

## Key Dates

Fri 15th Dec  
Christmas Lunch

Mon 18th Dec  
Christmas  
Production 2pm

Tue 19th Dec  
Christmas  
Production 6pm

Wed 20th Dec  
Christmas Party

Fri 22nd Dec  
Last Day of Term  
Non uniform

Mon 8th Jan  
Back to School

Fri 16th Feb  
Last Day of Term  
Non uniform

19th - 23rd Feb  
Half Term

Mon 26th Feb  
Back to School

19th & 20th March  
Parents' Eve

THUR 28th March  
Last Day of Term  
Non Uniform

Mon 15th April  
Back to School

Mon 6th May  
Bank Holiday

Wed 22nd May  
Sports Day  
Reserve 23rd May

Mon 27th May  
Bank Holiday

Thur 30th May  
Last Day of Term  
Non Uniform

Mon 10th June  
Back to School

Fri 5th July  
Tynwald Day

Fri 19th July  
Last Day of Term  
Non Uniform

# Andreas School News Friday 3rd November



## Mrs Hawkins and our Reception Class

In order to support Mrs Hawkins as she settles into her new role of Head of School, we have taken the decision to release her from her teaching of our Reception class each morning between now and Easter. Therefore between now and Christmas I have asked Mrs Hotchkiss to teach full time in our Reception Class.

As you may be aware we are currently recruiting a part time teacher to teach in Reception, as Mrs Hotchkiss is only covering the class on a temporary basis. Once this appointment is made next week I will write again to let you know who has been appointed to the role, and what the arrangements will be for the class. Throughout this process I am keeping at the front and centre the aim to cause as little disruption to the children's education as possible by ensuring continuity of teachers for the class.

Whilst Mrs Hawkins is no longer taking day to day responsibility for the Reception class, she will continue to take an active interest in the children's learning and will be teaching one or two lessons every week to the class. Mrs Hawkins will also be picking up the regular teaching commitments that I was doing each week, to enable me to focus more of my time on strategic improvements to the school as a whole.

As ever if you have any questions or concerns about this please just pop in and speak to either myself or Mrs Hawkins.

Mr Nelson



## Holiday Sweets, Birthday Cakes and other 'Treats'

On a fairly regular basis children are bringing into school sweets from their holidays for the class, a birthday cake to share out, or other treats for their friends. As a school we have thought long and hard about what stance to take about this and have decided that moving forward, we will ask that these items are no longer brought into school. The reasons behind this decision are varied and include:

Allergies - Some of our children have food allergies and intolerances, some of which are life threatening. The advice from the Anaphylaxis nurse is to avoid sweets from holidays within school, as whilst food labelling within the UK is of a high standard, many countries including some European ones, use different labelling regulations, and so it is very easy to miss an allergen as it may not be marked on the packet.

Healthy Eating - As a school we are trying to encourage healthy eating and are often asked by Public Health to deliver information to children around eating healthy snacks, the importance of brushing

your teeth after you have eaten a sugary snack, etc. It feels hypocritical for us to deliver this message in an assembly and then an hour later give a class of children a packet of sweets each.

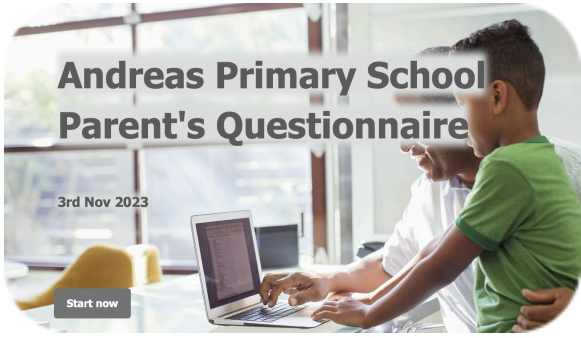
Cost - As a school we are aware of the cost of living and whilst some of our families may be able to afford to buy or make a second cake to take into school, or purchase 25 bags of sweets etc, others may not be as fortunate. If there is a general expectation that you bring in a cake or treats, this can put some families under pressure to provide when they may not be able to.

We understand that not everyone will agree with this stance but hope that you will understand our reasons behind it. Of course if as a parent you wish your child to still bring back holidays gifts of sweets and treats, you can of course help your child give them out in the play ground at the **end of the day**, on the understanding that you have checked with the other children's parents that they are happy for their child to be given them.

Andreas School, Andreas Village, Isle of Man, IM7 4EZ

Headteacher: Mr Will Nelson

Head of School: Mrs Joanne Hawkins



### What do you think about our School?

We would like to know your thoughts and opinions about our school. What do we do well? What could we do even better? To find out the answers to these questions and others we have put together a short online survey. This is completely anonymous and we will have no way of knowing who has said what, unless you put this information as part of one of your answers. This does mean that we won't be able to use this information to address individual issues. As ever if you have a particular issue that is effecting just your child,

please come in and talk to us about it.

The survey can be found at <https://forms.office.com/e/qp1PWHgnDh> and will remain open until Sunday, 19th November. We will send out a summary of the answers before Christmas.

### PE Kits, Forest School Clothing and Wellies.

The usual message and plea! Please ensure your child has a full named PE kit in school at all times. This includes pumps, shorts, a t-shirt and if they have long hair - a bobble - please no hard headbands. We will be having more PE sessions this year as we are focusing on developing PE skills and so having an available kit is essential. All kits can then be taken home and washed at half term. Please also make sure that your child's pumps or trainers still fit.

Our children also have Forest School and they need to have a change of clothes for these sessions as otherwise school uniform can end up very dirty, and for some sessions does not provide enough protection from the tools that they may be using. Again, they also need to be able to tie their hair back.

Finally wellies! As we enter the winter months it is even more important that the children have a change of shoes for break time and lunch time. Preferably wellies as these are easy to slip on and off and provide plenty of protection from mud and puddles.



### Second Hand Uniform

Mrs Robinson continues to have a great selection of pre-loved school uniform so if you need anything please let her know. There is an honesty box for any donations.

### Allergies - IMPORTANT!

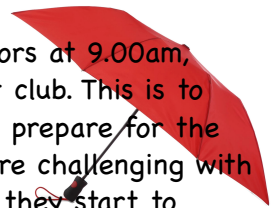
Thanks to all the parents who have labelled lunch boxes with a sticker to let us know if they contain nuts and/or dairy. As stated previously, we have been advised not to ban any items from lunches or snacks as this can lead to a dangerous complacency. Letting us know what your child is eating is really helpful so please do continue to label lunch/snack boxes. Thank you.



**Poppies  
Poppies and other  
Remembrance Day merchandise  
will be for sale in school until  
Friday 10th November.**

### Rainy Days - Reminder

On rainy days we will open our doors at 9.00am, unless you are attending breakfast club. This is to ensure that our staff have time to prepare for the day ahead, which is often even more challenging with the joys of wet play times before they start to welcome the children into school.



**Alone we can do so little; Together we can do so much - Helen Keller**