



St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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Friday 3rd December 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

External Review

This week we had some important visitors at St Matthias to complete an external review of the progress that St Matthias is making, even through a pandemic. Leaders in school and our governors often visit or have meetings to discuss the provision and quality of education we are providing for our pupils to ensure that the high expectations and quality of teaching and learning is at its best for your children. However, it is important to have this verified by external professionals and therefore external reviews which give us feedback to ensure that we are providing the very best for your children. They visited lessons in every year group, spoke to senior leaders and discussed our school priorities. We are always proud to show visitors around the school as our pupils are always on task and enjoying their learning. I must share with you that the review highlighted many strengths including strong pupil and staff relationships, pupil engagement and behaviour in lessons, a vibrant learning environment which enhances learning and is utilised by both staff and pupils to support learning and how the atmosphere around school is calm and purposeful with a clear focus on 'Aspire, Believe and Achieve.' They also noted how the school has worked hard to adapt the curriculum taking into consideration children's development and learning in relation to the impact of the pandemic and this also included personal development and family support. They also supported us in the continued focus on spellings through our new resource 'Spelling Shed,' which many of your children use at home to complete spelling homework. They also noted our priority to improve pupil attendance and reduce lateness as low attendance and missing the start of the day impacts significantly on pupil progress. I hope you are as proud of our staff and pupils as I am in this positive external review.

Goodbyes

Mrs Hall

We are going to say a sad goodbye, good luck and a huge thank you to Mrs Hall as she will be leaving St Matthias at Christmas. Mrs Hall has been working at St Matthias for 8 years as our SEND Teaching Assistant and PPA teacher. She has been absolutely fantastic and has a wealth of knowledge that we will truly miss. We will miss her laughter, fun, advice and her passion for pupils with Special Educational Needs. *Oh and her song about Turtles 'Here We Go!' (the children will understand!)* We wish her good luck and all the best for the future as she follows her dream to work more closely with pupils with Special Educational needs as a Teaching Assistant to help set up and develop a Connect Base. You will smash it, Mrs Hall! They are lucky to have you!



Nicky Gilbert - SALT

Our Speech and Language Therapist, Nicky Gilbert, is also leaving us at Christmas after securing a role working in private practice so that she can spend more time working directly with children. Nicky has been working with St Matthias for a number of years and has supported many of our children, families and staff in order to improve speech and language outcomes. Nicky's expertise will be missed in school and we wish her well with her new venture. When we know who our new Speech Therapist will be, we will introduce them to you and expect to be able to share this with you early in the new year.



Thank you

Thank you for all the wonderful donations for Freya's family this week; it was also lovely to see Freya in person when she visited us to drop her siblings at school. Thank you to everyone for all the donations to the 'Present Room' too! The children enjoyed being in their home clothes as a treat!



Don't forget to keep checking our Christmas Calendar of events to ensure you don't miss out!

Have a peaceful weekend, Mrs Beale.

ASPIRE, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE

'Our school family, values us all as unique individuals and children of God. We **aspire** to be the best version of ourselves; **believing** that through the gifts God has given us, we can make a positive contribution, flourish and **achieve** together to make a difference in our ever-changing world.'





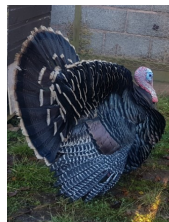
Christmas Tree

Thank you to everyone who has donated a Christmas decoration for our Christmas trees outside the main entrance to school and the Early Years area. It has been wonderful to see the children's happy faces as they have proudly hung baubles on the tree, it has given a real community feel and started a real Christmas spirit this week! There is still time to donate a decoration if you have not done so already and if you wish to participate; it also makes a lovely photo opportunity!



Year 2 Trip to Longlands Farm

Year 2 had a very special trip on Thursday to Longlands farm where they met lots of animals and took part in a beautiful nativity. The children were incredibly well behaved and treated the animals with care and love. They were even able to take on roles for the nativity story or be part of the choir, it was a magical experience for them.



Century Winter Cup Challenge

During Week 4, the final week, the winners who completed the most 'Nuggets' in each class were;

Year 3: Oliver

Year 4: Max

Year 5: Lily-May

Year 6: Evie You have all received a certificate today in Worship. Well done!

Class Effort

Year 3 – 2723 questions completed

Year 4 – 1096 questions completed

Year 5 – 4514 questions completed Well done Year 5, amazing work, again!

Year 6 – 1398 questions completed

During the competition Century has informed us that our pupils, from Year 3-Year 6 have answered approx. 31,000 questions putting us 21st internationally, which I think is an amazing effort! Well done children, especially as most of those questions are completed at home during your homework time!



Outside Achievements

We have more outside achievements to celebrate this week. They were shared in our Worship this morning and we hope to inspire lots of you to share your outside achievements with us in school! Well done, we are very proud of you all!

Stanley, Y2, for being able to play 'Jingle Bells' on the piano and being nominated by his Piano Teacher.

James Y3, received a certificate for playing the piano with two hands! An amazing achievement!

Molly Y4, being nominated by her Piano Teacher for being able to play Christmas Songs.

Glyn Y5, commended by his Guitar teacher for his achievement when learning to play Christmas songs on the guitar.

Lily Y4 and Niamh Y6, have been acting in the 'Lion King' show at Malvern Cube.

Casey Y6, has been acting in the show called 'Camp Rock.'

Lydia Y6, has been singing and acting in the show called 'Annie.'





Attendance

There are 365 days in a calendar year, 175 of them are not school days – that's plenty of time for shopping, days out, parties, holidays, appointments and visiting family and friends.

Good attendance means being in school **over 96%** of the time. In a school year, that means being in school on 183 out of the 190 school days. The table below shows class attendance statistics for this week.

The class attendance for this week is as follows:-

| | Percentage | Sessions missed | | Percentage | Sessions Missed |
|--|------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Nursery | 79.2% | 22 | Year 3 | 94.8% | 15 |
| Reception | 91.2% | 20 | Year 4 | 92.6% | 16 |
| Year 1 | 87.7% | 17 | Year 5 | 92.8% | 19 |
| Year 2 | 88.8% | 22 | Year 6 | 97.3% | 8 |
| There are two sessions in every day, am and pm. All children from Yrs R - 6 attend 10 sessions per week. | | | | | |

Well done to **Year 6**, the only class above 96% attendance this week.

Well done to **Year 6** for the least amount of missing sessions this week.

Congratulations to the 79 children who had 100% Attendance for the month of November 2021 and to the 42 children have 100% Attendance from September 2021 to end November. Fantastic, Perfect Attendance!

Celebration Worship Awards

Every Friday we hold a 'Celebration Worship' to give out awards to our children to celebrate their achievements. Currently these are held virtually from the classroom using either Teams or Zoom.



Certificates (Effort in their work): R. Eva, 1. Rehan, 2. Jacob B, 3. Harvey, 4. Rosie 5. Valters, 6. Jamie.

Value Leaf (for showing Peace): R. All class, 1. Edward-Noah, 2. Ellis, 3. Brae, 4. Poppy, 5. Lexie, 6. Demi.

Spotted (Improved spelling): R. Isaac, 1. Kai, 2. Logan, 3. Esmae, 4. Darcey, 5. All class, 6. Evelyn Bd.

Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times this week): Poppy F Yr 3

Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside) Zach Yr 3

Achievements Outside School - Please see Page 2



As a church school, each half term we choose a special Value which we think about very carefully in our worship, our classrooms, in our playground and everywhere in school. We focus on what they mean in our lives and in our relationships with each other.



Our Value this half term is Peace

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Hebrews 12:14 "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone"

Dalai Lama "Do not let the behaviour of others destroy your inner peace"

Gandhi "The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will have peace".

Each half term we choose a special Value which we think about very carefully in our worship, our classrooms, in our playground and everywhere in school. We will focus on what they mean in our lives and in our relationships with each other.

Heavenly Father, We lift up all those who are facing various illnesses. Give them the hope and courage they need today and every day. Comfort their pain, calm their fears, and surround them with Your peace. Amen.

Prayers from the children of St Matthias.

Let us pray Dear Lord, Thank you for helping me to flourish and achieve my handwriting. We hope that your peace floods all over the world. Amen. Written by Tiffany Y5

Dear God, Please help us to have a peaceful world and help us all to get along as friends. And please help our school to Aspire, Believe, Flourish, Achieve. Amen. Written by Hashim Y5



NOTICEBOARD



Reminders

Whole School Events

**FOR DETAILS OF
ALL CHRISTMAS
EVENTS PLEASE
READ
THE UPDATED
CHRISTMAS EVENT
PLAN.**



Class Events

Year 1 Commandery History Trip
Thursday 9th December.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Severn Trent Water - Big Difference

Help that is available from **Severn Trent Water** for reducing water bills for families with low household incomes. If eligible for the scheme, you could receive a discount of up to 90% off your water bill and potentially suspend any arrears. Please click here for more information.
<https://bigdiff.co.uk/login.php>

Platform Housing customers only

Platform Housing have launched a 'Wellbeing Fund' for all customers to access in order to help cover the cost of food, essential items such as school uniforms, energy and utility costs as well as helping to bridge the gap between a benefit application and first payment. You can apply following this link.
<https://www.platformhg.com/wellbeing-fund>

Covid 19

COVID-19 symptom check ([click here](#))
Book an NHS COVID test ([click here](#)) or ring **119**

Book a COVID-19 Vaccine ([click here](#))

Support and Advice

Adult Mental health support ([click here](#))

Starting Well- for parenting, health and wellbeing support ([click here](#))

Here2Help- ([click here](#))

Bereavement support ([click here](#))

Citizens Advice Bureau ([click here](#))

Child Line - 0800 1111

Domestic Abuse 24 hour Helpline for Women and Men - 0800 980 333

School Nurse – 01684 612668

Family Front Door - 01905 822666 to report a concern about a child or request help.

The Family Hub for parenting support and advice ([click here](#))

Parent Online Safety Information ([click here](#))

Malvern Hills Housing support ([click here](#))

Who to contact in school and how

MRS KAZEROONI for:- Attendance issues, reasons for absences, request any forms, change of address or phone numbers, general enquires, urgent contact, inform her of medical appointments, (inform her of other persons collecting from school preferably before 1pm). email admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk or Telephone **01684 574984**

MRS JAMES (Works Mon - Thu) for:- Whizz Kids booking, paying any bills/invoices for nursery, trips, music lessons, PE kit etc please email finance@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk or Phone **01684 574984** and ask to speak to Mrs James.

CLASS TEACHER for:- classroom issues, learning or behaviour related, use ClassDojo or Tapestry. To request a telephone call from a teacher call 01684 574984 or email admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk to ask for an appointment.

MRS BEALE Headteacher for:- urgent personal/private matters on head@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk

Black Pepper Lunches for:- booking your child's meals every half term, visit their website <https://www.blackpepperlunches.com/BP-default.php>

TERM DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2021

SCHOOL CLOSES

Friday 17th December 2021 at 4.15pm

SPRING TERM 2022

Staff Training Day

Tuesday 4th January 2022

SCHOOL OPENS

Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 8.45am

HALF TERM BREAK

Saturday 19th to Sunday 27th February

SCHOOL CLOSES

Thursday 7th April 2022

Staff Training Day

Friday 8th April 2022.