



# St Matthias Newsletter



## St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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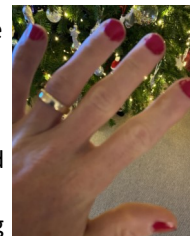
**Friday 10th December 2021**

### Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have had a lovely eventful week this week with lots of Christmassy things going on. Thank you to everyone who donated a Christmas jumper to our sale on Monday, we raised £20 towards school funds.

### Break the Rules Day

There have been lots of highlights this week. The first one being 'Break the Rules' day raising money for Freya and her family. During this event the children and staff had a wonderful day breaking some of the rules in school, although they still had to complete their learning! I saw children wearing non-school uniform, make-up, wearing their hoods/hats in class, I saw lots of toys and I even saw Mr Thompson and Mr Salmon wearing nail varnish! (Mr Thompson had trouble removing his the next day!) Thank you to everyone who took part and you raised over **£400** for Freya and her family. We will be presenting the cheque to them next week. You should feel incredibly proud! Thank you also for all the gifts you sent in for the family. The School Council members spent their lunchtime wrapping them up ready for the game Freya and her family can play at Christmas. They have a huge red sack of presents. They can each take a turn to open a present and decide which family member it goes to... I think this will bring some lovely smiles at this very challenging time for them all.



### Carol Service

On Wednesday we all went to St Matthias Church for our Christmas Carol Service. It was such a lovely service, the readings were all in rhyme and the Nativity scene was created by our Year 1 children. Each class had a part to play and there were readings from children in every class. We always enjoy singing and the church environment was very apt for our carol singing. A big thank you to Fr Phillip, who not only opened and closed our service but also managed the technology with the music and the recording! Well done for juggling so well, we really appreciate it! We have sent all parents the link to the recording of the Carol Service, along with the passcode on ClassDojo where only the parents in school can view it. We hope you are able to watch and enjoy it as much as we did with your children at home.



### Parking

This is a polite reminder to parents to ensure that you are parking with thought outside school and remembering not to block neighbours driveways or park illegally on corners or zig-zag lines. This week we had some Community Support Officers survey the area while on their duty and they were asking parents to consider their parking. We were disappointed to hear that some parents were rude to them and challenging their requests. The Community Support Officers work to keep the public safe and when they are outside schools their priority are your children and our pupils. We have had very near misses with pupils especially when cars are parked in obscure places and block the view of other drivers and therefore putting lives at risk. The PSCO's will be back to monitor the area, so please be mindful of your parking and keeping your children safe when on the path and crossing the road.

### Free School Meal Vouchers during the Christmas break

St Matthias will be providing families eligible for Free School Meals with food vouchers during the 2 week Christmas break. These will be provided via **email** using 'Edenred,' a Government scheme. Families eligible will have vouchers arriving to their email on **Wednesday 15th December**. Please check that you have received them before we break up for Christmas and always check your 'junk' mail first. Thank you.

**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.'





### Year 1 History Trip to The Commandery

Year 1 had an action-packed day at The Commandery in Worcester on Thursday! We travelled back in time and experienced what it would be like to be a soldier during the Civil War. Children were invited to hold weapons which Musketeers and Cavaliers would have used (they were extremely heavy), look at the clothing they would have worn in battle and also tested out the helmets!! One of the helmets had a dual purpose for the soldiers and if they turned it upside down, they used it as a cooking pot!!

We then held a real pike and looked at (blunted) spears, it took 4 children to hold it! To prepare for battle, we had a training session in the Courtyard Garden and practised commands to hold our very own pikes and stand in formation! All children followed the instructions brilliantly and amazed staff by their superb listening skills.

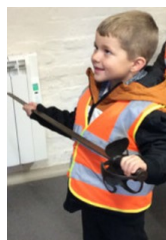
Next, we learnt how to fire a cannon and work in a firing team! Each child had a special role. We learnt that soldiers were not called by their Christian name but by their job! We had Officer Worm, Officer Wet Mop, Officer Dry Mop, Officer Powder Monkey, Officer Ram-rod, Captain and the Fuse Master!

After our tiring battle, we had a tour around the centre and saw some very interesting pictures and enjoyed moving figures on the interactive battlefield. We spotted King Charles at the top of the Cathedral's tower, looking for the enemy!

For our afternoon adventure, we walked up a spiral pathway to the top of Fort Royal, which was a battlefield during the Civil War. At the top we could see the Cathedral and also the Malvern Hills!

Finally, we spent time looking at different artefacts people would have had during this period in history. Our day was very busy with lots of new facts to learn. Many children had a snooze on the way home!!

I think Year One would thoroughly recommend this trip to families as well as other Year One classes in the future!



### 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!

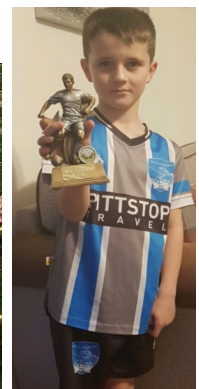
**Camden, Y3** received a 'Man of the Match' trophy for stepping unexpectedly into being a goalie and being a star player at his team's match last weekend!

**Jasmine, Y2** received a British Gymnastics Proficiency Award Level 7 certificate

**Tia, Y2** took part in a gymnastics show; amazing bar work Tia!

**Darcey, Y4** took part in a gymnastics show

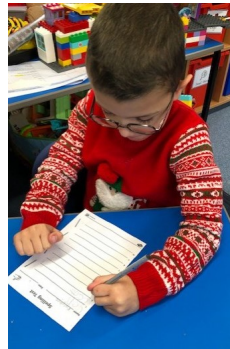
**Lily, Y4** completed her drama show 'The Lion King' and received a certificate.







### Christmas Jumper Day Photographs



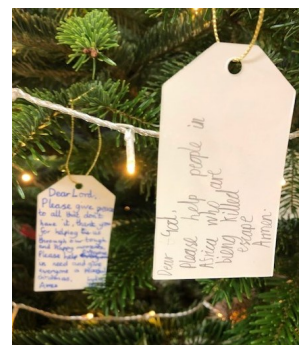
### 'The Angels of Malvern Link'

Today the children are coming home with an extra special gift. A book has been written by Philippa Lowe and illustrated by Sophie Dainty called 'The Angels of Malvern Link.' The book is set in Malvern Link and features St Matthias Church, it is all about the Nativity and is stunning! Hiding on each page is at least one mouse. I wonder if you can find them all? Fr Phillip says that there really are mice in the church that hide away! You will always be warmly welcomed by all at St Matthias Church and if you would like to be part of their congregation at any time please do go along. We have also sent out a flyer about their Crib Service on Friday 24th December.



### Our Beautiful Christmas Trees

I shared 3 wonderful prayers from our Christmas tree in the hall this morning, one by Poppy F Y3, one by Valters Y5 and one by Lydia Y6.







## Christmas Fundraising

The children have been busy making some lovely Christmas creations in their classes. Parents are able to buy their **own child's** Christmas creation next week. Please send in the correct money in a named envelope and the class teacher will send the item home with your child.

**Nursery and Reception item:**  
**Salt Dough Decorations £1.00**



**Year 1 item:**  
**Santa Christmas Eve Tray £1.50**



**Year 2 item:**  
**Bauble £1.00**



**Year 3 item:**  
**Colourful bauble £1.00**



**Year 4 item:**  
**Star spinning decoration £1.50**



**Year 5 item:**  
**Christmas Tea-light holder £2.00**



**Year 6 item:**  
**Christmas wreath (candle not included) £1.00**



There is still time to order some of the other items as shown on the order form. Printed copies of the order form are available from the main entrance of school.



St Matthias C E Primary	
Christmas Fundraiser	
Order form	
Reindeer Food	1.00
Santa's Magic Key	1.00
Bell from Santa's Sleigh	1.00
Hot Chocolate & Marshmallow cones	1.50
Name of child	Class
Reindeer food	Total
Santa's Magic Key	Total
Bell from Santa's Sleigh	Total
Hot chocolate & marshmallow cones	Total
Please tick with amount required and enclose correct	
Total	
Please tick with amount required and enclose correct	
Total	

## Whizz Kids

Don't forget to pre **book your wrap around care for January**, payments need to be made **before Thursday**.

To book your child's space please complete a booking form, available with this newsletter, or from the front entrance in paper form, emailed on Request, or on our website.

Look what I was presented with today following their 'cooking' session at Whizz Kids, they have also been decorating Christmas jars and wearing their Christmas jumpers!





## Attendance Update - Lateness

We know that sometimes things don't go to plan in the morning and unexpected circumstances can cause people to be late. However, it is very important for children to be in class promptly at the start of every day and ready to learn. Our staff ensure that they are punctual and on time for work every day, ready to welcome your children into school and get lessons started without delay. When children are late, they miss the introduction of the lesson and find it harder to get on with their independent work as a result. It also disrupts the learning of the other children when latecomers are entering the classroom in the middle of a lesson.

Following recent updates from Worcestershire Children First, we are currently amending our attendance policy to ensure we secure the best possible attendance for all children. One of the updates we are making is to our 'Lates' procedure.






From Monday 13th December we will be using the following codes on our register:

Children arriving **between 9am and 9.15am** will be marked as **Late** (L code) and the number of minutes late will be recorded and totalled up over the term.

Children arriving **after 9.15am** will receive an **Unauthorised Late** (U code) and this will affect your child's overall attendance %.

Any child with 12 or more 'U' marks in a 12-week period may mean we are required to involve the Education Welfare Service and potentially take further action.

If you know that your child is often late for school, please try some of the following ideas to help improve punctuality and help improve your child's attainment and progress:

	If your bus is often late, try catching the earlier bus or using alternative transport to ensure you will be on time. If it isn't too far, consider walking to school, especially when the weather is dry.
	Traffic during school-run times is often busy – could you walk to school instead? If not, try leaving a few minutes earlier so that your child is in school on time.
	If you find you are often just a few minutes late, please leave home slightly earlier to allow for unexpected hold ups on your way.
	Set your alarm slightly earlier – if your child is often 10 minutes late, set the alarm 10 minutes earlier to allow them enough time to get to school before 9am.
	Reward and praise your children when they get ready quickly in the morning and arrive on time for school. It helps everyone in the family to have a good start to the day if you aren't having to chase children up to get them ready for school!

Being on time for school, and later in life, being on time for work is an important life skill. In the workplace, it is common for employers to expect their staff to arrive on time for work. Helping your child to develop good attitudes towards punctuality will help them now and as they get older. If you are having trouble getting your child to school on time, please speak to their class teacher or to Mrs Kazerooni to see how we can help you.

When we have completed our review of our Attendance Policy, we will send a link to it on our website.

Thank you for your support.

## Parent Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you to all the parents who completed our parent questionnaire this term. Here are some of the results...

93% agreed/strongly agreed that their child was happy at St Matthias

92% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias makes sure its pupils are well behaved

39% had not experienced bullying, 41% agreed/strongly agreed bullying was dealt with effectively, 15% were neutral= 95%

85% agreed/strongly agreed that they were aware of what their child was learning

97% agreed/strongly agreed that communication was effective

24% had no concerns and 68% agreed/strongly agreed that their concerns dealt with properly= 92%

93% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias had high expectations

93% agreed/strongly agreed that their child did well at St Matthias

95% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias helped parents to support their child's learning

87% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias supported their child's wider personal development

90% agreed/strongly agreed that there was a good range of subjects available

83% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias prepared their child for the future

98% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias is well led and managed

92% agreed/strongly agreed that they would recommend St Matthias to another parent.

We were overwhelmingly grateful for the positive comments and suggestions we received and will take on board many of the suggestions to ensure that we continue to improve St Matthias for the good of your children. Thank you.





## 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	79.6%	21	Year 3	87.1%	36
Reception	90.9%	20	Year 4	92.4%	16
Year 1	88.8%	15	Year 5	94.2%	15
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>94.5%</b>	<b>11</b>	Year 6	92.2%	23
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 2** for the best attendance this week and for least amount of missing sessions this week.

Please see our article about lateness and punctuality on page 5.

## 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. Mila, 1. Charlie, 2. Jasmine B, 3. Oakley, 4. Lily 5. Caitlyn, 6. Lydia.

**Value Leaf (for showing Peace):** R. Lexi, 1. Kai, 2. Damien, 3. Tyler, 4. Alumie, 5. Connor, 6. Oliver

**Spotted (Improved spelling):** R. Harry, 1. Isabella, 2. Evie, 3. Jamie, 4. Bonnie, 5. James, 6. Ibrahim.

**Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times this week):** Ralphee Yr 1

**Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside)** Darcey Yr 4

**100% Attendance Award for November:** Abigail Yr 6

**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 Parties

**Nursery + Reception**  
**9am Thursday 16th December**

**Years 1 + 2**  
**10am Thursday 16th December**

**Years 3 + 4**  
**Thursday afternoon 16th December**

**Year 5 + 6**  
**Friday afternoon 17th 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk) to ask for an appointment.

**MRS BEALE Headteacher for:-** urgent personal/private matters on [head@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup> 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**

**SCHOOL CLOSES**

**Saturday 19th to Sunday 27th February**

**Staff Training Day**

**Thursday 7th April 2022**

**Friday 8th April 2022.**