

St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Virginia Beale

Cromwell Road, Malvern Link, Worcestershire, WR14 1NA.

Telephone or Facsimile 01684 574984

Email: head@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk

Website: www.stmatthiasceprimary.co.uk



Friday 28th January 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

NEW Phonics Programme

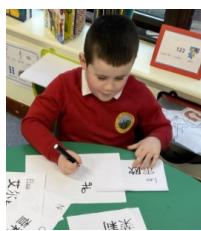
This week a number of staff met with an advisor from The DfE English Hub to discuss Early Reading and Phonics. Phonics is a method of teaching children to read and pronounce words by learning to associate letters or letter groups with the sounds they represent. Last year, the DfE announced that they wanted to support schools in order to deliver high quality phonics lessons in all schools. They introduced a list of validated phonics schemes which were approved and recommended for schools to use. This list has been updated regularly and St Matthias has invested in a new validated systematic synthetic phonics programme called 'Essential Letters and Sounds.' The staff have completed training on the new scheme and we have invested money into new resources for teaching and learning and are excited to launch the program after half term following important pupil assessments.

We believe this new phonics programme will support your children in making quicker progress to become fluent and confident readers. We are also taking advantage of having an expert advisor on hand to ensure we are embracing this new approach. After half term we will send a letter to parents and carers explaining some of the changes you may see, particularly with regards to the reading books the children take home. You will see reading books with 'read with me' stickers; this means you read the book with your child and they may not know all the words and sounds and therefore you support them. You will also see reading books with stickers 'I can read this' which means they have been taught all the specific sounds in those books and should be able to blend them to read. We will also invite parents in the Early Years and Year 1 to a Phonics Presentation to explain a little more during the Spring Term. We need your support to ensure its success too, as reading at home is vital to your child's progress, at any age!



Chinese New Year

I always love this time of the year when our Early Years children celebrate Chinese New Year. They have been preparing for the Chinese New Year on Tuesday 1st February by learning all about the tradition. This year is the year of the Tiger! They have taken part in tiger art and craft, they have a Chinese Restaurant in the role play area, they have red rice in the sensory tray and they have been investigating Chinese numerals in the maths area. I spotted children building the Great Wall of China, exploring Chinese artefacts, creating a Chinese Dragon ready for a parade and so much more! Such excitement!



COVID-19.

Please can I urge parents to regularly test your children for COVID-19 using a home testing kit. We have had a number of cases across the school recently, so we would like to protect as many of us as possible by identifying those who test positive. Thank you to all parents and children who have been testing daily for 7 days following the letters sent out to specific classes. This has proven very advantageous in identifying anyone who may be positive but not showing any symptoms.

Thank you for your continued support.

I have been called for Jury Service from 31st January, which is compulsory, therefore I will be in and out of school when the court releases me. I am still able to respond to emails and Dojos out of hours. Have a lovely 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.'



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. Dexter, 1. Shanti, 2. Damien, 3. Lily Pk, 4. Michael, 5. Lola, 6. Evelyn B.

Value Leaf for showing Dignity: R. Elsie, 1. Ella, 2. Addison, 3. Zack, 4. Sam, 5. Tiffany, 6. Evelyn R.

Spotted (Improved Spelling & Editing): R. Mason, 1. Pippa, 2. Evie, 3. Harvey, 4. Lily-Ann, 5. Leo, 6. Finley.

Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times this week): Evie Yr 6

Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside) Logan Yr 1 + Justin Yr 5

Outside Achievements

Watch this space next week !

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

	Percentage	Sessions missed		Percentage	Sessions Missed
Nursery	92.1%	10	Year 3	94.6%	16
Reception	89.3%	24	Year 4	95.4%	28
Year 1	82.8%	22	Year 5	89.2%	28
Year 2	93.5%	13	Year 6	86.6%	40
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 4** for the best attendance this week 95.4% & to Nursery for the least missing sessions. No classes had above 96% attendance this week.

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

Children's Mental Health Week

7th - 11th February

Internet Safety Day

Tuesday 8th February

2nd Hand Uniform Sale

Wednesday 9th Feb 3pm

Virtual Parents Evenings

Monday 14th February (Nursery)

Tuesday 15th February

Wednesday 16th February

Please book your consultation online. If you find this difficult please phone Mrs Kazerooni, who can book it in for you. Deadline for online bookings is 9am Monday 7th February.

World Book Day

Thursday 3rd March - details to follow

Easter Service

Wednesday 6th April (school only)

Young Voices – 17th May 2022

Update letter emailed yesterday

Class Events

Reception Hearing Tests

Wednesday 2nd February.

Parents must log onto the portal.

Rags to Riches

Bring your unwanted good clothes to school Monday 14th February.

Reception Vision Tests

Tuesday 8th March.

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 or 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 ONLY 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 28th May to Sunday 5th June

Friday 22nd July at 3.15pm