

# [impact!]

St Andrew's CofE Primary School Eccles

## Governor Newsletter

### Hello...

...everyone and welcome to the third edition of Impact! your St Andrews CofE Primary School Governor Newsletter.

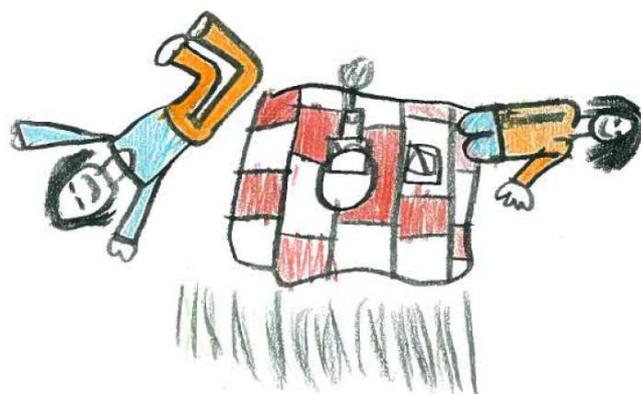
In this issue Stephen updates us on all the latest news regarding the building and finance and Julie gives us an insight into the Staffing and Curriculum developments. Speaking of curriculum we have had several requests from parents wanting to know more about the St Andrew's curriculum, which we answer on the letters page.

Lisa also shares with us an update on Special Educational Needs and Inclusion and we meet the Governor for Safeguarding, Carmel Stott.

Finally, I would like to personally thank all the pupils who contributed their artwork at the Governor stand during the Summer Fair which are featured in this edition. Apologies if yours was not featured we didn't have the space to include all the wonderful drawings!

I hope you enjoy this issue and have a great Summer break!

Drew



A summer picnic by Ayat in Year 4

### Who We Are & What We Do

Working closely with the Senior Leadership Team, the main responsibility of governing bodies are defined in three key areas;

- ✓ ensuring that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined;
- ✓ ensuring that the head teacher performs her responsibilities for the educational performance of the school
- ✓ ensuring the sound, proper and effective use of the schools financial resources.

A Governing Body aims to act with integrity, objectivity and honesty and in the best interests of the school and be open about the decisions they make and the actions they take; and in particular be prepared to explain their decisions and actions to interested parties.



Amin playing ball at the beach, Year 3

### In this issue....

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## Meet your Safeguarding Governor; Carmel Stott



I am Carmel Stott and have been a Governor at St Andrews School for many years. It began around 20 years ago, I can't quite recall. We fostered children for the local authority and after sending one child to St Andrews we were impressed with its multi cultural views. It was diverse and had a lovely atmosphere where everyone from different backgrounds mixed well.

We started taking part in all the school activities and fund raising and I also recommended to my daughter that my Grandchild should attend. Eventually I was asked to be a governor and put forward by the Head Teacher. There was a vote and I was elected.

Since then I have taken my governor responsibilities very seriously, and have attended many courses and meetings. I enjoy making a difference to the everyday running of the school, and have often visited to see how the children are doing. Overall we have had around 10-12 children attend the school, and they have received tremendous support even when we knew that the children were challenging.

I am now governor with responsibility for looked after children, special educational needs and safeguarding. These are areas where I continually attend training through Governor Services and Fostering. I have always enjoyed being a governor at St Andrews, and even though i no longer have any children at the School i involve myself as much as possible and I continue to be impressed by the staff and the children.



The Sun by Evan, Reception



## Curriculum & Staffing Update

Julie Roebuck



When the Staffing & Curriculum committee met in May we discussed the usual agenda items, such as pupils' progress and attainment by year group. At this meeting we had to look at many items which will be put in place for the beginning of the autumn term in September, which is always a time of great change.

Staffing for the new school year is always high on the agenda as we need to ensure that our children at St Andrews are receiving the best quality teaching, which is one of our main priorities. Obviously staff move on to pastures new for many reasons; career progression, moving away or having children. It is inevitable that we will have to recruit new staff and we try to do this as efficiently as we can with as little disruption to the children and their learning as possible. In September we will be welcoming a few new members of staff to St Andrews and some of our current staff will be moving to different classes or taking on new roles. No decision regarding staffing is taken without much debate, with the pupils learning and welfare at the heart of those decisions.

Reading is still an area which could be improved. A new reading programme will be used from September, which will help children to understand what they are reading and become enthusiastic readers. Parents are encouraged to read on a regular basis with their child. Over the summer why not join the free Mythical Maze reading challenge at any Salford library. This starts on July 12th. Read any 6 books over the summer to collect stickers, receive a medal and a certificate. Write a review of your book to be in with a chance of winning a prize

Changes to the National Curriculum come into force in September 2014. Staff have been working on this for many months and resources and training are all in place to implement these changes. If you would like to find out what your child is learning about in September, why not visit the St Andrews website where details of all subjects for each year group are now online to help you and your child.

UFSM (Universal Free School Meals) also begins in September. All children in Ks1 (Reception, YR1 and YR2) will be entitled to a free school lunch. However pupils that qualify for a free school lunch because parents are in receipt of certain benefits will continue to qualify for a Pupil Premium payment. This is money that the Government allocates to schools for each child that registers for free school meals. This funding is only paid when a form is completed and handed in to school. By not completing the form your child is missing out on funding that could be used to enhance their learning. Please ask at school if you would like to register or need help in completing the form, they will be only too happy to help.



Visiting a pig at a farm by Alyssa, Reception

## Special Education Needs & Inclusion



Lisa Maher

I have recently attended an SEN (Special Education Needs) Implementation Event for two days to find out exactly how the changes to SEND will look for us as a school and you as a parent/carer of a child with Special Educational Needs and Disability.

The first biggest change is that children will no longer have a 'statement of SEN'. This will be replaced with an EHCP (Education Health Care Plan) which will now enable a child/young person to continue to have support throughout further education and into adult life. The 'voice' of the child or parent is the focus the document.

All 4 areas of need will be stated and documented within this EHCP. These areas are:-

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health issues
- Sensory &/or Physical Needs

There are also changes being made to the SEN Code of Practice. These are:-

- Person-centred approaches
- Tell-us-once
- Co-production
- Emphasis on transition to adulthood

Salford schools are now legally requested to submit a 'Local Offer' and a 'SEN Statement', which gives details of the provision that our school offers to children and the progress we are making in improving accessibility with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. These documents can be found on our website at <http://standrewsprimaryschoolccles.weebly.com/our-policies.html>

Want to know how well we are doing? Check out the Ofsted Data Dashboard at <http://dashboard.ofsted.gov.uk/>

## 2014/15 A glimpse into the future

Drew Cunliffe



Julie and myself recently attended the St Andrew's Senior Leadership Team's planning meetings for the 2014/15 academic year and, with your Governing Body working on achieving the external accreditation of Governor Mark (see issue 2), I thought it would be interesting to share some of the developments we have planned for the coming school year. Full details to follow in September.

### Pupil and Parent Questionnaire Feedback

Next issue we will be sharing the feedback and the actions we will be taking following our recent questionnaire for parents and pupils.

### Parent Drop in Sessions

Starting in September we will holding regular Drop In Sessions for parents to come and speak with governors and voice your opinion on school topics.

### Year Group Governors

Also starting in September every year group will be assigned a governor, who will follow that year group throughout their time at St Andrew's. Full details will be made available in September.

### New Governor Team—Recruiting Parent Governors

We are currently reconstituting the Governing Body team, as soon as this is completed by the Diocese and Local Authority we will be starting a campaign to recruit new parent governors .

### A learning inspired building

One of our main targets for 2014/15 will be to create a learning inspired building with reading at its very heart. Some exciting developments will follow from this throughout all of next year!



## Buildings & Finance Update

Stephen Gibbison



Lewis playing in the park, Reception

We have recently completed the repair of the playground wall on Barton Lane which was damaged when a tree came down in the winter storms. We took the opportunity to select a different fence and gate in the wall because the old one was rather unsightly and made the school look old and unloved. The clean new wall and railings have made us consider the rest of the walls in the playgrounds. We have previously had many murals painted which show bright and busy scenes, but the paint is fading and flaking so we are looking into having them cleaned or repainted so they look as smart as the new wall. We have also replaced the large wooden seating structure in the infant playground with an "outdoor classroom" and we are planning to replace the old wooden school signs.

Inside the school we are continuing to make improvements. After the refurbishment of the office area last year we have now modernised and refreshed the staff rooms. We have re-decorated some classrooms over the spring holidays and are looking to complete more over the summer break.

The Governing Body is also undergoing something of a makeover. The Government has laid down new rules that direct schools to reduce the size of the governing body, changing the emphasis from Governors representing the stakeholders, (parents, staff, church and community) to a new emphasis on skills and efficiency. We have agreed a new model for the governing body and we await approval from Salford Council and Manchester Diocese.

Financially the school is in a healthy position, We are planning to spend a little more than we receive this year but that is to use up some of the reserves we carried forward from last year. We review the budget regularly to stay within the rules (we cannot go into debit and if we carry forward more than 8% of the funding we receive then Salford will take it back). While we try to ensure we have a little spare capital we firmly believe that all the money we receive must be put to work having an impact on our children's education and development.

## Your questions answered

**We have had several enquiries from parents wanting to know more information about what their child(ren) will be learning over the terms and how you can further support this.**

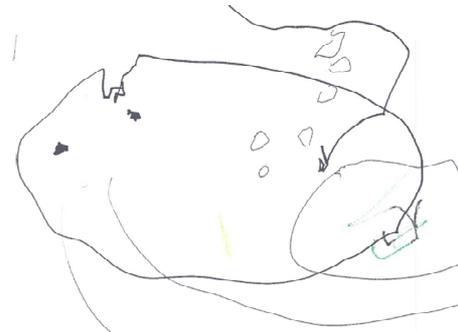
Now available on the School website under the Curriculum section are the subject objectives by year group together with the curriculum topics by year group.

These documents give you details about what each year group will be learning in the next academic year (Sept 2014-July 2015). The Subject Objectives are broken down by subject, year group and by term to give you examples of the content your children will be learning.

The Curriculum Topics are again broken down by year and term but demonstrate how the themes transcend and develop between the subject objectives.

Also on the website we have the individual pages for each year group where you can find reading lists and guidance for writing and spelling.

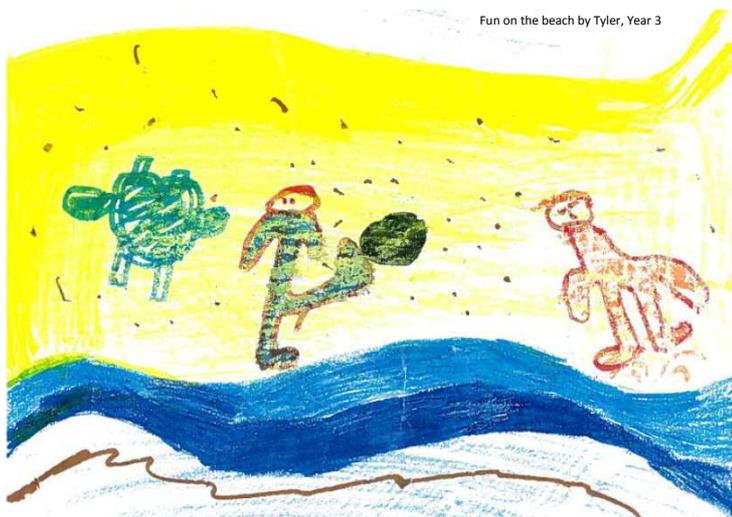
Coming next year we also plan to look at offering further help and guidance for parents in relation to Mathematics.



A Fish by Emrys who starts Nursery in September

If you have a question please [contact us](#) and we will feature it in the next issue.

## How to get in touch



Drop a note off at reception

Email;

[standrewsgovernors@outlook.com](mailto:standrewsgovernors@outlook.com)

*For personal issues please remember to speak directly to the head teacher or your child's teacher first.*

Next issue will be published in the Autumn. Have a great Summer, we look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Newsletter edited and designed by Drew Cunliffe.