

# St. Andrew's Montessori School Newsletter



## Welcome to our Autumn Term - November 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after what we hope was a lovely half term. We have lots of exciting plans for the upcoming weeks so please do note dates of events on your family calendar.

We wanted to say a huge thank you for all your support with the launch of our Friday Foodbank and clothing donation. There is a great demand for winter warmers currently. With this in mind, we have decided to make our end of term fundraising charity event (being held during our Christmas Party) in aid of Copenhagen Street Foodbank. We will be thrilled to take cash and card donations on the day as well as any spare food, toiletries and clothing. Thank you in advance for your support!  
<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/copenhagenstreet/copenhagen-street-foodbank/>

On the back of this initiative we have received the following letter from the lovely Lis Howell, St. Andrew's Church Warden and one of our local residents who plays a huge part in keeping the gardens looking as beautiful as they do. I really wanted to share this with you all.

"Dear St. Andrew's Montessori Team,

I'm writing to in gratitude on behalf of the Open Church Team at St Andrew's Church to thank the parents so much for bringing clothes for the loosely named toddler clothes swap.

The contributions from St. Andrew's Montessori School have been really lovely. Please, please keep them coming and do pop in and browse yourselves on a Saturday morning between 11am and 12:30pm. We have craft activities for children and tea and coffee, plus loads of children's books to take away and return - or keep.

I'd also like to thank you more informally for the contributions you make to the foodbank. I can't speak for the foodbank myself, but my husband Richard is the chap who collects items from St Andrew's to take down to the foodbank on Copenhagen Street and he is very grateful for anything your parents can donate. The need at the foodbank will probably rise as winter comes on.

**We are also collecting women's clothes** for women in refuges - refugees, asylum seekers and survivors of domestic violence. If any parents can donate women's clothing in wearable condition, please leave those by the filing cabinet as well. Everything will be used.

Thanks again for all you do - it is wonderful to be associated with such a generous group.

Best wishes

Lis Howell

Churchwarden, St Andrews Thornhill Sq. "

### **Ten ways young children can give back to their communities**

Teaching children to give back to their communities is a wonderful way to instil values of empathy, compassion, and social responsibility from an early age. Here are ten age-appropriate ways for young children to make a positive impact in their communities:

#### **Food Drives**

Children help collect non-perishable food items for local food banks or shelters. They can decorate collection boxes and assist in delivering the donations.

#### **Toy donations**

Encourage children to donate used toys, books, or clothes to children in need.

#### **Community clean-up**

Organise neighbourhood clean-up events where children can help pick up litter, plant flowers, or maintain community gardens.

#### **Cards for seniors**

Create colourful cards or drawings and deliver to local nursing homes or senior centres.

#### **Animal shelter/ City farm support**

Volunteer or donate to an animal shelter or a city farm. Children can help feed, clean, or play with animals or collect pet supplies to donate.

#### **Environmental awareness**

Teach children about recycling and conserving resources. They can help sort recyclables at home or participate in local clean-up projects.

#### **Thank you notes**

Encourage children to write thank-you notes to community helpers like firefighters, police officers, and healthcare workers.

#### **Supporting the homeless**

Create care packages with essential items like socks, hygiene products, and snacks. Distribute these packages to homeless individuals in your community.

#### **Community fundraisers**

Get involved in community fundraisers like cake sales or charity runs. Children can help with simple tasks and learn about fundraising for a cause.

#### **Nature Projects**

Participate in tree planting or beautification projects in local parks, children can help plant flowers, paint benches, or create art installations.

### **Bringing toys into school**

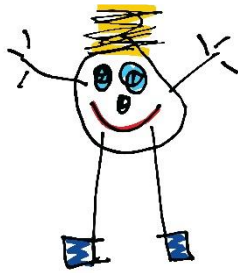
We fully understand how bringing toys into school can be a great way to settle in and comfort a child that may be uncertain or simply excited to share their new treasure. However, we have noticed a real increase in items being brought in which have then led to some being lost or mislaid. With this in mind, we respectfully ask you to encourage your child to come into school with items linked to the sound of the week or project activities. Thank you.

### **Christmas Party – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 9.30 am – 12 noon**

We are very excited for our Christmas celebrations this year and would like to invite all our children with their families to a fun filled morning at St. Andrew's Montessori School. We will be starting off the festivities by singing carols around the piano at the front of the church. We are delighted to announce our pianist for the occasion will be Leonardo's mum, the very talented Elizabeth Rossiter. The song sheets have been emailed and we hope you have great fun practicing! We will follow this with entertainers, face painters, delicious treats and of course...drum roll please...a special guest appearance by Father Christmas! If we can kindly ask that all children be attended by an adult. There will be no afternoon school on the day.

We hope you have found this newsletter useful, please always feel very welcome to come to us with ideas and feedback, our door is always open. With our very best wishes,

***Samantha, Nici and the Team***



## **Term Dates 2023-2024**

### **Autumn Term 2023**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
*w/c Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Parents Day appointments (details to follow)*  
Half-Term: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
*Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November – School Outings*  
*Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Ballet Recital*  
*Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November – Yoga Joining Morning*  
*Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Party*

### **Spring Term 2024**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March  
Half-Term: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

### **Summer Term 2024**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July  
Half-Term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May