



St. Andrew's C of E (VA) Primary School

15th September 2026



Dear God
 Teach me the way of friendship
 So that I can be a good friend
 To someone who needs me – Someone who feels left out
 Or is lonely. Amen.

'Encourage one another and build each other up'
1 Thessalonians 50:11

Message from Headteacher

As we start the 2026-27 academic year, I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to all our families, particularly those who have just joined our school family as their children start in Foundation. As ever, it has been a joy to see everyone again and we all start the new year refreshed and optimistic for the term ahead. Our vision at St Andrew's is to be 'a school family where everyone thrives in every way'. This is inspired by the words of Jesus in John 10:10; 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'. As a distinctively Christian school, we offer all children the opportunity to get to know Jesus and to open themselves to being part of God's family. We support them to develop curiosity, confidence and resilience, appreciation for the world around them as well as compassion and respect for others. We want children to embrace new opportunities, to work hard and be active and responsible citizens in an increasingly challenging world. It's a privilege to be part of their journey.

Miss Lewis

Our School Day

From 7.35am	Breakfast Club (bookings only)
8.35am	Citadel Road school gate opens
8.37am	Gooseberry Lane school gate opens
8.45am	Class registration
10.45am	Playtime
12.00 – 1.00pm	School lunchtime
3.15pm	End of school day
3.15 - 4.15pm	Extra-curricular after-school clubs times
3.15 – 5.50pm	Wraparound childcare

Term Dates
Last day of Term 1
Friday 23 rd October
First Day of Term 2
Tuesday 3 rd November
Last day of Term 2
Friday 18 th December
First day of Term 3
Tuesday 5 th January

New Staff

We would like to welcome new staff to our St. Andrew's team. Mrs Thomas-Friend will help support children in Year 3 and Miss Van-Baaren will soon join the Foundation team. Mrs Linzell is taking some time off school due to ill health – we miss her and wish her all the best.

Wraparound Care

There have been some changes to our wraparound care provision. You are now able to drop your child to Breakfast Club from 7.35am onwards. The cost is £3.00 per session and booking is essential.

There are two options for after-school care – a shorter session from 3.15-4.30pm costing £5.00 and a full session from 3.15-5.50pm which costs £10.00. Please be prompt when collecting children from after-school childcare or a £5.00 late fee will be issued.

For more details, please see our website. <https://www.standrewsprimaryschool.co.uk/before-after-school-clubs> (Reminder - pick-up from the after-school session is from the Gooseberry Lane gate.)

St. Luke's Guiding Lights

We are sure you have had great fun spotting all the wonderful lighthouses dotted around Plymouth and in The Box this summer. The exhibition has now ended and our beautiful St Andrew's lighthouse will shortly return to school to us all to enjoy. We raised a total of £150.00 on our JustGiving page in aid of St. Luke's Hospice – thank you.



School Lunches

We have moved to a new catering provider this year; Educatering. They support our kitchen team to create healthy, nutritious and tasty meals based on the School Food Standards. Everything is cooked on site, using fresh, locally sourced ingredients where possible. Feedback from staff and children has been very positive. Find out more on our website: <https://www.standrewsprimaryschool.co.uk/lunch-menu>

Important Policy Updates

We have updated some key policies in line with statutory guidance. Please take time to read them. All school policies can be found on our school website or paper copies can be provided from the school office <https://www.standrewsprimaryschool.co.uk/policies> .

Allergy Safety Policy: This policy outlines our school approach to managing allergies and anaphylaxis across school, updated following the introduction of Benedict's Law. The whole school community must work together to minimise risk for our pupils.

Behaviour Policy: We have worked with pupils, staff and governors to update our Behaviour Policy and as the children settle into school, we have been introducing our new routines and expectations. We have attached a quick guide to this policy for parents/guardians and you can access the full policy on our school website.

Mobile Phone Policy: This outlines safe practice for all staff, parents, pupils and visitors. Please note, we encourage all children to leave their mobile phones at home and not bring them to school unless absolutely necessary. Parents are asked not to use their phones for any reason on the school grounds.

Homework Policy: Based on current research, this policy explains our rationale and expectations for homework across different year groups.

School Improvements

We're sure you will have noticed that the large playground and surrounding areas have been levelled, resurfaced and freshly marked out during the holidays – it is looking very smart. We also have a new Fit and Fun shed for playground equipment, and we have installed lights around the Quad – this will be safer as we move around the school on darker evenings.

There have also been improvements to the interior of the school – the old IT room has been knocked through to the Community room/library making one big space which can accommodate larger numbers for after-school childcare and provide a break-out space for children with additional needs. This work has been financed, in part, by fundraising events like the summer/Christmas school fairs and school discos – we are extremely grateful for your support and generosity.

French Lessons in KS2

In a change to our curriculum, children across Key Stage 2 will now be learning French in school instead of Spanish.

Parking on Citadel Road

Plymouth City Council will allow parents/carers 'a grace period of 15 minutes for all vehicles parked in a Pay and Display bay outside St. Andrew's during the drop off and pick up times'. Be aware though, that parking attendants will issue penalty charge notices to any vehicles parking on Double Yellow lines or on the school Keep Clear markings.

We have noticed some parents dropping children off while parked in the bus bay – this causes an obstruction to other cars and pedestrians – please use the parking bays and keep all our children and families safe.

Extra-Curricular School Clubs

School clubs will start the week beginning 21st September for 10 weeks (minus the half-term week) and will finish the week beginning 30th November.

Multi-skills and JAM club should be booked via the ParentPay app as there are maximum number of spaces at each club. BOOKING WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER SCHOOL FROM 5PM TOMORROW. Children who are not able to attend a club of their choice, will be given priority next term.

Please use the following links to sign up and pay for Plymouth Argyle sessions.

KS1/YF

<https://www.abler.io/shop/pafc/afterschoolclubs?region=Plymouth&program=Q2x1YINlcnZpY2U6NTIxMjM=>

KS2

<https://www.abler.io/shop/pafc/afterschoolclubs?region=Plymouth&program=Q2x1YINlcnZpY2U6NTIxMjc=>

(Payment of 20p can be given directly to the church team at JAM club weekly.)

	Years	After School Clubs (3.15-4.15pm)	Spaces	Cost
Monday	All	Gym and Dance with Mrs Dean	20	-
Tuesday	F,1,2,3	Plymouth Argyle football session	28	£27.50 for 5 sessions
Wednesday	4 - 6	Plymouth Argyle football session (10 sessions only)	28	£27.50 for 5 sessions
Thursday	F - 6	JAM Club (Jesus and Me) with church team leaders	20	20p per session

There are also lunchtimes clubs that the children may attend including Art, Friendship-bracelet making, card games, running club and library sessions. Children will be informed of these clubs during assembly.



Belonging Tapestry

Look at our beautiful tapestry created by children and parents alongside Theo and Grace from the Arts University Plymouth!

The children were asked what it means to belong to our St. Andrew's family and came up with some thoughtful and creative ideas which they then turned into fabric squares.

A huge thank you to Mrs Wills for stitching it all together into this giant tapestry over the summer holiday. The result is stunning!



Barbican Theatre

We currently have some spaces available in our weekly drama session for 8–11-year-olds, taking place on a Monday evening at Barbican Theatre Plymouth.

We welcomed some of your students to the Theatre on 19th June for a drama workshop focused on storytelling and characterisation, and our weekly sessions will be similar in content and style. They are focused on confidence building, creativity, positive group cohesion, imagination and having fun with drama.

*We are offering **free taster sessions**, **tiered pricing** and a **no questions asked bursary**, so that anyone who wants to participate is able to do so.*

Book

here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1998537144398?aff=oddtdtcreator>