



# 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: [admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk)

Website: [www.stmatthiasceprimary.co.uk](http://www.stmatthiasceprimary.co.uk)



**Friday 16th December 2022**

## Dear Parents and Carers,

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 2023. The term starts for all the children on **Tuesday 3rd January 2023 at 8.45am.**

## Christmas Dinner

Christmas dinner was a busy event on Monday! Lots of children enjoyed pulling a cracker and wearing their party hats. Thank you to all the lunchtime supervisors and volunteers on Monday for ensuring that the meal went smoothly and the children enjoyed the delicious meal!



## Christmas Carol Service

The Carol Service was beautiful as usual. There were readings depicting the Christmas story presented by representatives from each class from Year 2 to Year 6. The Early Years sang their song 'Special News'



## Christmas Party Days



Have a peaceful Christmas holiday,  
from *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.'



**Parent Questionnaire Feedback**

Thank you to all the parents who completed our parent questionnaire this term. Here are some of the results...

89% agreed/strongly agreed that their child was happy at St Matthias, 11% were neutral = 100%

81% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias makes sure its pupils are well behaved, 19% were neutral = 100%

60% had not experienced bullying, 28% agreed/strongly agreed bullying was dealt with effectively, 9% were neutral = 96%

85% agreed/strongly agreed that they were aware of what their child was learning, 4% were neutral = 89%

98% agreed/strongly agreed that communication was effective, 2% were neutral = 100%

23% had no concerns and 62% agreed/strongly agreed that their concerns dealt with properly, 11% were neutral = 96%

89% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias had high expectations, 11% neutral = 100%

89% agreed/strongly agreed that their child did well at St Matthias, 6% were neutral = 95%

83% agreed/strongly agreed that the school lets me know how my child is doing, 15% were neutral = 98%

85% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias helped parents to support their child's learning, 13% were neutral = 98%

92% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias supported their child's wider personal development, 8% were neutral = 100%

92% agreed/strongly agreed that there was a good range of subjects available, 8% were neutral = 100%

89% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias prepared their child for the future, 9% were neutral = 98%

96% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias is well led and managed, 4% were neutral = 100%

94% agreed/strongly agreed that they would recommend St Matthias to another parent, 6% were neutral = 100%

23% of the questionnaires represented families with pupils with SEND and 90% of those agreed/strongly agreed that the school gives their child the support they need to succeed, 10% were neutral = 100%

32% of the families completing the questionnaire shared that it was important to them that their child attends a church school.

We were overwhelmingly grateful for the positive comments and suggestions we received and will take on board many of the suggestions to ensure that we continue to improve St Matthias for the good of your children. Thank you.

The friendliness of all staff. The extra-curricular activities offered. The fabulous wraparound facilities!

The staff are friendly and the school is like a big family everyone looks out for everyone and the support is amazing.

Teachers genuinely care about each child. If I have or my child has ever had an issue it has been dealt with almost immediately and will always be followed up.

We feel that St Matthias works very hard to provide a high standard of consistent learning for all of the children. It is a fun learning environment. The well being of the children is always put first.

Tight-knit school, children are taken good care of, fluid communication between parents and school, caring, good tips on how to improve your child's learning.

Teachers appropriately stretch children to support their development personally and educationally.







### Our School Family Christmas Trees

I love reading the prayers from our Christmas Tree in the hall! They are so very special! Our trees outside are also looking very Christ-massy with all the donated decorations! Thank you!

#### **A prayer by Charlie, Y3**

Dear Lord, Please help us to communicate with each other and be the best version of ourselves. Amen

#### **A prayer by Evie, Y3**

Please help us to be peaceful in our ever changing world every single day. Also help us to be peaceful around others. Amen



### Father Christmas Visits St Matthias

There was a real treat this week when Father Christmas visited St Matthias! He joined in parties, played on the play-ground and interrupted lessons!! Mr Thompson made a great Elf too! Every child received a present from him with some great advice for Christmas Eve reminding them to go to bed and not wake up until it is morning! He then wished us all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



### Outside Achievements

Throughout the academic year we like to celebrate, with you, all the outside achievements of our pupils. During our Friday worship we hope to inspire lots of you to share your outside achievements with us in school!

**Please send me any outside achievements for our first Friday Worship after the Christmas holidays. We look forward to hearing all about them!**

### Malvern Community Fridge

The Community Fridge at St Mary's Church in Sherrards Green Road WR14 2EE is open Thursday 22nd December 9-12 noon and Friday 23rd December 9-12 noon and then reopens on 5th January.



## An Acrostic poem written by Poppee, Year 4

### CHRISTMAS !

Christmas carols, cheery people  
 Happy Christmas, hot Christmas dinner  
 Rustling paper, rapping Christmas songs  
 Icy water, looks like snow  
 Stockings hanging ready for Santa  
 Tinsel on the tree, twinkling  
 Mums and dads munching mince pies  
 Angels standing by the crib  
 Stars shining, up above.



**Attendance** Despite much illness in our school this term, an amazing 24 pupils had 100% attendance. Scarlett Yr 6 won the termly prize for 100% attendance.

The table below shows class attendance statistics for this TERM. Our target is 96% or more. Well done to Year 5 for 94.4% attendance this term!

	Percentage	MISSED Sessions		Percentage	MISSED Sessions
Nursery	80.6%		Year 3	89.0%	
Reception	89.4%		Year 4	93.7%	
Year 1	91.9%		Year 5	94.4%	
Year 2	91.0%		Year 6	93.7%	

There are two sessions every day, am and pm. All children from Yrs R - 6 attend 10 sessions per week.

### Monthly Attendance Award for December

An amazing 87 children had 100% attendance in December. The December prize winner is Sienna Yr 3.



As a church school, 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 focus on what they mean in our lives and in our relationships with each other.

*Our Value this half term is Peace*



**John 14:27** "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

**Hebrews 12:14** "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone"

**Dalai Lama** "Do not let the behaviour of others destroy your inner peace"

**Gandhi** "The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will have peace".

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.

Teachers will be on the look out this half term for children who are really trying hard to be peaceful and to make peace with the children and adults in their lives.

Heavenly Father, We lift up all those who are facing various illnesses. Give them the hope and courage they need today and every day. Comfort their pain, calm their fears, and surround them with Your peace. Amen.

# NOTICEBOARD

## REMINDERS

### WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS



**MERRY CHRISTMAS !**

School opens on Tuesday  
3rd January 2023 at 8.45am.

“Understanding Your Child” course  
Tuesday 10th January 9.15am



### CLASS EVENTS

**Happy New Year !**



## HELPFUL INFORMATION

### Who to contact in school

**MRS KAZEROONI** for:- Attendance issues, (reasons for absences if possible contact us before 9.15am), to request forms, changes of address, email or phone numbers, general enquires, urgent contact, to 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 finance issues ie:- Whizz Kids or nursery bookings, paying any bills or invoices, trips, music lessons, purchasing PE kit etc . please email [finance@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:finance@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk) or Phone 01684 574984 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 (so 6 times per year)**, visit their website <https://www.blackpepperlunches.com/BP-default.php>

### Worcestershire Virtual Family Hub

Scan this QR code to access support for you and your family. There are a range of resources that are available online, on the phone or face to face that you can access directly yourself.



### 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

**Male Domestic Abuse 24 hour Helpline** 0800 014 9082

**Women's Aid 24hr Helpline** 0800 980 3331

**School Nurse** – 01684 612668

**Family Front Door** - 01905 822666 to request help or to report a concern about a child.

**The Family Hub** for parenting support and advice ([click here](#))

**Parent Online Safety Information** ([click here](#))

**Malvern Hills Housing support** ([click here](#))

### TERM DATES & HOLIDAYS

#### Autumn 2022

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE for Christmas on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 3.15pm

#### Spring 2023

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 at 8.45am

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE for Half term on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 3.15pm

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 8.45am

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE for Easter on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 3.15pm

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 8.45am

Dates for the whole year are on Newsletter 2 - September 16th 2022.





## Useful information for parents



### 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, read the criteria and guidance, including the evidence required and then if you meet the criteria please complete the application form. <https://actonenergy.org.uk/project/worcestershire-hsf/>



### Citizens Advice

You can also contact the Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) if you need support with energy bills or financial advice; through email, telephone or face to face appointments <http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

### Malvern Office:

0808 278 7891 (Adviceline) – available Monday-Friday from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

01684 563611 (Option 1 for advice, option 2 for admin. Please note availability of the option 1 local advice service is limited and callers may wish to use Advice line in the first instance)



### #SleighNoToLoanSharks

Christmas is a time for joy and happiness, but for the millions of families struggling with spiralling debt to loan sharks, it can be the most terrifying time of the year. Figures show that nearly one in ten people who borrowed from loan sharks last year did so to cover the costs of Christmas.

The England Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) is concerned that ruthless loan sharks will try to cash in on the festive period as many families struggle to cope with rising food, fuel and energy bills this winter.

**Are you worried about someone who is being taken advantage of by a loan shark?**  
**Contact the Stop Loan Sharks 24/7 Helpline on 0300 555 2222 for support**  
**[www.stoploansharks.co.uk](http://www.stoploansharks.co.uk)**

[costoflivingsupport.campaign.gov.uk](http://costoflivingsupport.campaign.gov.uk)

- **Income Support**
- **Energy Bills—Cost of Living Payments**
- **Childcare Costs**
- **Household costs**
- **Childcare Costs**
- **Finding Work**



**Help for Households**

[costoflivingsupport.campaign.gov.uk](http://costoflivingsupport.campaign.gov.uk) provides access to contacts who can provide support for households.

Visit '**Discounts and Offers**' for hot meals for children for £1 and discounted children's meals at leading supermarkets.

Cost of Living campaign click on this link— <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>

'Discounts and Offers' click on this link— <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/discounts-and-offers/>



# Household Support Fund



In partnership with the **Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)** the **Household Support Fund (HSF)** grant will help households in Worcestershire who are most in need for support with energy bills, food and water bills. The scheme will run between 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.

## The Household Support Fund

The Household Support Fund (HSF) will provide support to those most in need (including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers, and people with disabilities) by providing vouchers or payments to eligible households or making direct provisions to help with food and goods.

## How can I apply for the household support fund to help with energy?

Act on Energy are providing support for energy costs across Worcestershire. For more information please visit:

[www.actonenergy.org.uk/project/worcestershire-hsf](http://www.actonenergy.org.uk/project/worcestershire-hsf)

Pensioners, carers or people with disabilities on a low income are also encouraged to contact Age UK Worcester and Malvern to see if they are eligible for a one-off payment towards food and fuel costs by calling **01905 724294**.

## Here2Help

Further information on the wider local support available, including the cost of living, visit Here2Help Worcestershire:

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20758/here2help](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20758/here2help)

For more information about the Household Support Fund scan our QR code with your smart phone



## Help with food and other essentials

Help with food and other essentials may also be available via your local District Council or their partner organisations. Information about what is available can be found by visiting our webpage and selecting your district: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20241/warmer\\_worcestershire/2519/household\\_support\\_fund](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20241/warmer_worcestershire/2519/household_support_fund)

## Claiming Free School Meal Vouchers during the school holidays

The Council has extended this offer with further support for families who qualify for a Free School meal in the holidays until the end of March 2023. Currently you will need to contact your school directly regarding the issuing of Free School Meals vouchers during school holidays.

Additional support with holiday activities and lunch is also available for families via the Ready Steady Worcestershire programme: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20818/ready\\_steady\\_worcestershire\\_-\\_school\\_holiday\\_food\\_and\\_activities](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20818/ready_steady_worcestershire_-_school_holiday_food_and_activities)

## Healthy Start

Healthy Start is a Government Scheme that provides weekly vouchers to eligible parents and can help you if you're pregnant or have a young child under four. These vouchers can be spent on milk, fruit and vegetables and infant formula milk at your local shops and supermarkets, as well as offering coupons for free vitamins too.

For more information about the scheme, visit

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20532/pregnancy/1829/healthy\\_start](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20532/pregnancy/1829/healthy_start)

Additional support with holiday activities and lunch is also available for families via the Ready Steady Worcestershire programme







# CHRISTMAS GIFT STATION

SELECTION OF FREE GIFTS  
FIRST COME BASIS

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DECEMBER 20 • 11-2PM

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ARE YOU STRUGGLING FOR GIFTS

WE ARE HOLDING A GIFT STATION  
AT WMYDMYB CENTRE  
SUPPORTED BY OUR COMMUNITY

