

# ST ANDREW'S DAY – IDEAS BANK

A continuous collection of classroom and whole school ideas to explore Scottish culture, identity, history and heritage. Suitable across primary and secondary phases.

## About St Andrew's Day

- Celebrated on 30 November
- Patron saint of Scotland
- St Andrew was one of the twelve apostles and is believed to have been a fisherman before becoming a disciple of Jesus
- The diagonal cross of the Scottish flag, known as the Saltire, represents the cross on which St Andrew was said to have been crucified
- St Andrew's Day celebrates Scottish identity, traditions, language, music and history
- It is also an opportunity to explore how national identity develops through culture, storytelling and shared traditions

## Whole School / All Through Ideas

- Introduce the day through a short assembly exploring the story of St Andrew and how he became the patron saint of Scotland
- Explore Scottish national symbols such as the Saltire flag, the thistle and the unicorn and discuss why countries develop symbols
- Watch a short clip introducing Scotland's landscapes, cities and wildlife
- Explore Scottish music and discuss how music helps express cultural identity
- Create a whole school display celebrating Scottish culture, landscapes and traditions
- Discuss what makes a national identity and how traditions are passed between generations
- Reflect on quotes about culture, identity and belonging
- Encourage students to compare Scotland's national day with other national celebrations around the world

## Primary Ideas

- Design and create Scottish flag artwork using painting, collage or digital tools
- Create colourful thistle artwork and learn why it is associated with Scotland
- Write a short story about travelling through Scotland and what you might see
- Create simple fact files about Scotland including animals, landscapes and traditions
- Learn about Scottish castles and design your own castle drawing
- Explore traditional Scottish clothing such as kilts and tartan patterns and design your own tartan
- Write a postcard from Scotland describing the scenery and culture
- Build a classroom display celebrating Scottish culture and geography

## **Secondary Ideas**

- Research the historical story of St Andrew and how he became Scotland's patron saint
- Explore how myths, stories and traditions shape national identity
- Debate the importance of national celebrations in modern societies
- Investigate Scottish cultural contributions including literature, science, engineering and sport
- Analyse Scottish symbols and explore how they developed historically
- Research famous Scottish figures such as Robert Burns, Alexander Graham Bell or Mary Somerville
- Compare how Scotland celebrates its national day with how other countries celebrate theirs
- Explore the role of language in identity by learning about Scottish Gaelic and Scots

## **Cross Curricular Links**

- History, the development of Scottish history and cultural traditions
- Geography, Scottish landscapes, cities, climate and natural features
- English, storytelling, descriptive writing and cultural narratives
- Art, Scottish symbols, tartan patterns and creative design
- Music, traditional Scottish music and instruments
- Citizenship, identity, heritage, culture and belonging