

# St Matthias Newsletter



## St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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**Friday 8th September 2023**

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

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back after the summer holidays even if the sun has only just come out and produced a heat wave when we returned this week!



### **Teacher Education Days**

I welcomed the staff back on Monday with our two Teacher Education Days (TED). During our first training day we welcomed a new Teaching Assistant, Ms Boddy, who is working with Mrs Maidens in Year 5. She has lots of experience of working with children and families and has already started to build lots of positive relationships with staff and children. So welcome to St Matthias Ms Boddy; we hope you feel part of our wonderful school family and have settled in this week.

During the first TED day we focused on our School Development Plan and the priorities for this academic year. Essentially our priorities are to maintain high expectations to ensure children continue to make progress across the curriculum. We will achieve this by continuing to provide an engaging and a well sequenced curriculum that meets the needs of all learners, ensuring that the children build on prior learning and retain lots of new knowledge and skills. We are particularly focusing on high quality writing across the curriculum and continuing to develop the children's ability to apply their knowledge of arithmetic to reasoning and problem solving, particularly focusing on using precise vocabulary when explaining. Alongside this we will continue to work on reducing Persistent Absence and working with families to ensure that children maximise their learning by attending school everyday to reduce gaps through missed education. Children learn on a daily basis and each lesson builds on their previous learning, missed lessons create gaps in knowledge which is often hard to fill.

Our second TED day was focused on Positive Handling Training so all staff are trained to support any child who might need help when they feel overwhelmed or a space to feel calm. On the very rare occasions when children dysregulate it is important that all staff feel confident and know what to do to keep a child safe from harm. This was followed by our whole school safeguarding training to update our knowledge in line with the statutory DfE Document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023.'

### **First week back**

It has been an extremely hot week to welcome the children back to school, but they have been absolutely amazing at settling in to their new classes with their new class teachers and re-establishing good routines.

I would really like to warmly welcome our newest children and their families to St Matthias, not just our Early Years but those who have joined in other year groups. We hope you have felt a part of our lovely school family and that you have made some new friends to help you feel at ease!

It has also been lovely walking around the classes this week, seeing the children so settled and working hard already! Isn't it nice to get back into a routine!



Parents, you can help us achieve our priorities by supporting your child at home to read every day, complete homework set, talk about words and their meanings and by enabling your child to have an excellent school attendance (above 96%) Holidays should NOT be booked in term time and medical appointments should be booked outside school hours unless absolutely necessary. Every day, every half day and every lesson counts towards giving your child the best chance of success and making as much progress as they can. Please support us in educating your child.

**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.'





### **Celebration Worship Awards**

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

Parents of children receiving an award will be contacted on a Thursday to join us in school on a Friday morning at 9am to watch the presentation.



### **Outside Achievements**

We also celebrate any outside achievements your child has received or taken part in outside of school. For example, music lessons, sporting activities, learning to ride a bike, Baptisms etc.

Please let Mrs Beale know about the outside achievement and send a photograph if you have one so we can also celebrate this on a Friday morning and in the weekly newsletter.



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 Thankfulness***

**Colossians 2:7** Let your roots grow down into him and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught and you will overflow with thankfulness."

**Psalms 118:2** "This is the day that the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it."

**Dalai Lama** "When you practise gratefulness, there is a sense of respect towards others"

**Charles Shwab** "The way to develop the best that is in a person is by appreciation and thanks. Be **thankful** for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough. He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has."

Adults in school will be on the look out this half term for children who are really trying hard to be thankful and grateful for the good things in their lives.

**We are thankful for the gifts God has given each and every one of us to enable us to be unique individuals and make a difference in our own ways.**



**Office Staff Reminder of days they work to assist parents.****Finance Secretary—Mrs James**

Mrs James is at St Matthias from Monday-Thursday for any financial needs, Whizz Kids information or Early Years funding or other financial needs. You can also contact her by emailing [finance@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:finance@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk)

**Office Secretary—Mrs Kazerooni**

Mrs Kazerooni, who is the admin secretary now works Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. She is not in the office on a Wednesday. You can send an email to [admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk) Emails will not be regularly checked on a Wednesday so please make sure you telephone the school. 01684 574984

**School Photographer**

Our photographer will be in school on **Monday 25th September**. He will take individual photos of every child and siblings who attend our school. This year he will also include older and younger siblings of our pupils, who do not attend this school. If you wish for your older and younger children to be in a photo with our pupils please come along to the main entrance at 8.20am. **All siblings who come to our school will automatically be photographed together during the school day.**

**School Uniform— Pop Up Shop!**

It is lovely to see everyone return in their smart new uniforms. For anyone needing any extra uniform, Mrs James has worked very hard over the summer to create a wonderful Second Hand Uniform Pop Up Shop which is situated on KS1 playground (you might have spotted the new shed!) She is opening the shop on **Monday 11th September** 3.15pm so if you would like any extra uniform please see her there and she will show you around!

**Lunch Box Suggestions**

Please send your child in with a healthy packed lunch and drink. We suggest a sandwich or sausage roll, a piece of cheese and /or fruit PLUS a yoghurt or a small cake or a biscuit.

Fizzy drinks, drinks with colouring or glass bottles are NOT permitted. Thank you.

**Physical Education Lessons**

Some classes will have two shorter sessions for their entitlement and other classes will have one longer session for their entitlement. This is due to timetabling. If your child has two sessions they can wear their PE kit twice a week. Please don't worry about the washing, I am sure washing it once a week will be sufficient! **For the health and safety of the wearer and others, NO earrings or other jewellery will be worn during PE, swimming, or games.**



Please make sure your child has the correct school PE kit for lessons, we do not allow home clothes for PE lessons.

**Reception— Monday**

**Year 1— Wednesday and Friday**

**Year 2— Tuesday and Thursday**

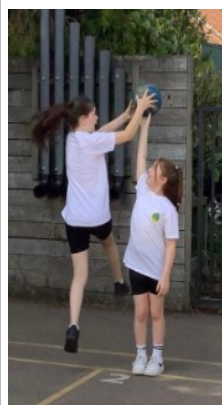
**Year 3/4— Tuesday**

**Year 5— Wednesday**

**Year 6— Wednesday**

(Swimming starts on **20th September** for ALL Year 6 and some invited Year 5 children for the first 6 weeks. After half term you will be notified if your child is carrying on or staying at school to do PE.)

**A letter will be emailed to ALL year 6 .**





# NOTICEBOARD



## REMINDERS

### WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

#### **School Photographer**

Monday 25th September to take every individual child plus sibling groups from within school only.

Please read page 2 for details.

**Nasal Flu Vaccine** (Yrs R - 6) Monday 9th October.

### CLASS EVENTS

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

### Who to contact in school

**MRS KAZEROONI (Works Mon, Tue, Thu + Fri) 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** 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](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 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/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 2023

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN Wednesday 6th September 2023 at 8.40am

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE Friday 27th October 2023 at 3.15pm

HALF TERM BREAK Saturday 28th October to Sunday 5th November 2023

SCHOOL OPEN Monday 6th November 2023 at 8.40am

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE Thursday 21st December 2023 at 3.15pm

Staff Professional Development Friday 22nd December 2023 – School Closed

#### Spring 2024

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN Monday 8th January 2024 at 8.40am.

## **IMPORTANT– APPLYING FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

### **Are you Eligible?**

**If you have a child in RECEPTION, you must reapply for FSM if you are already eligible so they receive the benefits in school.**

**If you are unsure if you are eligible, then please click on the link below and complete the form on the Citizen Portal.**

You may be eligible for free school meals if your child attends a state school, and you get one or more of the following you can get free school meals:

- Universal Credit, and your annual household income is £7,400 per annum (£616 per month) or less after tax, and not including any benefits.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual income is less than £16,190, as assessed by HMRC
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

#### **For more information and how to apply for FSM:**

[https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20062/schools/684/applying\\_for\\_free\\_school\\_meals](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20062/schools/684/applying_for_free_school_meals) scroll to the half way down on the page and click on 'apply for FSM'

You must apply online on the 'Citizen Portal' this is the same portal as you selected your child's school place.

Once you are into your portal area by using your log in details then select 'Free School Meals', then click on 'apply.'

***If you would like help with this please ask in the office and we would be happy to support you in your application and also provide the technology to use.***

#### **Universal Free School Meals (this is different from FSM eligibility)**

All children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 receive Universal Infant Free School Meals, If you are not on benefits, there is no need to apply, you just need to speak us about arranging for these to start.

If you are on benefits and meet the criteria, it is worth applying online for children this age, If eligible, you can receive food vouchers during the school holidays, and your child can attend the Ready Steady Worcestershire School Holiday clubs. This will also allow our school to claim Pupil Premium to support your child's education.

#### **School Attendance Competition.**

Worcestershire Children First are promoting an attendance poster competition. The winning design will be awarded with a special prize. If your child would like to take part then please read the poster on the next page. Design your poster to promote good attendance and encourage children to attend school and hand your poster to Mrs Beale who will send it to the Attendance Team at WCF.

Good luck and get designing!



# It's time to talk **ATTENDANCE**

## POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION



The attendance poster design competition is to promote the importance of regular school attendance.

There will be 2 goody bag prizes, including safari park tickets awarded for the best posters designed:

- by a pupil aged 9 and under.
- by a pupil aged 10 and above.

*The winning designs, plus others will be used by Worcestershire Children First in school attendance promotions.*



Scan me



for more information

WORCESTERSHIRE  
CHILDREN FIRST

