

St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Virginia Beale

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Friday 7th January 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

A very Happy New Year to everyone, we hope you had a peaceful and safe Christmas. I want to say thank you to everyone who managed to take home Lateral Flow tests before returning to school. We have had a few people unable to return immediately due to being positive and thank you for following the new isolation rules until you can return.

New guidance on isolating following a positive Covid-19 test.

As you will have read in my ClassDojo message and email prior to our return this week, the guidance for isolating following a positive Covid test has changed.

If any child or adult tests positive for Covid-19 on an LFT please inform Mrs Beale or Mrs Kazerooni.

The government have announced this week that you do not have to confirm a positive LFT test by having a PCR test.

Therefore a positive test result on an LFT **MUST** now be logged on the NHS website & isolation rules **MUST** be followed from the day you tested positive. The isolation period has been shortened from 10 days to 7 days.

That person who tested positive must take LFT tests on day 6 and day 7 of the isolation period.

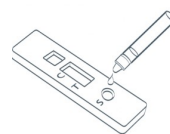
If the tests on days 6 and 7 are **BOTH NEGATIVE** you can return to school or work. **This all applies to under 5's too.**

If the LFT is still positive then that person **MUST** continue to isolate until they have 2 consecutive days of negative results.

That person **MUST** also isolate if they continue to have ANY symptoms of Covid-19.

As a school if a child who was positive has 2 consecutive negative LFT tests on day 6 then day 7 and has **NO** symptoms of Covid-19 please send the results to Mrs Beale head@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk or Mrs Kazerooni admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk and we will confirm that your child can return to school.

If your child is unable to complete an LFT test or still has symptoms of Covid-19 then please **complete a 10 day isolation period.**



Goodbye and good luck Mrs Lodge

It is with a heavy heart that we are saying goodbye to Mrs Lodge, who is leaving St Matthias at the end of February half term. Mrs Lodge has been teaching at St Matthias for 15 years. Mrs Lodge started teaching in our Reception class and has worked throughout Key Stage 1 and in Key Stage 2. She arrived as a newly qualified teacher and has become a highly skilled practitioner and leader across the school, she is a knowledgeable SENCO who has supported many pupils with additional needs and since January 2020 she has been one of our Assistant Headteachers. Mrs Lodge has a real passion for Special Educational Needs and has decided to pursue this further as she takes the next step in her career. She has gained a post in a Local Authority as their SEND Engagement and Market Development Officer and will specifically focus on children and young people with SEND needs across the Local Authority. She will work with the families, develop an SEND agenda, increase awareness and improve the quality and availability of inclusive activities for those children and young people with SEND in that authority. I am sure you will agree that Mrs Lodge will be perfect for this role with all her expertise from being in education and working with so many wonderful children. She is a well loved and well respected member of staff by both adults and children and we would all like to wish her all the best for the future, especially as she starts her new job after half term.



To assist us in allowing Mrs Lodge to hand over all her roles and commitments at St Matthias to other staff, Mrs Boffy will be taking over the teaching in Year 3 from next week. Mrs Lodge, Mrs Philgence and Mrs Boffy have worked together for a number of years at St Matthias and they know our routines and curriculum well. Mrs Boffy is well known to the children in Year 3 as she took over from me when I became Acting Head, while the same children were in Year 1. Mrs Boffy is a very regular member of our team and covers many classes and she loves being at St Matthias, so was thrilled to be able to start teaching more regularly on a Monday and Tuesday in Year 3 alongside Mrs Philgence. Mrs Lodge will be in Year 3 next week, so the handover is smooth.

Mrs Joyce will be taking on the role of SENCO at St Matthias from February half term along with the support from our Trust SENCO Mr McEvilly, who also visits St Matthias on a regular basis. Mrs Lodge has built an excellent system for monitoring, recording and supporting pupils with additional needs which will make the handover to Mrs Joyce very smooth. Mrs Joyce is a very experienced teacher and leader and is looking forward to developing new skills as our SENCO.



Have a wonderful 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.'



Rags to Riches – help us raise some money!

Please help us raise some money for our school fund by collecting reusable clothing. We have arranged a collection during the last week of this half term, so please donate any unwanted, reusable clothing and accessories on **MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY!** Make it your New Year's Resolution to have a good clear out and donate your unwanted items. Please see the poster attached with this newsletter for more information about the items which are accepted by 'Rags 2 Riches' and those items which are not accepted. Please put your unwanted items into any type of bag during the next few weeks and then please send the bags in on Monday 14th February when they will be collected and weighed to see how much money you have helped us raise.



Rags 2 Riches collect good quality re-usable clothing: Please remember all the clothes become affordable clothing and are reused, so **Stop and Think ... is it clean, dry, and something you'd wear again yourself or pass on to your family or friends to wear?**

Please refer to their website <https://www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk/> and the attached flyer for detailed information on what we do and don't collect and please remember no uniform of any kind.

What happens to the clothes?

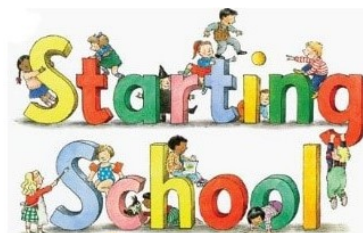
There is a good programme on the BBC about what happens to the clothing if you are interested:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/3NCQT8fPDn9KfbLGmqGZvF/the-secret-life-of-your-clothes> which can be watched on YouTube. The clothing becomes affordable clothing around the world, they sell the clothes on – as an example some of the clothing will then be sold on market stalls in Africa, which is why clothes need to be clean, dry and something you'd wear yourself and shouldn't be worn out, or old fashioned. They move clothes on every few days as storing clothes for weeks on end means that small marks can become big stains and the clothes can become musty.

Primary School Applications for children starting in Reception in September 2022 – closing date 15th January

Time is running out for parents and carers to submit their applications for children starting school in September 2022. Applications close at **midnight on the 15th of January 2022** and parents hoping to be offered a place for Primary, First, Infant, Junior and Middle school in September, should apply before the deadline. Applying online is the easiest and most efficient way to apply by visiting the Council's dedicated School Admissions website at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

Parents and carers are able to log on to the website at any time during the day or night, meaning last minutes changes are possible up to 12 midnight on the closing day. If additional assistance is required, parents and carers can contact the School Admissions team on 01905 822700.



Worcestershire Children First Family Learning Courses for 2022

A new list of courses for Family Learning for 2022 has been published.

Courses include:

- SEND - Understanding Dyslexia
- SEND - Managing Mindfulness
- SEND - positive behaviour strategies
- Early Phonics for Parents
- Family Wellness
- Art for Parents
- Art for your child - ideas for parents
- Family Cooking Class • Cooking on a budget
- Communicating with Deaf and Hard of Hearing



The courses are FREE on a concession criteria if:

- The parent earns less than £17,000 per year
- The parent is unemployed and on benefits
- Their child is known to the school SENCo
- Their child receives Free School Meals
- The course would improve their health and wellbeing

You can book on to any course by searching for the course title at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/courses or by phoning 01905 728537 for support.

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. Lexi, 1. Marlee-Mae, 2. William, 3. Logan H, 4. Camille, 5. Mayzee, 6. Lexi.

Value Leaf for showing Dignity: R. Albie, 1. Amelia, 2. Adam, 3. Esmae, 4. Sophie, 5. Scarlett, 6. Sam.

Spotted (Improved Spelling & Editing): R. Elsie, 1. Pippa, 2. Harlem-Ocean, 3. Ethan, 4. Archie, 5. Elizabeth, 6. All Year 6 pupils.

Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times this week): Daisy Yr R

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

Congratulations to the 102 Children who had 100% attendance for December

100% Attendance Award for December goes to: Leighton Yr 5

Huge congratulations to the 34 Children who had 100% attendance for the Autumn Term.

100% Attendance Award for the Autumn Term goes to : Kaya Yr 2

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

	Percentage	Sessions missed		Percentage	Sessions Missed
Nursery	86.6%	9	Year 3	98.3%	3
Reception	89.8%	14	Year 4	86.3%	18
Year 1	100%	0	Year 5	94.7%	8
Year 2	98.3%	2	Year 6	96.1%	7
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 1** for the best attendance this week 100% and for least amount of missing sessions this week.

Well done to Years **1, 2, 3 and 6** for above 96% attendance this week.

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 !

Lily P Yr 4, has achieved her Level 4 swimming award.



Dignity



As a church school, every half term we concentrate on an important value for life.

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.

Our Value this half term is DIGNITY "Dignity — to behave in a composed or serious manner."

Matthew 19:14 "Let the children come to me for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Peter 2:17 "Treat everyone you meet with dignity."

Dalai Lama "Love for others and respect for their rights and **dignity**, no matter who or what they are: ultimately these are all we need. "

Gandhi "The truest test of civilization, culture and **dignity** is character and not clothing."

Teachers will be on the look out this half term for children who are really trying hard to show dignity in lessons and around school.

Let's all be dignified in our lives especially in these unprecedented times.

Dignity





NOTICEBOARD



Reminders

Whole School Events

Young Voices –
Postponed, awaiting new date.



Clubs for the Spring Term will be sent out next week.

Children's Mental Health Week
7th - 11th February

Internet Safety Day
Tuesday 8th February

Virtual Parents Evenings
Tuesday 15th February
Wednesday 16th February
Signing up text to follow in 2 weeks.

World Book Day
Thursday 3rd March

Easter Service
Wednesday 6th April

Class Events

Strange Futures Trip for Yrs 4,5 &6
Friday 28th January information to follow.

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

HALF TERM BREAK

SCHOOL CLOSURES

Staff Training Day

Saturday 19th to Sunday 27th February

Thursday 7th April 2022

Friday 8th April 2022.

SUMMER TERM 2022

TERM STARTS

MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY

HALF TERM BREAK

SCHOOL CLOSURES

Monday 25th April at 8.45am

Monday 2nd May

Saturday 19th to Sunday 27th February

Friday 22nd July at 3.15pm