

St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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Friday 20th October 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

This week has seen a number of trips for classes and groups. It is always lovely to take the learning outside and enhance our knowledge through practical experiences. The children at St Matthias always conduct themselves in such a polite and enthusiastic way and represent our school beautifully, remembering our school rules and vision.

Saxon & Viking Trip

Year 5 developed their knowledge of Saxons and Vikings through an exciting trip to Bishops Wood. They all became enthusiastic Historians as they experienced what it was like to be a Saxon Settler or Viking Voyager. The day was very practical as they spun wool, made pots, created amulets, built dens and learned about the 'Viking Way' of life.



Dance Festival

On Wednesday Year 3/4 visited Dyson Perrins High School for a dance festival. They were split into four groups and completed 3 workshops. There was a range of dance styles on offer and the children got stuck into each one. During one workshop they experienced Pom-pom Dance, which was using pom-poms as part of the routine; it was very effective and fun! In another workshop they experienced Street Dance Hip-hop style. This was very fast and there was a lot of bouncing! I noticed a few of our Year 3 & 4 children really enjoying this style and getting into the dance! The last workshop was Bollywood style which was more creative; this dance needed a lot of concentration to follow the routine and our children joined in really well and remembered the moves for the demonstration at the end of the afternoon. I was very impressed with the effort all the children put in and I could see the enjoyment on their faces! Well done for representing St Matthias brilliantly!



Ten Pin Bowling

On Wednesday a group of Year 5 & 6 pupils took part in the first ever Worcestershire Schools Games partnership, with the Panathlon Ten Pin Bowling event with 14 other schools. We had great fun taking part and learning a new skill alongside the other children. Our pupils had to use their skills of patience, determination, turn taking, accuracy and team work; they did extremely well and we were very proud of them! At the end there was a presentation and we were thrilled to achieve second place with a combined score of 474! We were presented with a certificate and trophy and each child received a certificate and medal! We were very pleased with what we had achieved and represented our school brilliantly!



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.'



Reminder– Storytelling Trips for Years 1- 6

Next week Years 1- 6 are taking part in a 'Storytelling Festival' in Great Malvern. When your child attends this festival they have the opportunity to purchase **one** of the authors books on the day. **If you wish to purchase a book for your child please bring the correct money and order form to the office to put into the special envelope before the day of the trip.** Mrs Kazerooni has spare order forms and the special envelopes in the office. **If you choose to use your own envelope please put on the name of our school, as well as your child's Name and Year and the total money enclosed. We will hand the envelopes into the festival organisers on our visit days.**



Remember, the Storytelling Festival is open to the public over the weekend of 28th and 29th October, so please take your family to Great Malvern where there will be a variety of activities to explore in different locations throughout the town. To find out more click on this link <https://www.visitthemaalverns.org/blog/great-malvern-festival-of-stories-for-children/> There promises to be music, puppets, storytelling, illustrators, theatre, authors and so much more!

Year 1 Parent Workshop

Thank you to our Year 1 parents for attending the Reading workshop, sharing how we teach Year 1 to learn to read and how the learning can be extended at home. We really value the importance of reading as we can all enjoy stories and learning new knowledge. If you have any questions about how to support your child to read at home please don't hesitate to ask. Don't forget we also have a book swap library in the school office where you can either take a book home to enjoy or swap it with a book you have finished with at home in your own collection.



Children's Appetite Survey

As part of the wider healthier weight agenda, Public Health England are supporting a survey for parents of primary aged children. We have been asked to share this survey with our parents. This data will also support the University of Cambridge with information about a study of the appetites of Primary School-aged children. If you wish to take part in the survey it should not take longest than 10-15 minutes and is an online survey. The findings will help health professionals to identify and support children with unusually high or low appetites and to create new guidance on healthy patterns of eating and weight gain. For more information and to take part, please [click here](#).



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!

Kyle Y2, for achieving a certificate and badge at swimming for being able to float, this is such an important and difficult skill in swimming.

Stanley Y4, for not only achieving his level 3 swimming badge and certificate but he was also awarded a certificate for rolling over in the pool and jumping in with the correct technique! Well done Stanley!

Oliver Y5, for achieving man of the match at their football match and gaining a trophy for his super team effort.

Tyler Y5, for achieving player of the week in training for his focus and skill.



Parents' Evening reminder to book in

Thank you to 85% of parents who have already booked in for our Parents' Evening which are after half term on Tuesday 7th November or Wednesday 8th November.

This is a great opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher, find out how your child is doing academically and ask any questions. A reminder text will be sent out today for parents who have not already booked via the link. Alternatively, you can ring the school office and ask Mrs Kazerooni to manually book your appointment. Mrs Kazerooni has booked a few parents into the available slots today, however, due to the delay in booking, some parents with more than one child may now have appointments on different days.

Please remember if you are a separated parent and have not already booked an appointment and would like one please contact the school office to arrange a meeting time.

If you are unable to make the dates on offer, you will receive a short written report and if you wish to discuss it then please contact your class teacher via ClassDojo after you have read the report.



SEND Parent Meetings

The remainder of our SEND parent meetings for Yrs N - 5 are taking place next Wednesday.

These are in addition to the regular Parent Evening appointments.

Half -term Food Vouchers

I am very pleased to confirm that children eligible for Free School Meals (not universal free school meals) will receive a food voucher for half term. This will arrive to the email address you have given us and will be worth £15 per child for the week. The vouchers will arrive to your email address on **Wednesday 25th October via Edenred**; please check your **JUNK/SPAM** box as sometimes they end up in there! You will need to download the voucher and select one of the supermarkets on the list. School does not have any control over lost vouchers, supermarket choice or anyone who has NOT applied for Free School Meals. There is also an expiry date on the vouchers so you will need to use them within the specified period.

Nursery children are not permitted to receive vouchers and we have made a mistake in the past in issuing them. The Local Authority who allocate the vouchers to schools have specifically stated that they are for children in Reception Class to Year 6 in Primary Schools. Apologies if this has caused any inconvenience. Therefore we are not issuing any food vouchers to Nursery pupils.

We are able to refer families to the Food Bank, so if you are in need of some support please let Mrs Beale know via private Dojo messaging or email to head@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk

Don't forget the Community Fridges remain open for any families over half term.

If you feel that you are eligible for Free School Meals and have not applied via the **Local Authority** you will not receive the vouchers this half term. If you would like to apply and feel you are eligible due to low income then please click on this link

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20062/schools/684/applying_for_free_school_meals

and apply online as you might be entitled to the food vouchers next holiday. The application is made using the same log in as applying for a school place, therefore you might need to create a log in if you do not have one.

Once you have completed the information, if you are eligible then the Local Authority will inform our school.

There is additional support available via [Ready Steady Worcestershire](#) including support for food, financial support, activities and community assistance. The Holiday and Food Activity scheme will be available for children and families to access during the October Half term, providing free access to food and activities for those eligible for FSM.

'Understanding Your Child' FREE Course

We are hosting an 'Understanding Your Child' course after Christmas which is open to all St Matthias parents and also parents outside of St Matthias. If you are interested in joining this group from January and would like to bring a friend or family member then please sign up in our school office or via Mrs Beale. This course aims to support families in learning about their child's development, challenges we all face as parents and also additional advice for parents of children with additional needs diagnosed or undiagnosed. The group will be friendly, relaxed and open to lots of exploration of strategies and support. For more information please read the poster on Page 6 or contact Mrs Beale.



There is a **Nasal Flu Vaccine Catch-up Clinic** on **TOMORROW Saturday 21st October** in Malvern for those parents that have missed the opportunity to consent for their child to have the flu vaccination in school. This is for children from **Reception to Year 11**. Parents must call **01432 663085 today** to make an appointment for this clinic. (which can be booked by **APPOINTMENT ONLY**.) Parents will be given the location of this catch-up clinic when they book the appointment.

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. Ayra, 1. Lyla, 2. Isaac, 3/4. Pippa, 5. Brae, 6. Sam.

Value Leaf for showing Thankfulness: R. Amelia, 1. Ella D, 2. Leo, 3/4. Tommy, 5. Logan, 6. Bonnie.

Spotted (Improve Spelling & Editing): R. Caelyn, 1. Mia, 2. Kyle, 3/4. Charlie S, 5. Ledjana, 6. Poppy.

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

Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside): Rose 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	Days missed		Percentage	Days Missed
Nursery	86.1%	7	Year 3/4	88.0%	18.5
Reception	94.0%	7.5	Year 5	94.8%	8
Year 1	86.0%	14	Year 6	95.0%	6
Year 2	88.4%	15	Whole School	90.9%	76

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

Congratulations to Year 6 for 95.0% this week.
NO classes were at or above our target of 96%.



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.



NOTICEBOARD



REMINDERS

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

SEND Parents' Evenings

Wednesday 25th October Yrs R - 5

Regular Parents' Evenings for EVERY Child

Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th
November. Booked online.

Into Film - Free Cinema Trips

Years 3 - 6 on 15th November am.
Years R - 2 on 22nd November am.
Details to follow.

CLASS EVENTS

Storytelling Festival KS1 (Yrs 1 & 2)
Wednesday 25th October.

Storytelling Festival KS2 (Yrs 3/4)
Thursday 26th October.

Nursery Parents 'Let's Connect'
Thursday 26th October at 2.30pm.

Storytelling Festival KS2 Yrs (5 & 6)
Friday 27th October.

**Great Malvern Storytelling Festival
for Families**
28th & 29th October.

**Year 6 Closing Date for High School
Applications** 30th October 2023

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 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 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>

HELPFUL INFORMATION



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.

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](#))

Report Scam Emails - forward them to report@phishing.gov.uk

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.



UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD

Come along to this relaxed, fun group to explore issues including, developmental needs, having fun, communication, sleep and behaviour difficulties.

The group is suitable for families with children and young people from birth to 19 years. This group is also suitable for Parents/carers whose children have additional needs.

TO BOOK A PLACE:

Call Laura on 07971 095661

Or email laura.Cartwright@actionforchildren.org.uk

Alternatively you can reserve your space by booking on at the school reception office!

Starts Tuesday 9th January 2024 for 10 weeks (excluding school holidays)

9:15am—11:15am

St Matthias School

www.startingwellworcestershire.nhs.uk

EVERY CONTACT SHAPES A LIFE