

St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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Friday 20th January 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have had a number of new pupils join our school family since returning after Christmas and I wanted to warmly welcome you and your families. Please make sure that you connect with your class teacher using our communication app ClassDojo. An invitation to join should have been sent to your email address. Please follow the link and you will be connected. If you have not received the link please speak to someone on the gate in the morning or the school office. ClassDojo is a super way to make contact with the class teacher to ask questions, share information or ask for advice. You can also view the class story page to see what learning has happened over the week and the whole school page often reminds you of events which are happening during the week. However, please remember that the teachers won't always see the message if they are in the middle of teaching. Urgent messages regarding collections, important information about changes of routine or emergencies should go via the school office. ALL information regarding absence and attendance must be sent to the office by email or telephone. Thank you.



Young Voices Choir

The Young Voices choir thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon and evening at the NEC with over 6000 other children! For some children it was their second time and for others it was their first encounter of Young Voices! Although, there were some nervous children amongst us, everyone played their part and enjoyed the occasion. We sang with Heather Small; we learned to 'beat box' with the world famous beat box group and joined in moves with the 'Urban Dancers.' During the evening, the lights went off, the torches and spotlights came on and it was magical experience watching the final performance and joining in with all the songs we had learned. The children (and staff) were exhausted by the time we returned at 10pm; at least this year we had the weekend to recover! A big thank you to the children and the staff for making this another successful trip to Young Voices!



Year 6 SATS information briefing

It was lovely to see lots of parents and grandparents at the Year 6 SATs briefing this week delivered by Mrs West. If you were unable to attend the session the PowerPoint presentation was uploaded to the Year 6 class story page on 18th January. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to send a message via ClassDojo to Mrs West.



Teachers Strike Action

As you may have heard in the news, some Teaching Unions have balloted to strike on specific dates during February and March. As a school we will do everything we can to remain open and have lessons running as normal for our pupils. We will complete risk assessments before we make any decisions to close classes to ensure the safety of pupils on the premises. We will not know how many classes are affected until much nearer the time but we will endeavour to inform you as soon as possible. Currently we will be open as normal.

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.'



Early Years Stay and Play– Chinese New Year

The Early Years unit had a wonderful morning on Thursday. Lots of parents were able to stay for the activities set out and it was super to see the children enjoying sharing their play and excitement with their families. I even spotted glitter! Thank you to the staff who prepared this morning of fun, exploration and learning. It is amazing how much learning can happen in moments like these:- communication, sharing, problem solving, deliberating, social development and most importantly making memories!

Chinese New Year will be celebrated this Sunday, 22nd January 2023. It is one of the most important holidays in the Chinese culture. It lasts for up to 16 days and this year is the year of the 'rabbit.' The recent years of the Rabbit are 2023, 2011, 1999, 1987, 1975, 1963, 1951 and 1939. They say the lucky things for those born in the year of the rabbits are colours– red, pink, purple and blue, the numbers 3,4,9! They say that rabbits are earnest with everything they do; they just ask that others treat them the same way!



An article written by our Speech and Language Therapist Jasmin Jacks:

Speech and Language - Listening

Good listening underpins all language development and helps children to interact successfully with others. There are four rules of good listening:

1. Listening to ALL the words
2. Looking at the person who is talking
3. Sitting still
4. Staying quiet

5 ways to help children listen!

Model the behaviour you want to see 😊
Stop what you are doing if you can and look at them when they speak to you.



Don't just say 'listen to me!' Be explicit about what you want them to do e.g. "I need you listen all the way to the end of my words".

Praise good listening behaviour when they show it... "you were so quiet when I was talking then! That really helped you do your *BEST* listening".

Keep your instructions short. The less you say the more they listen!

Be careful about background noise. It makes it much harder for children to listen so turn it down or turn it off!



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If you have any concerns about your child's communication skills please phone or email the school office (admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk), and I will call you back on my next visit into school. You can also contact me directly on 01562 714700. Jasmin Jacks (Speech and Language Therapist)

Jasmin will also be available during our Parents' Evenings in March.

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 !

Tyler Y4, For achieving, along with his football team, a place in the quarter finals after winning their last match at the weekend 5-1. We are all proud of you! Good luck for the semi finals!

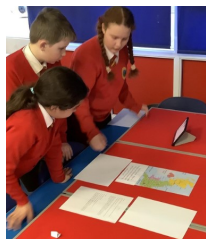
Edward-Noah Y2, for learning to ride your bike without any stabilizers! What an achievement! We are proud of you!



Athena & Molly Y5, for taking their own initiative to raise money for Cancer Research by completing a mile a day. If you would like to sponsor them please speak to their parents or send a message via school. Well done girls, it is so lovely to see you making a difference to other peoples lives! Thank you!

Learning indoors and outdoors!

It has been a week of indoor and outdoor learning. The Year five pupils have been considering the outdoor space and how to make positive changes to the environment. The Year six pupils are working together on a project linked to 'Blackpool vs Birmingham!' Year two went on a walk around the area looking for geographical, human and physical features in Malvern Link. Year one have been exploring play with a variety of toys from the past. They were deciding if the toys were more fun than an iPad!



ACADEMIC TERM DATES for St Matthias of The Spire Learning Trust 2022 - 2023.

SPRING TERM

HALF TERM

Saturday 18th to Sunday 26th February 2023

SCHOOL & NURSERY END

Friday 31st March 2023

SUMMER TERM

SCHOOL & NURSERY BEGIN

Monday 17th April 2023

MAY DAY

Monday 1st May 2023 - School Closed

King Charles Coronation Bank Holiday

Monday 8th May 2023 - School Closed

HALF TERM

Saturday 27th May to Sunday 4th June 2023

SCHOOL & NURSERY END

Friday 21st July 2023

Staff Professional Development

Monday 24th July 2023

Staff Professional Development

Tuesday 25th July 2023

The Academic Year 2023 to 2024 will start on Wednesday 6th September 2023.

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. Millicent, 1. Charlie, 2. Ella, 3. Adam, 4. Brooke, 5. Connor, 6. Valters.

Value Leaf for showing Dignity: R. Anastasia, 1. Oakley, 2. Logan, 3. Jacob B, 4. Oliver, 5. Max, 6. Fraser.

Spotted (Improved Spelling & Editing): R. Lyla, 1. Lexi, 2. Isabella, 3. William D, 4. Brae, 5. Rosie, 6. Orkida.

Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times this week): Jacob Yr 3

Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside) Alumi Yr5

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

	Percentage	Sessions missed		Percentage	Sessions Missed
Nursery	72.7%	46	Year 3	87.7%	27
Reception	93.0%	14	Year 4	87.4%	39
Year 1	83.1%	42	Year 5	98.4%	4
Year 2	81.5%	24	Year 6	94.5%	15
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 5** for the best attendance this week at 98.4% .

Well done to Year 5 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 challenging times.

Dignity





NOTICEBOARD



REMINDERS

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

The parents "Understanding Your Child" group 9.15am on Tuesday 24th January in school.

Number Day
Friday 3rd February
See details on page 2.

Children's Mental Health Week 6th to 12th February 2023– more information to follow.

Internet Safety Day 7th February 2023– more information to follow.

Parents' Evenings
Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd March 2023
SEND appointments on Wednesday 1st March only

World Book Day
Thursday 2nd March 2023

Easter Service
Wednesday 29th March.

CLASS EVENTS

Year 5 Geography Trip
Tuesday 14th February. Letter soon.

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 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 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 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 (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

Spring 2023

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE for Half term on Friday 17th February at 3.15pm

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN Monday 27th February at 8.45am

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE for Easter on Friday 31st March at 3.15pm

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN Monday 17th April at 8.45am

Refreshed dates for the rest of this year are on Page 3 of Newsletter 15