



**St. Andrew's
International
Primary School**

SAIP's Nkhani

NEWSLETTER

30-01-26

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

I have had the pleasure of meeting many parents who have shared their appreciation for the transformation taking place at SAIPS. When I joined the school just over five months ago, there were many complex issues to address, challenges that went far beyond the usual running of a school.

Due to increased student numbers, the newly established additional Years 3 and 4 class is progressing well. We are also mindful that further year groups may require class splits as enrolment continues to grow, and we are actively exploring recruitment options. However, one of the challenges we face is that most qualified and experienced teachers are already in post, as we are in the middle of the academic year. In addition, the current foreign exchange situation makes international recruitment more complex. Despite these pressures, the team remains fully supportive, and together we are making steady and meaningful progress. We are very grateful for the continued understanding and support of our parents who appreciate the realities and challenges we are working through.

Research shows that it typically takes around three years for a school to achieve sustained improvement. Like any organisation, a school's success depends on the mindset, professionalism and sense of ownership of the people within it. I am very aware of the issues we inherited and we are addressing them systematically one by one.

To keep parents well informed, we have introduced regular communication channels, including *ClassDojo*, *weekly updates*, and *newsletters*, which are on par with and in many cases exceed, those of many good schools. While some parents may understandably hope for daily communication, during my *Coffee Morning* I asked for patience as we work through accumulated challenges and allow staff the space to perform at their best. I used the analogy of a *pilot in a cockpit* or a *surgeon in an operating theatre*: teachers, like these professionals, carry out highly sensitive work every day and require focus and minimal disruption to be effective.

Working closely with the PTA, we are also developing initiatives such as Walk to School, where children will learn to walk independently. Younger pupils can be dropped off at the school gate under the supervision of staff on duty and then walk independently to their classrooms, meaning parents do not need to escort them all the way to class.

Successful organisations operate within a culture of trust and mutual respect between all stakeholders. While we are still developing this culture, SAIPS is now in a far stronger position than when I arrived. We draw on best practice from leading UK and international schools and model ourselves on premier UK preparatory schools, such as *Prince's Mead School*, a top prep school in picturesque Winchester (<https://www.princesmeadschool.org.uk/>), with which I have been affiliated.

We are also looking forward to completing our online assessments. These results will be carefully analysed to inform teaching and learning, and reports will be shared with parents. There is much to look forward to in the coming weeks. *The Mud Run (Saturday 7th February)* is fast approaching, alongside residential trips and our first *UK trip*, details of which have already been shared. We are also planning our inaugural *William Kamkwamba IT, AI and Skills Exhibition*, showcasing our students' talents in IT and practical skills.

If you have contacts with William Kamkwamba, or know of IT, AI, VR, engineering or STEM organisations that may wish to exhibit, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Congratulations to this week's Star Certificate winners and our birthday boys and girls. As you read this newsletter, our students are proudly representing SAIPS at the AIMS sports events in Lilongwe. We wish them every success. This experience not only allows them to compete with other schools but also helps develop independence, resilience and teamwork. We also wish our students in Lilongwe a safe, enjoyable, and successful trip and look forward to welcoming them back on Saturday.

Wishing you all a happy weekend, Jumma Mubarak to our Muslim colleagues, and a wonderful start to the month of February.

Happy to lead and serve SAIPS.

Akif Naqvi
Headteacher

SAIPS NEWS

WELCOME TO MS GRACE MATAVATA

We are delighted to welcome Ms Grace Matavata as the newest member of our staff team. We are excited to have her join our school community and look forward to the positive contribution she will make. We wish her every success as she settles into her new role.

Grace is also a National Hockey player.



Mind the Signs, Protect Our Children

To better control traffic in the car park and assist the children, we have now introduced UK-style Lollipop Traffic Signs.

We request that parents and drivers support our staff, park cars in the bays and remind children not to walk in front of vehicles.



This week



ACHIEVEMENTS



STAR OF THE WEEK

This week's Star of the Week has shone brightly through their dedication, kindness, and positive spirit in class. Keep up the amazing work!



BIRTHDAYS

This week, we celebrate our amazing birthday stars! Wishing you a day filled with smiles, laughter, cake, and lots of happiness. Happy Birthday!

Class news

TODDLER

Toddlers enjoyed Paper Dolls and created their own, building fine motor skills, creativity, and confidence.



RECEPTION

Reception made fruit kebabs from Handa's Surprise, building fine motor skills and healthy eating habits.



PRE- NURSERY D

Our Pre-Nursery enjoyed learning about Taking Care of Animals, with a dentist visit and fruit kebab activity, building skills, confidence, and curiosity.



YEAR 1

Year 1 had a brilliant week, showing great progress and enthusiasm in class



YEAR 2

This week, children explored verbs, multiplication, and healthy living through fun, hands-on activities and play.



BUMBLEBEE-NURSERY

We enjoyed a big bus tour of Blantyre, exploring different types of transport and learning about road safety with traffic lights, crossings, and the traffic police.



NURSERY G

We enjoyed a bus adventure around Blantyre, exploring transport and learning road safety.



YEAR 3

In Science, we explored and investigated shadows, while in Humanities we practiced and sharpened our map-reading skills.



Class news

YEAR 4

Toddlers enjoyed designing Paper Dolls and created their own, building fine motor skills, creativity, and confidence.



YEAR 5

Year 5K explored nets and how they form 3D shapes, enjoying hands-on activities to build and apply their understanding.



YEAR 6

Year 6 have successfully completed their GL and NGRT assessments last week! Well done to all for their hard work, focus, and determination – your effort truly shines!



EYFS TRACTOR RIDE



VISIT TO THE HEADTEACHER

Year 5K students had a wonderful opportunity to visit Mr. Naqvi to present and share their impressive Maths project. The learners confidently explained their ideas, demonstrated their understanding, and showcased the hard work and creativity they put into their tasks. It was a proud moment for the class, highlighting their growing confidence, teamwork, and commitment to excellence in Maths.





Congratulations to our students for taking part in friendly matches against CI Primary School. It was a wonderful display of teamwork, sportsmanship, and enjoyment of the game

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: GL AND NGRT ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED ACROSS ALL CLASSES

 **GL Assessment**[®]

 **CAT4**  **NGRT**

Last week, all classes successfully completed their GL and NGRT assessments! The assessments ran smoothly, and it was inspiring to see students from every year group approach them with focus, determination, and confidence. From careful preparation to tackling each task with resilience and a positive attitude,



our learners demonstrated their commitment to learning in every way. We are incredibly proud of their hard work, dedication, and perseverance throughout the week. Well done to every student — your effort and achievement are truly commendable, and you have set a wonderful example of excellence for the whole school community!

LEADER IN ME

Shammah Kanjadza – Year 4B and Daniyaal Sacranie – Year 4B

We had an inspiring Leader in Me interview with Shammah and Daniyaal. Shammah's name means "God is here", and Daniyaal's name means "Leader of the People".

What does it mean to be a leader?

Shammah: A good leader doesn't need to have a title. They just need to be responsible and take care of the team.

Daniyaal: To lead and be a good leader, you have to do the right things in a fair way.

Can anyone be a leader?

Shammah: Yes, anyone can be a leader. I became a leader when my brother asked me to help him.

Daniyaal: I also agree. I helped my mum when she was not feeling well. My mum was very happy with me, and I felt like a leader for helping her.

If you had a magic wand, what would you wish for?

Shammah: Yes, anyone can be a leader. I became a leader when my brother asked me to help him.

Daniyaal: I also agree. I helped my mum when she was not feeling well. My mum was very happy with me, and I felt like a leader for helping her.

Can laws be broken?

Shammah: No, I don't think laws should be broken, but in some emergency situations, it may be necessary.

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How do you see the world these days?

Shammah: I am happy, but I feel the world could be a better place.

Daniyaal: The world is okay for me, but I feel Malawi needs more foreign exchange to run its businesses.



If you became the leader of your country, what would you do?

Shammah: I would meet other presidents around the world and ask them to help Malawi with oil so we don't have fuel shortages and fuel prices can be reduced. The money saved would be given to Malawians so they can buy basic needs.

Daniyaal: As a leader, I feel Malawi needs more foreign currencies like Rand, Dollars and Pounds. We should welcome foreigners to invest in Malawi so the country can earn more foreign exchange. I would also like to say that I learned a lot this year from swimming lessons and would like to thank the school.

If you became the leader of your country, what would you do?

Question from Daniyaal and Shammah: We know you like things to be well organised. How did you become a Headteacher?

Mr Naqvi: I enjoyed teaching from Nursery to Year 13 and then realised that I could share my experiences with colleagues and do more for the school. I became a middle leader, then a Deputy Head and this is now my fifth headship across various primary and secondary schools in the UK and in other countries.

BEST LEADER!

AFTERNOON CLUBS



TAEKWONDO



GUITAR



STEM PLUMBING



NETBALL



STEM CARPENTRY



CYCLING



STEM FAN



SEWING



READING



MUSIC



SWIMMING



PIANO



STEM ROBOTICS



SCAN TO REGISTER



SAT 7TH FEBRUARY 2026



ST. ANDREW'S INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL



08:00-12:30

SAIPS MUD RUN 2026



REGISTER NOW

TEAMS OF 4-5 RUNNERS
MWK25,000 / TEAM

CATEGORIES:

- INFANTS
- JUNIOR
- FAMILIES
- OPEN



www.standrewsmalawi.com



St. Andrew's International Primary School



SCAN TO REGISTER



SAT 7TH FEBRUARY 2026



ST. ANDREW'S INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL



08:00-12:30

SAIPS MUD RUN 2026

CORPORATES CATEGORY

TEAMS OF 4-5 RUNNERS
MWK250,000 / TEAM



REGISTER NOW





ST ANDREW'S INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Joaqim Chisano Road, Sunnyside, Blantyre. Po Box 593, Blantyre, Malawi

+265 999 970 998 / +265 999 970 999

Empowering future leaders (14 months-11 years) with authentic British & International education in our day and boarding school.



ADMISSION IS OPEN

Enrol Early and Save!!!

We nurture independent learners through academic rigour, creativity, IT and AI, farming, forest school, sports, swimming, after-school clubs, inclusive learning experiences, global awareness, 21st-century skills-shaping confident and resilient global citizens.

EARLY BIRD

- 10 Percent saving for early enrolment for **2026/2027** Academic Year.

Family Enrollment Offer

- 10 Percent saving on fees for third or more enrolments, **Jan 2026**.

2026 JAN REGISTRATION SAVING

- No registration fee if registered by Monday **8th December 2025**.

REGISTER NOW

admin@standrewsmalawi.com

www.standrewsmalawi.com