ST ANNE'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM 1ST HALF 2026

Together with God, Making Learning a Life-Long Friend

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the first edition of our newly formatted, half-termly newsletter. With Class Dojo now serving as our main channel of communication, we will be sharing newsletters less frequently, but with more news and updates from across school. We hope you enjoy the new format.

The start of the academic year has been incredibly busy, but it has been wonderful to see how well the children have settled into their new classes. They have approached new routines and challenges with enthusiasm, and I know many of you shared how pleased you were with their progress during Parents' Evening this week. It was a pleasure to welcome so many families into school and to continue strengthening the important partnership between home and school.

As we reach half term, I would like to thank you for your continued support and wish all of our families a restful and enjoyable break. After half term, our thoughts will quickly turn towards Christmas and the many exciting events planned for the weeks ahead. Please keep an eye on Class Dojo for key dates and further information.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support of our school community. It is greatly appreciated.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Supporting the wellbeing of our school community is always a priority, and we were proud to mark World Mental Health Day with a variety of meaningful activities across the school. Students and staff came together by wearing yellow in support of MIND, helping to raise awareness of the importance of positive mental health. Throughout the day, classes took part in discussions and activities designed to encourage open conversations about mental wellbeing and the ways we can support ourselves and others. Our Mental Health Lead, Mrs Bowcock, alongside Emily Briggs, our Mental Health Support Worker, delivered a thought-provoking assembly. The session explored practical strategies for maintaining good mental health and highlighted the importance of seeking support when needed. Families will also have the opportunity to learn more about these important topics, as Emily will be available during Parents' Evening to discuss mental health support and answer any questions. To provide a lasting reminder of the day, every student planted a daffodil bulb. When spring arrives, the bulbs will bloom into bright yellow flowers around the school grounds, creating a beautiful symbol of hope, resilience and the continued importance of looking after our mental wellbeing. It was a wonderful day of reflection, learning and community spirit, reinforcing our commitment to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of all members of our school community.

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MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON

Our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon was a lovely opportunity for our school community to come together in support of Macmillan Cancer Support. We enjoyed plenty of delicious treats, refreshments and good conversation. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated, helped or joined us on the day. We are extremely grateful for your continued support and generosity. Huge thanks to Linda for her wonderful baking! With your support we raised £550.

READING BREAKFASTS

It was wonderful to see so many parents at our Reading Breakfasts. It was a delight to welcome families into school for this special event, bringing children, parents and carers together to celebrate the joy of reading.

The rooms were filled with smiles, conversation and enthusiasm as families enjoyed breakfast while sharing stories and books together. Events like these remind us that reading is about so much more than words on a page. It provides opportunities to connect, spark imagination, inspire laughter and create lasting memories with those around us. We are passionate about fostering a love of reading, and it was fantastic to see so many children and their families enjoying books together in such a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who took the time to join us. Your support plays a vital role in nurturing children's reading journeys, and we greatly appreciate your involvement. We hope everyone left feeling inspired to continue sharing and enjoying stories at home.

📚✨ Thank you for helping to make the morning such a memorable success! ✨📚

NSPCC KINDNESS CHALLENGE

Our pupils recently took part in the NSPCC Kindness Challenge, learning how simple acts of kindness can make a positive difference to others. Through discussions and activities, children explored ways to show care, respect and compassion. Well done to everyone for embracing the challenge and helping make our school a kind and welcoming place. 💙

"Start children off on the way they should go and even when they are old they will not turn from it." PROVERBS 22:6

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SEVERN TRENT VISIT

Following a visit from Severn Trent our children had the opportunity to learn from their education team about water conservation and practical strategies for using water more efficiently. The session provided valuable insights into an important environmental topic and encouraged our students to think about sustainable practices in their daily lives.

HARVEST

We enjoyed a lovely Harvest Service at St Anne's Church, led by Rev. Karen. The service provided a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together to reflect on the importance of gratitude, generosity and supporting those in need. We would also like to say a HUGE thank you to all our families for their incredible Harvest donations. The collection we have amassed for the local food bank is truly amazing, and we have been overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity shown by our school community. Every donation, no matter how big or small, helps support local families and individuals in need. Everything has now been collected and Lindsey from Leek Food Bank has written: -

I just wanted to let you know that your harvest donations weighed an absolutely amazing 204.45kg - this is by far our biggest harvest donation so far! You will be getting an official thank you certificate at the end of the month, but I thought I would email today with the total weight.

Thank you once again for your continued support and for helping to make this year's Harvest collection such a tremendous success. Together, we are making a real difference in our community.

POTTERMUS VISITS

We were delighted to welcome a very special surprise visitor to school! Pottermus visited our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes to share the newly released Meet the Mascots book. Our pupils were incredibly excited to be the very first children to hear the story read aloud on its launch day. The visit formed part of our activities to raise awareness of World Mental Health Day and highlighted the importance of reading, wellbeing and positive mental health. This special event was organised in partnership with the National Literacy Trust and Stoke City Football Club, helping to inspire a love of reading while encouraging conversations about emotional wellbeing. The children thoroughly enjoyed meeting Pottermus and listening to the story, making it a memorable experience for all involved. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate both literacy and mental health, reinforcing the importance of supporting young people's wellbeing in a fun and engaging way. We would like to thank everyone involved in making this special visit possible and helping to make World Mental Health Day such a positive and meaningful occasion for our pupils

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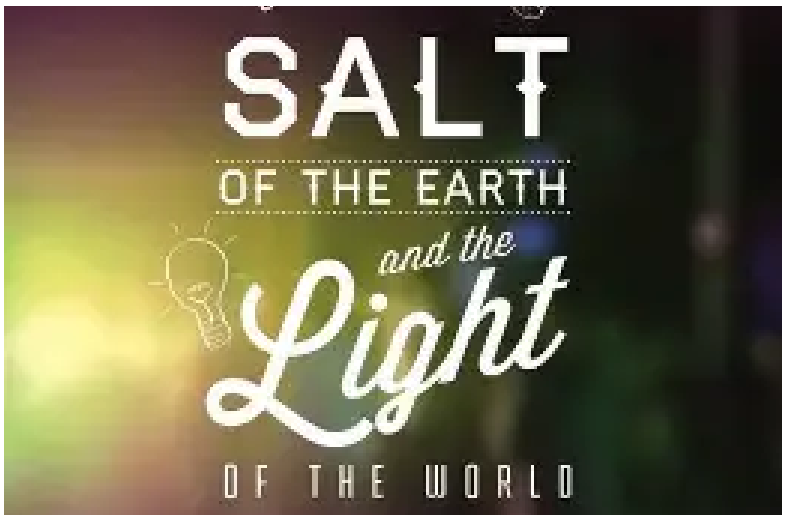
Y5 LEEK FIRE STATION

On the 20th of October, Year 5 attended Leek fire station to learn about health and safety through the Safe and Sound team. The children learnt about fire safety; keeping safe on the railways; wearing seat belts correctly; CPR and how to stay safe around our waterways.

SAFE + SOUND



LIGHT PARTY

Tonight Connect2 & Flourish are hosting a light party in our school hall. We will enjoy music, games, craft, fun and food as we focus on being salt and light in the world!

BONJOUR! ANNEES 5/6

Y5 and Y6 had a French day this week with maths game sin French, flags, wordsearches and lots of opportunity to practice vocabulary in French! The children had a great go at learning animals, colours, sports and family names!

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SPORTS UPDATE

On the sporting front, so far this year, St Anne's children have done themselves proud in cross country, with some 33 competing on behalf of the school. Special mention going to Ella J Y4 and Leo C Y5, who both finished runners-up in their respective races.

In football, our year 5/6 boys team suffered a heavy defeat to Greenways in a friendly but with some training and tweaking of the team they fared better against Norton Academy with no goals conceded and scoring double figures.
GREAT PROGRESS BOYS!

GOVERNOR UPDATE

Governors have reviewed pupils' attainment and progress across all year groups, celebrating positive outcomes, particularly the progress reflected in last year's Year 6 SATs results. Governors also noted that new pupils have joined many of the year groups this Autumn, reflecting St Anne's reputation as an inclusive and welcoming school. We have discussed the importance of pupils' mental health and wellbeing. We have reviewed key policies, discussed school improvement priorities and visited the school to engage with pupils and staff, gaining valuable insight into school life and the quality of provision.

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

2nd November	School Opens
3rd November	Y5 Visit to Jodrell Bank
5th November	Y1 Meet The Teacher
5th November	School Immunisation whole school
9th November	Y2 Visit to Stafford Castle
10th November	Y3/Y4 Football Burslem
11th November	10:40am Remembrance Service
12th November	Y6 Visit to Stockport Air-Raid Shelters
12th November	Open Night Stay and Play
13th November	Be Internet Legends Assembly
13th November	Children In Need
13th November	Y3/4 Anti-Bullying Workshops
W/C 16th November	Anti-Bullying Week
17th November	Book Fair
17th November	Y4 Viking Visit
17th November	Y3/Y4 Football Burslem
18th November	Taekwondo Taster Day - all years
20th November	Open Day - September 2027
27th November	Connect 2 Quiz
30th November	St. Anne's Singers @ Victoria Hall
1st December	Y1 Visit to Sudbury Hall
1st December	Y3/Y4 parent Christmas Lunch
2nd December	Christmas Film Night
3rd December	Y5/Y6 Football Burslem Cup
4th December	Christmas Event
4th December	House Christmas Competition

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7th December	Y1/Y2 parent Christmas meal
9th December	KS1 production
10th December	SEND/Mental Health coffee morning
11th December	Christmas Jumper day
11th December	Breakfast with Santa/Grinch
11th December	Rock Steady Concert
14th December	Elfridges
14th December	Y5/Y6 parent Christmas meal
14th December	Christmas Disco
15th December	Connect 2 Christingle
15th December	St. Anne's Singers @ Royal Stoke
15th December	EY parent Christmas meal
15th December	Y6 to Endon High School concert rehearsal
16th December	KS2 Celebration
16th December	Whole school Christmas meal children
17th December	Christmas Service at St Anne's Church
17th December	School closes children can be collected from 2.30
18th December	School closed Inset Day
4th January 2027	School opens
11th January	Stay and Play
14th January	Y3/Y4 Girls Football Burslem
21ST January	Y3/Y4 Girls Football Burslem
3rd February	Y4 Residential to Laches Wood
5th February	Y4 Return from Laches Wood
9th February	Y6 to Endon High School show perf
10th February	Rags2Riches
12th February	Y5/Y6 French day

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