End of Term - school closes at 2.30pm

Reminder

Our kitchen staff are having issues with children arriving at the catering stand requesting a lunch when the office staff have not been informed. The school policy is that the office should be informed a week in advance so that the correct amount of food can be ordered and cooked. Having 'one off' school lunches are only provided in an emergency. Please help our staff with this and give a weeks notice if you would like your child to change their dinner arrangements.

School closes for Easter on Wednesday 1st April at 3.20. On behalf of everyone here at school, have a lovely Easter Break. We look forward to welcoming you all back on 20th April.

God bless,
Mrs Bladen-Kay
Head Teacher



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