

St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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Friday 31st March 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

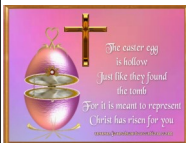
This week, we have heard the sad news of the death of one of our parents in our school family community. She was loved by so many people, family and friends and she was a very brave lady until the end. I know she touched many hearts and would do anything for anyone. We send our deepest sympathy and love to the family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them at this difficult time and we will respect their time of grief.

Well Dressing 2023

It is that time of year when we start thinking about well-dressing. On the first bank holiday weekend in May which starts on Friday 28th April we will dress 'Lord Sandy's Well' in Spring Lane, Malvern. The theme this year is 'Kings and Queens' which fits beautifully with the Kings Coronation this year. After Easter each class is taking on a theme linked to 'Kings and Queens' and will produce writing, art work and sculptures to dress the well in preparation. On Friday 28th April we will take all the items to the well and make it look very special ready for the 'Judging Day' on Saturday 29th April. If you and your family would like to contribute to our well dressing and you would like to create something during the Easter holidays linked to the theme 'Kings and Queens' then you are more than welcome. Please bring in your creations after Easter so we can keep them safe ready for the event. Anything goes, you cannot go wrong with this project especially if you are feeling creative!

Easter Service

Our school family of parents, children, staff and church came together on Wednesday morning for a beautiful Easter Service; this was led by the children and each class had their part to play. The children sang and read beautifully. The Year 5 readings told the story of Easter and Year 6 displayed their stunning stained glass windows at each point of the story. We enjoyed palm waving by Reception, the explanation of Salvation by Year 4; we loved the re-enactment of the 'Last Supper' by Year 2 during which Valters played Jesus. Year 3 wrote and read some very moving thankful prayers and we finished with Year 1 celebrating with their dance. Thank you to all the parents who were able to join us in the service.



Easter Bonnet Parade

We were treated to a wonderful Easter Bonnet Parade today by our wonderful Early Years and Key Stage 1 children. The children made their Easter Bonnets in school then paraded the beautiful bonnets through both playgrounds, with lots of parents, staff and children clapping. We are so proud of you all! Thank you parents for staying to watch!



Easter Fund Raiser

Thank you to everyone who donated Easter eggs for the Easter Wall lucky dip and to everyone who bought a brick to be in with a chance of winning an egg! **We raised an amazing £225** for our school fund. We had an eventful afternoon worship where there were lots of smiles and 'eggitement' when bricks with names were pulled out of the bucket!



Have a wonderful Easter holiday and see you all on Monday 17th April, 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.'



School Therapy Dog.

We have some very exciting news to tell you about! After lots of preparation and discussions it has been agreed by Governors and our Trust that St Matthias can have a School Therapy Dog. With this newsletter comes a **letter to parents** and carers outlining more information about how Therapy Dogs can benefit schools, there is also a '**Frequently Asked Questions**' section. We are extremely lucky as our Therapy Dog belongs to Mrs O'Connor who has been training her puppy since he was only a few months old, he is now 22 months old and is ready to start gradually being introduced to the St Matthias family! We are very grateful to Mrs O'Connor for sharing her precious dog with us but also spending the time to ensure that he is totally 'ready, respectful and safe' (our school rules) to be in school!

His name is Barney and he is a Sprocker Spaniel. Barney has passed his Kennel Club Foundation Assessment and is working towards his Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bronze Award. He trains every week with an Accredited Dog Trainer working on his companion dog training and behavioural training. I have to say that I am personally nervous around dogs, however I have met Barney lots of times now and I have never worried about being around him.

We are very aware as a school that some children may be also worried around dogs and we can reassure you that if your child does not want to say hello to Barney, then they don't have to.

We have talked to your children about the rules and expectations around Barney when he first arrives and they listened very carefully. Barney will have a safe space in my office and when he leaves the office he will always be with an adult on a short lead. As he gets used to being in school, hearing the new sounds and environment he will visit classes and say hello to the children. He has already visited our school a number of times in the holidays so is familiar with some of the smells, sounds and spaces.

Thorough risk assessments have been completed and a School Dog Policy has been written. Other dogs will not be allowed on the property as our School Dog risk assessment applies to Barney only.

Children can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills through contact with a dog. In addition to these benefits, children take great enjoyment from interaction with a dog. Therefore, we know that Barney will benefit not only the children but staff too!



Year 6 trip to The Black Country museum

After having to postpone their trip a few weeks ago due to the snow, Year 6 were very pleased to visit the Black Country Museum as part of their learning on the Victorians. They explored artefacts, the school room, shops, household items and even got to taste 'beef dripping' fish and chips! They had an amazing day and would thoroughly recommend a visit there!



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!

Rosie, Molly, Athena, Kayleigh & Lily Y5 for raising money for Birmingham Children's Hospital by selling homemade fidgets. The idea was developed by Rosie and the team of girls have already raised over £20. The fidgets are available to buy before and after school with permission from parents to purchase. We are proud of your fundraising efforts for a very good cause!



Speech and Language Article

Speech and Language – Transitions

It's the end of term soon – I hope everyone has a lovely Easter! It can be difficult for children to get back into the routine after a break. Visual support can be really helpful – here is a getting ready plan which can be downloaded from <https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/childrens-speech-and-language-resources/> (under 'resources to help at home' section) or you could make your own. It might be useful for the first day back!

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)

Getting ready for the day

	Wake up!	
	Wash your hands	
	Brush your teeth	
	Get dressed	
	Make your bed	
	Eat your breakfast	
	Check what you need today	
	Get your bag ready	

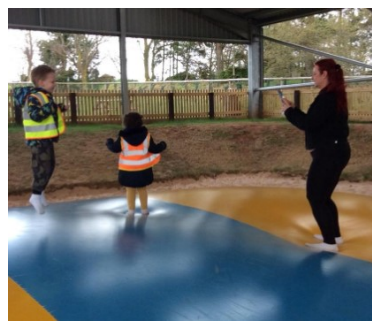
© Worcestershire Speech and Language Therapy 2020
Find more advice and resources at www.hacw.nhs.uk/childrensLT



Nursery Trip to Little Owls Farm

Our Nursery class and parents had a fantastic day at Little Owls Farm park last Friday. The children enjoyed bottle feeding the lambs and feeding the goats, deer and alpacas on the farm. They were able to stroke a very fluffy Lionhead rabbit, a cheeky Guinea Pig and a baby chick! They decided that the one week old piglets were the best animal they saw as they were so cute!

They also enjoyed a very bumpy tractor ride where they looked for lots of animals in the hedgerows. They explored the soft play area and bouncy pillows! It was a wonderful day out and the parents enjoyed themselves too!



HOLY WEEK:

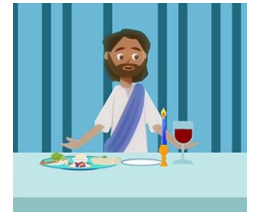
Sunday 10th April marks the start of Holy Week. Easter is the most important Christian event in the Church Calendar along with Christmas. This year Holy Week will be during our Easter holiday.

**Palm Sunday (Sunday 2nd April)**

This is the Sunday before Easter Sunday. It is the first day of Holy Week and celebrates Jesus' arrival in **Jerusalem** riding on a donkey. Crowds of people came out of the city to greet him, throwing down **palm branches** on the road. Anglican and Roman Catholic churches give out **small crosses** made from palm leaves as a reminder of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem and his death on the cross. Some Christians keep these in their homes all year as a symbol of their faith.

**Maundy Thursday (Thursday 6th April)**

This is the Thursday before Easter Day. On Maundy Thursday, Christians remember when Jesus ate the **Passover meal** with his disciples, breaking bread and drinking wine. Christians refer to this meal as the **Last Supper**. Many Christians remember the Last Supper by sharing bread and wine together in a church service called Holy Communion, Eucharist or Mass. It is a reminder that Jesus sacrificed his life for mankind.

**Good Friday (Friday 7th April)**

Good Friday is the Friday before Easter Sunday. It commemorates the execution of Jesus by **crucifixion**. Good Friday is a day of mourning in church. During special Good Friday services, Christians remember Jesus' suffering and death on the cross and what this means for their faith. In some countries, there are special Good Friday processions, or re-enactments of the Crucifixion.

**Easter Sunday: (Sunday 9th April)**

Easter Sunday marks Jesus's **resurrection**. After Jesus was crucified on the Friday his body was taken down from the cross and buried in a cave tomb. The tomb was guarded by Roman soldiers and an enormous stone was put over the entrance. On the Sunday, **Mary Magdalene** and some of Jesus' disciples visited the tomb. They found the stone had been moved and that Jesus' body had gone. Jesus was seen later that day by Mary and the disciples and for forty days afterwards by many people. His followers realised that God had raised Jesus from the dead. Christians call this the resurrection.

**Easter Eggs**

An egg is a symbol of new life. For Christians, Easter eggs are used as a symbol for the Resurrection of Jesus. Christians believe that, through his resurrection, Jesus overcame death and sin. This offers people the promise of eternal life if they follow his teachings. Nowadays, most Easter eggs are made from chocolate and covered in coloured foil. Traditionally though, chicken eggs would be hard boiled and then decorated by hand. Traditional Easter egg hunts remain popular with both Christian and non-Christian children.

**Community Fridges**

There are a number of Community Food Fridges around Malvern so if you need extra supplies this Easter you can pop along and see what they have.

St Mary's Church, Sherrards Green Road (9am-12 Thursday & Friday)

The Octagon in Brookfarm Drive (Friday's 9.30-11am)

The Ascension Hall, Somers Park Av (Monday 10.30am-1pm)



Celebration Worship Awards

Every Friday we hold a 'Celebration Worship' to give out awards to our children to celebrate their achievements.

Certificates (Effort in their work): R. Ellie, 1. Lexi, 2. Marlee-Mae, 3. Tianna, 4. Poppee, 5. Lily, 6. Abbie.

Value Leaf for showing Hope: R. Zoya, 1. Miriam, 2. Ortensia, 3. Anna, 4. James, 5. Shiv, 6. Olivia.

Spotted (Improved Spelling & Editing): R. Kyra, 1. Daisy, 2. Amelia, 3. William, 4. Lily, 5. Molly, 6. Lexi.

Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times this week): Poppy Yr 5

Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside): Mia-Rose Yr 1

Thank you to the parents who were able to join us this morning !

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

	Percentage	Sessions missed		Percentage	Sessions Missed
Nursery	81.7%	29	Year 3	94.7%	11
Reception	88.1%	25	Year 4	93.5%	20
Year 1	88.4%	30	Year 5	85.9%	39
Year 2	96.9%	4	Year 6	92.5%	21
There are two sessions in every day, am and pm. All children from Yrs R - 6 attend 10 sessions per week.					

Well done to **Yr 2** for the best attendance this week at **96.9%**.

Congratulations to **Yr 2** for only having **4 absence sessions**.

Termly Attendance Award Huge congratulations to the **24 super-fit pupils** who had **100% attendance** for the Spring term. The Spring term prize for 100% attendance will be announced after Easter.

Monthly Attendance Award for March 2023 Congratulations to the amazing **68 children** who had **100% attendance** in February 2023. The February prize winner is will be announced after Easter.

Hope

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 "Hope"

Isaiah 40:31 "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint"

Christians see their hope in God's promise, "that love and goodness have and will ultimately overcome all evil"

Dalai Lama "When faced with problems don't lose hope. Keep up your self confidence and don't be too impatient to achieve quick results."

Gandhi "Only he can be a leader who never loses hope"

Teachers will be on the look out this half term for children who are really trying hard to show hope in their learning and around school.

Hope



NOTICEBOARD



REMINDERS

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

Summer Fayre
Saturday 24th June 2023

CLASS EVENTS

Reception Tuesday 18th April
Infant Agility Trip to The School Games.

Year 6 SAT's
Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th May

Year 5 Oakerwood Residential Trip
Wednesday 17th - Friday 19th May

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** and ask to speak to Mrs James.

CLASS TEACHER for:- classroom issues, learning or behaviour related, use ClassDojo. 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.



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

Summer 2023

SCHOOL & NURSERY BEGIN

MAY DAY

King Charles Coronation Holiday

HALF TERM

SCHOOL & NURSERY close for summer at 3.15pm on Friday 21st July 2023

Staff Professional Development Monday 24th July 2023 + Tuesday 25th July 2023

Monday 17th April 2023 at 8.45am

Monday 1st May 2023 - School Closed

Monday 8th May 2023 - School Closed

Saturday 27th May to Sunday 4th June

Dates for the Academic Year 2023 to 2024 are on Page 5 of newsletter 23