



St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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Friday 17th December 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have come to the end of a very fun-filled Christmas week and everyone feels very festive! We all want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone again in the New Year when the term starts for the children on **Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 8.45am.**

Break the Rules Day

We raised a staggering £406.67 for Freya and her family and I want to say a huge thank you for your support and generosity to help raise this amount. It will make such a difference to this family. The School Council presented the cheque to Freya and her family today along with a large sack of presents for the whole family, again generously donated by so many of our St Matthias family. THANK YOU!



Back to School

We have not heard about any changes to school following the Christmas holiday, however schools have been asked to be prepared should any announcements be made following the rapid rise in COVID cases and the new Omicron variant. Measures we will reinstate at St Matthias should cases rise and schools we are asked to become even more vigilant...

- Asking parents to wear masks on the playground
- Re-instating our one-way system for drop off and pick up times
- Re-instating bubbles in school
- Reverting to remote learning should the government direct schools

Strategies we will continue

- Staff wearing masks between their classrooms
- Continuing with good hygiene procedures
- Minimal sharing of equipment and cleaning between use

Schools always find out any changes at the same time as the general public so we will endeavour to inform you of any changes as soon as is feasibly possible.

Christingle Service.

Our Christingle Service was organised and led by our School Council and I have to say it was one of my favourites! The children sang beautifully, explained the significance of the Christingle through readings and representations and then we stood around the church together to light the Christingles we had made. It was very special and magical seeing all the lit candles especially when the lights of the church went off. The children were so sensible and careful with the candle flames, we were all very proud of them all. We have sent the link for parents to watch the service via ClassDojo.

Please do not share this recording on any social media or other internet platforms. Thank you.



Have a safe and peaceful Christmas, 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.’



**A fond farewell message from Mrs Hall**

I wanted to take the opportunity to say goodbye and a huge thank you to the staff, pupils and parents within the St Matthias community who have made me feel so welcomed and appreciated over the past eight years. I've had the pleasure of working with most of the children currently in school at some point, as well as many of their siblings who have since left. Many of the children have asked why I'm leaving, so I have explained that I am following my dream of working more specifically with SEND children and that I am very excited about my new role. However, it is with genuine sadness that I leave my St Matthias family at a time when the school is enjoying such stability and success; I will always think of you with great fondness. I wish you well for Christmas and the coming year and hope the children will all continue to work hard, aim high and reach for their dreams.

Young Voices

We have had a very important email from the Young Voices Team to inform us that they are postponing the concert in January due to the rising cases of COVID-19 and will be rescheduling in the Spring or Summer Term. If your child in Years 5 or 6 is part of the Young Voices club and you have bought tickets, they will be valid for the next date. Once we know more information we will update you.

**Act on Energy**

We have been made aware of 'Act on Energy' who can help people in Worcestershire with their energy bills. Please click on this link if you would like to know more about how they can help you during these challenging times. <https://actonenergy.org.uk/project/worcestershire-household-support-fund/>

**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 !

The Heart of England Forest

Mrs Staniforth has dedicated a tree to Year 3 in the Heart of England Forest and has received a certificate in recognition of this. The gift has created new habitats where wildlife can thrive. Nurturing a forest can allow people to reconnect with nature and grow a greener future for the benefit of generations to come. If you would like to visit The Tree Dedication Area in the Heart of England Forest it is situated near Haydon Way Wood car park B807EX.



Jamie Bird, Y3 has received a Penalty Shoot Out medal for winning the most penalties! Well done Jamie!

**COVID testing**

If you or your children are unwell with symptoms of COVID-19 during the Christmas break please get a PCR test, which you can do by booking online at a drive through centre or by ordering online <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/get-tested-for-coronavirus/>

Symptoms can present very similarly to that of a cold or flu or even an upset stomach in children.

If anyone in your family tests positive for COVID-19 during the Christmas break please let Mrs Beale know by emailing head@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk as we have to complete forms for the DfE. It is also new guidance that should anyone test positive for COVID-19 that each family member over the age of 5 should complete daily Lateral Flow (home test) so that if they develop COVID it is identified very quickly and that member can isolate.

Always seek medical advice and follow the most recent guidance if you are unwell or test positive.

Attendance The table below shows class attendance statistics for **this term**.

	Percentage	Sessions missed		Percentage	Sessions Missed
Nursery	87.0%		Year 3	95.3%	
Reception	93.8%		Year 4	93.3%	
Year 1	90.6%		Year 5	94.4%	
Year 2	94.3%		Year 6	95.8%	
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 5** for the best attendance this week 96.03% and for least amount of missing sessions this week.

Well done to Years **3 and 5** for above 96% attendance this week.

Well done to Year 6 for the best attendance this term.



NOTICEBOARD



Reminders

Whole School Events

**School and Nursery
re-open on
Wednesday 5th January
2022
at 8.45am.**

**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!**

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

SPRING TERM 2022

Staff Training Day

SCHOOL OPENS

HALF TERM BREAK

SCHOOL CLOSES

Staff Training Day

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 8.45am

Saturday 19th to Sunday 27th February

Thursday 7th April 2022

Friday 8th April 2022.