

# St Matthias Newsletter



## St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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**Friday 11th February 2022**

### ***Dear Parents, Carers and Children,***

Yesterday, we heard the news of the tragic death of a parent in our school community. We send our deepest sympathy and our thoughts and prayers go out to the children and family at this devastating time. We are here for anyone who needs support and will respect the privacy of the family while they grieve.

### **Ready Steady Read– Sponsored reading event**

Today your child will come home with a sponsored reading pack. The event has been organised in conjunction with our local Usborne partner, Verity Smith and all money raised will go towards new books for our school. You can also purchase books directly from Verity using the leaflet with the 'Ready Steady Read' information.

We wanted to give your child plenty of time to collect sponsorship and complete the 'Ready Steady Read' sponsor event, which will finish following 'World Book Day' on 3rd March. This is a super way to encourage your child to read every day and also raise money for books for the school. There will be a number of winners at the end of the event. Don't forget you don't have to just read your school books, reading can be in the form of magazines, newspapers, websites, poems, recipes, leaflets, instructions for building things, basically anything with words... even our newsletters! Hint, hint! Please collect your sponsors and complete your challenge by **Friday 4th March**.



### **Unusual Readers– competition**

While you are reading don't forget our other competition 'Unusual Readers' where you need to send a photograph of your child reading in an unusual place (please be safe!). Please send your 'Unusual Reader' photographs via ClassDojo to your teacher. Closing date Friday 4th March.



### **Half Term Free School Meal Vouchers**

Families entitled to Free School Meal vouchers during half term, will be emailed the link on **Wednesday 16th February**. If you think that you should be entitled and you have not received them, firstly please check your 'junk or spam' box, then get in touch with us. We can only provide eligible families with vouchers if you have registered for free school meals, we will then be informed by the Local Authority. This is not the KS1 Universal Free School Meals. If you would like to check to see if you could be eligible for Free School Meals please [click here](#) and sign up. You will then be asked questions to find out about your eligibility. If you are unable to complete the form online then please speak to Mrs James who will give you a form to complete.

### **Rags 2 Riches**

Don't forget our 'Rags2Riches' fundraiser next week. Bring in your clean unwanted, good clothes in a black sack or any type of bag. The more you bring in the heavier the weight and the more money we can raise for school! <https://www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk/>  
Bring in on **Monday 14th February** and leave at the front of school.



### **Parents' Evening**

Thank you to everyone who has booked their parents' evening appointment with their child's class teacher, next week. Parents with children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 will be sent a Zoom link via Class Dojo, please go to [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) to 'join the meeting' using a web browser, you do not need to download or pay for an app. Parents with children in Years 2-6 will use their child's Teams account, log in details are in the front of their school reading record book.

Please be on time for your appointment as timings are tight. You may be asked to wait in a virtual 'waiting room' until the teacher is free; if you are late to your appointment, you are likely to miss it. Please contact your teacher by ClassDojo if you are having difficulties and they will reply to your message as soon as they are free. Your patience will be very much appreciated at this event.

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.'



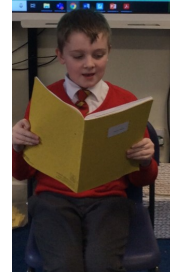
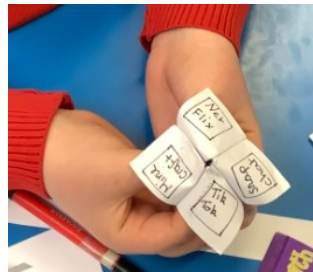
## Internet Safety and Mental Health Week

This week was Internet Safety Week and Children's Mental Health Week.

On Tuesday 8th February teachers planned a day of activities to support children's mental health which focused on strategies to promote positive mental health and thinking about people they could talk to if they were feeling anxious or worried. Children learned to think about who supports them to grow and who helps us to cope with any challenges they face.



Our children also learned a lot about Internet Safety. We had some very special guests to help us learn, as our local Police Officers came in to discuss the safe use of the internet. They started with the West Midlands Regional Cyber Crime Unit for Internet Safety Day 2022 presentation, where the children watched age appropriate online safety advice and promoted the safe and positive use of digital technology for children. The police officers then answered any questions the children had about Internet Safety and spoke at length about age restrictions and the importance of privacy. They even got to discuss what they would do in certain scenarios which could challenge them in the future.



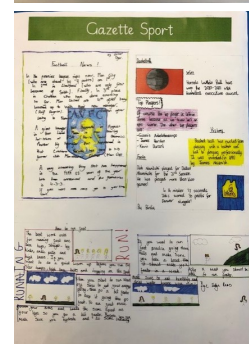
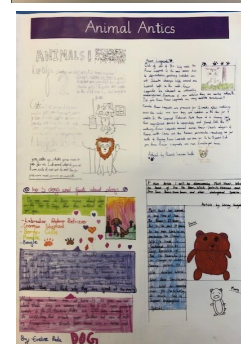
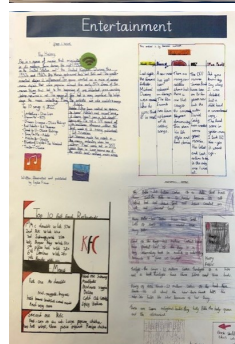
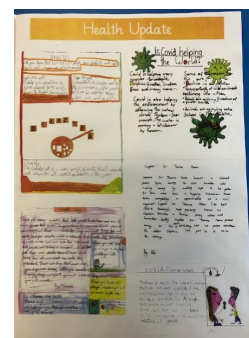
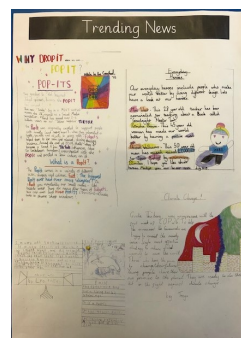
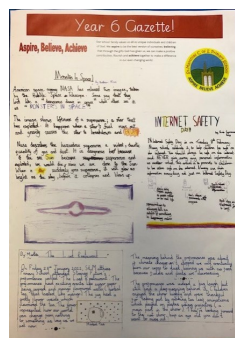
**Inspired by The Sound Collector, a poem by Stanley Y2**

**Year 6 have created an amazing Newspaper this week!**

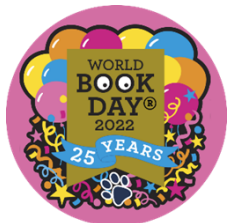
### In The Outback

The scratching of the koala,  
Scratch, scratch!  
The sneaking of the dingo,  
Rustle, rustle!  
The jumping of the Tasmanian Devil,  
Jump, jump!  
The preying of the Common Death Adders,  
Prey, prey!  
The swimming of the Salt Water Crocodiles,  
Splash, splash!  
The webbing of the Redback Spider,  
Web, web!  
The hissing of the frilled lizards,  
Hiss, hiss!

By Stanley, Y2







## 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. Libby, 1. Charlie, 2. Stanley, 3. Poppee, 4. Darcy, 5. Jessica, 6. Martha.

**Value Leaf for showing Dignity:** R. Nicolas, 1. Shanti, 2. Jacob, 3. Fraiser, 4. Alumie, 5. Olivia, 6. Evie.

**Spotted (Improved Spelling & Editing):** R. Mila, 1. Marlee-Mae, 2. Charlotte, 3. Lily, 4. Sophie, 5. Connor, 6. Harry.

**Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times this week):** Tommy Yr 2

**Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside)** Molly Yr R

### 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 !



**Evie, Y2** has achieved her Level 3 swimming award. Fantastic work!

**Evelyn, Y6** was invited to play 'ball person' at Birmingham City Football Stadium during a FA Women's Football match between Birmingham City and Sunderland.



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

	Percentage	Sessions missed		Percentage	Sessions Missed
Nursery	92.1%	8	Year 3	94.3%	17
Reception	93.0%	16	Year 4	89.0%	22
<b>Year 1</b>	100%	<b>0</b>	Year 5	87.3%	33
Year 2	94.0%	12	Year 6	77.3%	68
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 & to Year 1 for the least missing sessions.

Well done to Year 1 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

#### **Rags to Riches**

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

#### **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

You can plan + prepare for your child's World Book Day outfit during the half term holiday.  
See Page 3 for details

#### **Ready Steady Read**

This event ends on 4th March  
See details Page 1

#### **Easter Service**

Wednesday 6th April (school only)

#### **Young Voices**

17th May 2022

### Class Events

#### **Nursery Online Parents Evening**

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 & HOLIDAYS

#### **SPRING TERM 2022**

**HALF TERM BREAK**

SCHOOL CLOSSES

Staff ONLY—Training Day

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

at 3.15pm on 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