

# St Matthias Newsletter



## St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

### Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have had another fun packed week and successful end to a busy half term by taking part in the brilliant Storytelling Festival for Years 1-6. Thank you Mrs Maidens for organising this for us! Remember, the Storytelling Festival is open to the public over this weekend, 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!

Years 1 and 2 visited the festival on Wednesday, Years 3/4 visited on Thursday and Years 5 and 6 visited today, Friday. During the day they celebrated stories by listening to authors and storytellers and watched a puppet show. The Years 1 and 2 children helped their author, James Carter who is a poet, write a new poem about animals! He also shared and performed some of his poems. It was a wonderful experience for the children to meet the authors and see them 'perform' their poetry in the way it was truly intended. At St Matthias we know how important it is to enjoy listening to and retelling stories and poetry to become immersed in a good storytelling. So to meet the authors of books that we read in class is real excitement and a novelty. The authors we met through the week were Jasbinder Bilan, James Carter and Matt Goodfellow.



### Half Term Break

Next week is half term and we look forward to seeing you on **Monday 6th November** when the gates open at **8.40am**. This week in worship we reminded the children of our school rules 'Ready, Respectful and Safe' as we were discussing 'Trick and Treating' as Halloween falls during this half term break. During the worship, children suggested ways that they could keep safe IF they go out. I have to say they came up with some super ideas and shared them with the school. They recommended only going out with an adult so they were safe, not wearing just black and perhaps having some reflective or brighter clothing so that people/ car drivers can see you. They knew not to knock on doors if it was obvious that they were not taking part in trick and treating activities, they knew not to take anything off people walking by but making sure anything they were given was safe. They were also clear on being respectful when being out in the streets. We want all St Matthias children to have a lovely, safe Halloween. You should be very proud of their suggestions. Reception class followed on from the worship by making pumpkin soup. They identified the ingredients for the soup, then chopped up the pumpkin, onions and butternut squash, they seasoned it and added some water for consistency. Then they sautéed the vegetables and blended the soup to a smooth consistency. Throughout the soup making, the children used lots of their senses to describe what they were seeing, smelling and tasting. I wonder what it tasted like at the end? ... **Delicious!**



**Have a wonderful half term holiday, 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 Council**

This half term we have completed an election for our new School Council representatives. The children vote for two children from each class from Year 1 to Year 6 to collect pupil voice from their class on key topics or issues linked to school, take suggestions for charity events and organise plans for the year.

Congratulations to our new School Council for being elected. We know you will take your new roles very seriously and make sure you listen to your friends and take their ideas to your meetings. We look forward to a great year ahead! Thank you to Mrs Philgence who meets with the School Council to facilitate the meetings and gather the information.



### **Food Bank Delivery**

This week we also delivered one half of the Harvest produce to our local Food Bank. This was the first very



important job for our Year 6 School Council reps who came with me to deliver the collection. They met with one of the volunteers who showed them around the food bank warehouse and told them how the food was stored and rotated for stock. There were lots of busy volunteers when we visited and we were very impressed



with the service they provide for our local community. They will send us a 'Thank you' certificate in the next few weeks.

### **Nursery 'Let's Connect' Stay and Play with Parents**

Mental health is about our feelings, our thinking, our emotions and our moods. We discussed how we can

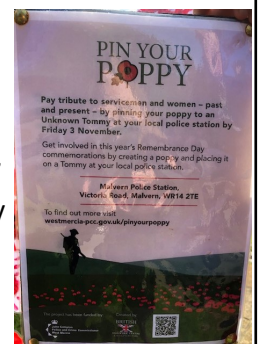


look after our mental health and how the small feelings that we have every day might come and go like feeling grumpy, nervous, happy, excited or sad. It was lovely to be able to involve our Nursery parents in the 'Let's Connect' activities this week.

### **WW1 'Tommy' Soldier– Malvern Police Station**



A few weeks ago, our Reception Class were invited to make some poppies for a very special tribute at Malvern Police Station. Each year Malvern Police Station take part in a special tribute to servicemen and women – past and present, by pinning a poppy to an 'Unknown Tommy' at their station. They invited a few schools to add poppies to the Tommy soldier and we were a school who was invited to share in this experience. Each Reception child made a poppy and I took a couple of Reception children to the police station to attach to the soldier. We met PC Collette at the station and she showed us where to attach our poppies and then we had a photograph. She also visited the whole class this week and thanked us for taking part, she was very impressed with our poppies.



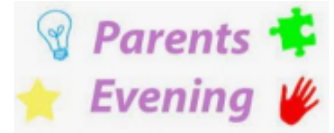
The Tommy soldier will be at Malvern Police Station until Friday 3rd November when he will be taken to join a number of other Tommy's in a large display! You are welcome to visit the Tommy at the station and there is a poster with more information next to the soldier. Thank you Reception Class for your wonderful poppies.





### Parents' Evening Reminder

We have 92% of parents who have booked in for our Parents' Evening after half term on Tuesday 7th November or Wednesday 8th November. If you have not made an appointment and you would like one, please make sure you speak to Mrs Kazerooni on Monday 6th November for a last minute booking.



### SEND Parents' Evening

A big thank you to all the parents who were invited to attend their SEND Parents' Evenings this week. It was a very successful evening with lots of information being shared. We hope you felt included in your child's plans and found it a useful and informative evening.

### Half –Term Food Vouchers

Parents of children in Reception to Year 6, eligible for Free School Meals should have received their child's food vouchers, worth £15 by email on Wednesday. NURSERY children are NOT eligible for the Government Food Vouchers so no Nursery children will have received vouchers.

The vouchers arrived to your email address we have on record 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 you will need to use them within the specified period.



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***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](mailto:head@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk)***

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

### Morrisons Malvern

This October half term, Warburtons has once again partnered with Morrisons to bring back its 'Ask for Ellen' campaign to support communities by offering **free crumpets in Morrisons cafés**.

It's really easy - simply **Ask for Ellen at the Morrisons café counter** and in return you will get two free Warburtons crumpets with butter and jam.

The offer runs until Sunday 5 November and is **available to everyone** - just Ask for Ellen.



### '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 8 or contact Mrs Beale.

### ADHD Referrals

If you are exploring the diagnosis of ADHD for your child, before any referrals can be made, as part of the process parents must now engage in a parenting course. This free course (above) is a super opportunity for you to complete this requirement in the comfort of a familiar, friendly environment. If you would like to sign up, please let Mrs Beale know via Dojo, email or speaking in person.

# PTA support needed for our Christmas Fayre!

SORRY! We are already mentioning the 'Christmas' word in this newsletter.



Our Christmas Fair is on **Friday 1st December** and therefore after half term the PTA will start to organise this event.

Fundraising events are really important for us as they give us the opportunity to give back to the children by purchasing new equipment, helping towards trips and enhancing learning through exciting events in and out of school. So please come along, bring a friend and help raise vital school fund money for the benefit

of your child!



## Save the Date!

**Friday 1st December from 3.30pm**

There promises to be lots of Christmassy stalls, tombolas, raffles, Children's gifts, visits to Santa and lots more!



## Volunteers Needed!



In order for the Christmas Fayre to be a success we need lots of volunteers. Every parent / carer whose child attends St Matthias is automatically part of the PTA. We are looking for a team of people (elves) to make this happen! We have an active PTA who have some amazing ideas and pull together to help organise this event.



If you are able to volunteer either before the event by supporting with organising, sorting, preparing and delivering letters, or able to help on the day; setting up, running stalls, clearing away. Then please speak to Mrs Beale, Mrs James or one of the active PTA members, Mrs C Bird, Mrs Heywood-Pullen, Mr Rogers or Mr and Mrs Boyle then please do as they will be extremely grateful of your support.

## Christmas Jumpers needed!

### Christmas Jumper Donations.



We are collecting Christmas Jumpers again this year in preparation for our Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 7th December.

This is a great way of recycling your Christmas jumpers that no longer fit and buying a bargain Christmas jumper for your child!



So seek out your old Christmas jumpers this half term and donate them to us so we can raise some vital school funds by selling them before the 7th December.

**Thank you!**

# Have you ever thought...

There's so much rubbish around... I wish where I lived was a bit tidier.

I'd love to get to know my neighbours better.

If only there were more activities in my area.

It would be great if there was something for the kids to do.

**...If the answer is yes, then why not contact your local Community Builders to see if they can help YOU turn YOUR thoughts into reality?**

We will be at The Duke of Edinburgh Way Home Zone on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 12pm – 2pm and would love to chat to you. Alternatively, you can contact any of us on the details below.

Sarah Clarke – [Sarah@mlwc.church](mailto:Sarah@mlwc.church)

Telephone – 01684 252003

Alison Knowles – [Alison.Knowles@platformhg.com](mailto:Alison.Knowles@platformhg.com)

Telephone or Text – 07970 449069

Elaine Fraser – [Elaine.Fraser@platformhg.com](mailto:Elaine.Fraser@platformhg.com)

Telephone or Text – 07970 447949

Also, come and meet your new Platform Housing Officer



Funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund



### 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. Scarlett, 1. Bertie, 2. Harry, 3/4. Tianna, 5. Taylor, 6. Michael.

Value Leaf for showing Thankfulness: R. Logan, 1. Anastasia, 2. Mila, 3/4. Anna, 5. Logan C, 6. Alumie.

Spotted (Improve Spelling & Editing): R. Neveah, 1. Gabriel, 2. Eva, 3/4. Isabella, 5. Summer, 6. Darcey.

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): Camille Yr 6



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	83.2%	8.5	Year 3/4	93.2%	10.5
Reception	93.6%	8	Year 5	93.5%	10
Year 1	94.5%	5.5	Year 6	90.8%	11
Year 2	90.4%	12.5	Whole School	92.1%	66
There are two sessions in every day, am and pm. All children from Yrs R - 6 attend 10 sessions per week.					

**Congratulations to Year 1 for 94.5% this week.**

**NO classes were at or above our target of 96%.**



**97 pupils had 100% attendance for September plus a further 8 had between 96% and 99.9%. So 105 out of 172 pupils have attained the DFE target.**

**72 pupils had 100% attendance for October plus a further 10 had between 96% and 99.9%. So 82 of our 172 pupils have attained the DFE target.**

**The 100% voucher prizes for both months will be drawn when we return in November.**



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

#### Great Malvern Storytelling Festival for Families.

On 28th & 29th October.

#### Regular Parents' Evenings for EVERY Child

Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th November. Book 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

**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](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 or 2nd hand Uniform; 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>

## 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](mailto: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



SOLIHULL APPROACH



Starting Well Partnership

EVERY CONTACT SHAPES A LIFE

# 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](mailto: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.startingwellworcesters.nhs.uk](http://www.startingwellworcesters.nhs.uk)

EVERY CONTACT SHAPES A LIFE