

# St Matthias Newsletter



## St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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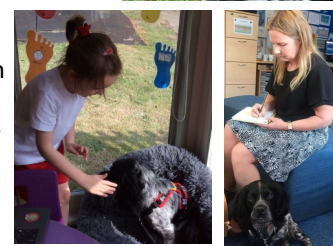
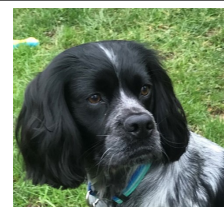
**Friday 15th September 2023**

### Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have had a very busy week this week with lots of visitors and learning!

#### Barney

We welcomed our school therapy dog back, Barney! He was very excited to see all the children and staff again after the summer break. He welcomed children into school as they walked through the playground; he joined us all in Worship and sat very well at the back with our Year 6 children listening to the children singing. He then spent some time walking around school and having individual time with some children. He even joined me in one of my meetings! I think he was just after some apples and treats! He is such a calm dog and really enjoys tummy tickles and strokes. See if you can spot his special harness when he comes in next Wednesday! It was a present from a child at the end of term and it fits him perfectly and matches our school uniform!



#### Second Hand Uniform Pop-Up Shop.

You might have spotted our new Polycarbonate shed in KS1 playground. At the beginning of the year we approached Councillor Karen Hanks to see if she could help us set up a Pop-Up shop for our second hand uniform. Mrs James was determined to sort the huge donations of uniform into sizes and similar items so it was much more appealing to buy and easier to access. As a school we know how expensive uniform can be but also know how often the children grow out of uniform they have hardly worn. Recycling the uniform and raising school funds for the children is vital and Mrs James had a vision of creating an organised pop-up shop for the uniform. Well, to our delight Cllr Karen Hanks enabled this to happen by purchasing the shed for us! We are incredibly grateful and those of you who visited the shop on Monday this week I think will agree that it has been a worth while project and will really benefit lots of families. Cllr Hanks visited our school on Wednesday and was very impressed with the shop and how the money was spent to benefit our families.



If you would like to purchase good quality second hand uniform Mrs James will be opening the pop-up shop every MONDAY from 3.15pm. Do come along and bring some cash with you!

#### After School Clubs

We will issue a clubs list next week. We are awaiting confirmation from external sports activity providers.

#### St Matthias Church Harvest Service

You will have received a postcard on Wednesday or an email today, inviting you to St Matthias Church this Sunday 17th September from 10am. There will be refreshments and activities from 10am before the service. There will also be refreshments after the service at 11.30am. I will see you there!

#### Community Information

The Ascension Church at the top of Somers Park Road holds a **Community Fridge** which is open on a **Monday 10.30-12noon** and **Wednesday 3.30pm-4.30pm**. This is open to anyone, so please take a bag and go along to see what they have available!



#### 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.

**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.'



### **Working together to improve school attendance.**

The Department of Education have released a guide for parents on school attendance. We know that being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins all the many benefits of school for your child, such as their learning, wellbeing and wider development.

We also know that for some children, attending school every day will be harder than for others. This is why St Matthias is committed to working together with families to solve problems and support your child's school attendance. If your child struggles to attend school please come and talk to us and we can provide support for your child, as we have many different strategies on offer.

The Children's Commissioner has a useful website with resources for families linked to school attendance, transitions to High School, applying for a school place, mental health support and advice for children with SEND. Just click on the next link

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/back-into-school/resources-for-families/>

On this site it also has a link to the DfE guide for parents on school attendance.

#### **The DfE guide covers two areas:**

- parents' responsibilities for school attendance and what you need to do when your child needs to be absent.
- How schools and local authorities will work with you to support your child's attendance.

**Here is a short snip of the guidance you can find the full guidance by [clicking here](#).**

#### **Parents' responsibilities**

What are my responsibilities for my child's attendance?

As a parent, you are legally responsible for making sure your child gets a suitable fulltime education, usually from the age of 5 to 16.

For most parents, this will mean making sure your child is in school every day except when:

- ◆ Your child is too ill to go to school.
- ◆ You have permission for a leave of absence from your child's school for them not to attend.
- ◆ You should only ask for this in exceptional circumstances.
- ◆ Your religious body has a day especially for religious observance.

#### **Other information provided in this guide link to...**

If my child needs to be absent from school, what do I need to do?

- ◆ My child has a short term illness. Do they have to go to school, and will I be penalised if they don't?
- ◆ Do I need to provide medical evidence to support my child's illness related absence?
- ◆ What should I do if my child needs a dental or medical appointment in school time?

Accessing support to help my child attend school

- ◆ My child is struggling to attend because of an issue in school. Who can help us?
- ◆ My child is struggling to attend because of an issue at home or getting to school. Who can help us?
- ◆ Accessing support for my child with long term illness or special educational needs and disabilities My child has a long term illness, special educational needs or a disability that is impacting their attendance. What help is available?
- ◆ Where can I get help if my child is too anxious to go to school?
- ◆ Getting help when support hasn't been provided, or hasn't worked Support isn't working because my child's current school place is not suitable for their needs. What can I do?
- ◆ Plus other information related to SEND and attendance.

***At St Matthias we have an area on our website under the 'Parent' tab called 'Support for Parents and Families' which also has a number of useful websites and advice for many kinds of worries, concerns or help that might be needed. We also have a 'St Matthias Supporting Parents and Families Offer 2023-2024 which also gives some useful information. [Click here-](#)***

***<https://www.stmatthiasceprimary.co.uk/parents/support-for-parents-and-families>***

### Capturing the learning in school

I love walking round school; seeing and hearing the buzz of busy children working hard, interacting with others and learning new knowledge. Sometimes I wish I could bottle the proud feeling I get and share it with you all! But here are some of the highlights from this week!



### Outside Achievements

We have already started to celebrate our outside achievements 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!

**Rose, R**, for completing her Duckling 2 swimming award and gaining a badge and certificate. We are very proud of you!

**Mia-Rose Y2**, for completing a crash course in swimming and gaining her Level 1 badge and certificate! We are proud of you for completing this during the summer holiday.

**Marlee-Mae Y3**, for learning to ride her bike without stabilisers. Well done, this is a super achievement!

**Kai Y3**, for completing a crash course in swimming and gaining his Level 1 badge and certificate! An amazing achievement during the summer holiday.

**Adam Y4**, for being brave when having an Xray. This can be a very scary thing to do and we are proud of you for being brave.

**Tyler Y5**, for gaining 'Player of the match' for goal keeping in football during the summer and learning to body board while on holiday! Great achievements!

**Ellie, Y5** for completing her Level 5 swimming award and gaining a badge and certificate.





**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. Nevaeh, 1. Elliana, 2. Esmae, 3/4. Adam, 5. Poppy Mills, 6. Grace.

**Value Leaf for showing Thankfulness:** R. Reggie, 1. Alice, 2. Daisy, 3/4. Logan H, 5. James, 6. Shiv.

**Spotted (Improve Spelling & Editing):** R. Astria, 1. Albert, 2. Ryan, 3/4. Ella, 5. Poppy F, 6. Anisia.

**Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times):** Camden Yr 5

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

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

**Attendance** The table below shows class attendance statistics for **this week**. The certificate will be given next Friday.

	Percentage	Sessions missed		Percentage	Sessions Missed
<b>Nursery</b>	<b>94.8%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Reception</b>	<b>94.2%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>88.1%</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>94.0%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>97.2%</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>97.7%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>94.4%</b>	<b>13</b>
There are two sessions in every day, am and pm. All children from Yrs R - 6 attend 10 sessions per week.					

**Congratulations to Year 3 for 100% this week. Perfect !**

**Excellent Years 2, 3 & 5 for being at or above our target of 96%.**

**Well done to Yrs 2, 3, 5 and Nursery for a low amount of missing sessions this week.**



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 Shcwab** "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.**



# NOTICEBOARD



## REMINDERS

### WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

#### St Matthias Church Harvest Service

Sunday 17th October at 10.25am.

Refreshments at 10am and 11.30am.

#### School Photographer

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

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

**School Harvest Service** Wednesday 11th October 9.15am Parents invited.

#### SEND Parents' Evenings

(invited parents only)

Monday 23rd Year 6

Wednesday 25th October Yrs R - 5

#### Parents' Evenings

Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th

November. Details to follow.

## CLASS EVENTS

**Year 6 Swimming + A few Yr 5's**  
Starts Wednesday 20th September.

**Year 5 Saxon and Viking Trip.**  
Monday October 16th

**Storytelling festival KS1 ( Yrs R, 1 & 2)**  
Wednesday 25th October

**Storytelling Festival KS2 (Yrs 3,4,5 & 6)**  
Thursday 26th October.

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

### Who to contact in school

**MRS KAZEROONI ( 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 ( 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 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.



Information, Advice  
and Support Service  
Herefordshire & Worcestershire

# Training and Development

Inform Empower Improve

Free Training Workshops  
for Parent Carers



## Do you have a child with an additional need or disability?

Join one of our workshops across Herefordshire & Worcestershire to increase your knowledge and understanding of Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND).

### Workshops available include

- SENDIASS information session
- SEND Support & the graduated approach/response
- What does a good Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) look like?



Visit  
[hwsendiass.co.uk](http://hwsendiass.co.uk)  
or scan the QR  
code to find out  
the next available  
sessions