

# St Matthias Newsletter



## St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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**Friday 4th February 2022**

**Dear Parents, Carers and Children,**

I am so pleased that we introduced ClassDojo at St Matthias! Due to Jury Service I have not been in school as much as I'd have liked this week, however thanks to ClassDojo, I have been kept informed very regularly!



I was very disappointed to miss out on eating homemade vegetable spring rolls and noodles in the Early Years! They looked very tasty!

Year One learned all about teddies and why and how they were invented 118 years ago! Everyone needs a cuddle with a teddy bear every now and then! I wonder if you have a special teddy at home?

Year 5 have been investigating parts of a flowering plant to find out about their life cycle.



### Strange Futures Trip

Last term, pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 were lucky enough to work with a local drama company, "Strange Futures", developing story ideas and animations for their latest production 'The Last Restaurant'. Last Friday, we were invited back to Malvern Cube to watch "Strange Future" perform the show and see our animations come to life!

Year 4 have written a review of the live event, here are a few highlights!

This was a very good show and I am happy we got to see this. I give it 5/5. (Molly)

It was an exciting experience because I got to hear my voice and go on an amazing, strange, food mystery. (Max)

My favourite part was when they threw the imaginary potatoes around, it was so funny. (Alumie)

I loved the part where the videos were on the plate. (Archie)

We drank mango tea and ate words, which sounds crazy but was yummy! (Lily)

I would recommend it to a friend because it's so funny. (Sam)



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.'



**Car Parking** This is a polite reminder regarding parking in the surrounding areas of school. We have recently had complaints from neighbours and fire officers regarding parents blocking driveways, access to fire hydrants and parking on double yellow lines. It is illegal to park on dropped curbs, block access to driveways or to park on double yellow lines and zigzag zones. We know that it is sometimes tricky to find a parking space close to school and with our school car park out of bounds for staff at the moment there are extra cars parked on the road. If you use a car to drop off or collect your children, please arrive in plenty of time to park safely a little further away from school and then walk to school. We really appreciate your cooperation with this matter. <https://www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/legal/parking-guide/>

### **Children's Mental Health Day – 8th February 2020**

The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week is **Growing Together**. The aim of this is to shine a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health.

**Growing Together** is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow.

Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt; trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential. However, emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'. Therefore, to help children develop coping mechanisms, next Tuesday we will be exploring feelings sensitively and provide children with numerous opportunities to reflect and share strategies that individuals can use when times feel 'tough'. This is particularly important in relation to recent life changing events of Covid-19 and national lockdowns.

All classes will discuss how they have changed and how they will continue to grow emotionally; understanding that with the support of friends, family and school, they will learn how to believe in themselves, to never give up and perhaps try something a little different when overwhelmed with a feeling or emotion. With the right support at the right time, our children will continue to grow and flourish, underpinning our whole school Christian vision:

**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.' As parents and carers, you play an important role in your child's mental health. If you would like to support our week by completing some of the activities at home, that would be wonderful. Please share any photos or videos with your child teacher on Class Dojo.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>



### **Internet Safety Day– Tuesday 8th February**

On Tuesday 8th February we are highlighting Internet Safety Day with all pupils. Our local PCSO's are visiting St Matthias to guide the children through an event presentation hosted by the West Midlands Regional Cyber Crime Unit for Safer Internet Day who are joined by the partners from the School of Coding to deliver age appropriate online safety advice and promote the safe use of digital technology for children and young people.

Topics being covered during the presentation are:

- Being Respectful Online
- Cyber Bullying
- Mental Health– Positive Use of Technology
- Protecting your personal information
- How and when to get help?

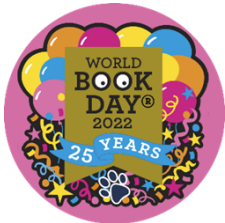


### **Cyberbullying information**

With the increase of social networking sites, online activity and messaging apps, cyberbullying is on the increase. At least two million British children experience online bullying each year. The following link discusses a range of social media sites and has some helpful hints and tips. <https://www.bullying.co.uk/cyberbullying/what-to-do-if-you-re-being-bullied-on-a-social-network/> It is really important for parents and carers to monitor their child's use of apps and games to ensure that they are only talking to people that you know and do not allow people they don't know to access their information as they may not be the person your child thinks they are.

### **WhatsApp**

WhatsApp Messenger lets people send instant messages, videos, photos and short audio messages to either one person or within a group chat. Messages can only be sent to other smartphone users who also have WhatsApp. Once you install the app, it checks your address book to see if anyone else you know is already using WhatsApp, and connects you automatically. You have to be over 16 years of age to use WhatsApp legally. Bullying can take many forms as it is a messaging service and we often hear of abusive group chats. You can block and delete the contact. You can find out more by emailing them at [support@whatsapp.com](mailto:support@whatsapp.com) if you would like more information on being informed about WhatsApp as a parent please visit <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/whatsapp-safety-a-how-to-guide-for-parents/>



## World Book Day 2022

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March it is one of our favourite days of the year – World Book Day! This year is extra special as it is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event. To celebrate, we are planning lots of fun activities to celebrate authors, illustrators, books and reading for pleasure!

### World Book Day Events in School – Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup>

On the big day, we will be celebrating reading in many different ways:

We invite all children to **dress as a word** with prizes for the most creative costumes! (See examples below)

A **vocabulary parade** to present our outfits and words to other classes.

Classes will buddy up and **share their favourite stories**.

Each class will be creating **classroom door art-work** of their favourite book cover.

Every pupil will receive a free **World Book Day book voucher** or a free book!



### Ready, Steady, Read!

In partnership with Usborne books, we are launching a **sponsored read** over half term. Children are sponsored to read as much as they over the holiday; from books, comics, magazines, websites, recipes or TV guides – basically anything with words! All sponsorship money will be used to buy new books for our class libraries and the top fundraisers will win books for themselves too!

Look out for the sponsorship forms before half term.

**Books for school!**

### Unusual Readers

Where do you like to read...in the bath, under the covers or on the trampoline? We are launching our search to find the most unusual St Matthias reader. Send your teacher a photo on ClassDojo of yourself reading in your unusual place by Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March and you could win a fantastic new book!





### 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. Molly, 1. Kai, 2. Stanley, 3. Oliver, 4. Poppy, 5. Hashim, 6. Eveline.

**Value Leaf for showing Dignity:** R. Rihanna, 1. Logan, 2. Tianna, 3. Elise, 4. Kaede, 5. Justin, 6. Leo.

**Spotted (Improved Spelling & Editing):** R. Harry, 1. Amelia, 2. Tommy, 3. Susie, 4. Jayla, 5. Gracie, 6. Ibrahim.

**Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times this week):** Hope Yr R and Leo Yr R

**Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside)** Poppy F Yr 3

### 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!

**Charlotte, Y2** has achieved her Bluebell ballet medal AND her stage 3 swimming badge all in one week! Well done Charlotte we are very proud of you!



### January Attendance

**Congratulations to the 85 Children who had 100% attendance for January, perfect! Well done to you all.**

**100% Attendance Award for January 2022 goes to: Niamh Yr 6.**

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

	Percentage	Sessions missed		Percentage	Sessions Missed
Nursery	73.8%	33	Year 3	<b>97.0%</b>	9
Reception	92.2%	18	Year 4	90.0%	12
<b>Year 1</b>	95.7%	<b>5</b>	Year 5	91.9%	21
Year 2	91.7%	16	Year 6	96.2%	11
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 3** for the best attendance this week & to Year 1 for least missing sessions.

Well done to Years **3 and 6** for 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

See Page 2 for details.

#### **Internet Safety Day**

Tuesday 8th February

See Page 2 for details.

#### **2nd Hand Uniform Sale**

Wednesday 9th Feb 3pm

#### **Online Parents Evenings**

Monday 14th February (Nursery)

Tuesday 15th February

Wednesday 16th February

**Online booking is now closed.**

**Please phone Mrs Kazerooni for an appointment time.**

#### **World Book Day**

Thursday 3rd March

See page 3 for details

#### **Easter Service**

Wednesday 6th April (school only)

#### **Young Voices**

17th May 2022

### Class Events

#### **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](mailto: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](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

#### **SPRING TERM 2022**

HALF TERM BREAK

SCHOOL CLOSSES

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 CLOSSES

Monday 25th April at 8.45am

Monday 2nd May

Saturday 28th May to Sunday 5th June

Friday 22nd July at 3.15pm