



St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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Friday 8th December 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Children, Christmas Fayre

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Christmas Fayre last Friday. The school was buzzing full of families supporting our school and winning prizes, buying food and purchasing lots of lovely Christmassy items. A HUGE thank you to everyone who gave up some of their time to help volunteer to set up, man stalls and clear up after the event! There is so much that goes on behind the scenes I would like to say a another HUGE thank you to Mrs James and the PTA for organising and planning the event as it has taken months of preparation. So far we have raised **over £1200**. We still have some class gifts to be purchased so if your child has not bought their hand crafted gift please send in the money and your child can bring the item home. You will also see on the Christmas events list that we will be holding the 'Elfridges' present room on Monday 18th December where your child can bring in £2.00 to buy a surprise gift for a family member.



REMINDER: If your child would like to have Hot Christmas Lunch on Monday 18th December the deadline for ordering is 9am Monday 11th December next week, so please log onto Black Pepper lunches this weekend. <https://www.blackpepperlunches.com/BP-default.php>

We wish you an enjoyable Retirement!'

This Christmas we are saying a fond farewell to three members of staff who are retiring this December. **Mrs Lester** has been working at St Matthias for 5 years. She has tried to retire a few times, however I have always managed to convince her to stay! This time she did not give me the chance to twist her arm! Mrs Lester has been a familiar face in our Nursery class and more recently in our Year 2 class as a popular Teaching Assistant. She has built wonderful relationships with our children and has a super sense of humour! We will miss her kindness, gentle nature and dedication. I am sure you will want to join me in wishing her a very relaxing retirement!



Mr Rabin has decided to retire and go travelling to enjoy some well deserved rest while exploring new places! He has been our caretaker for 5 years. He is the person you are less likely to see, the invisible person who is one of the most important people in a school as his job has been to open and close school, ensure the grounds are safe for the children and staff, fix problems, makes sure we are warm when the weather is cold and completes checks on health and safety plus so many other jobs. We thank him for his dedicated time to St Matthias; we have really appreciated everything you have done for us! Enjoy your retirement and time travelling!



Mrs Bough— We didn't really get to say 'goodbye and enjoy your retirement' to Mrs Bough as she finished as one of our lunchtime supervisors during the summer holidays. I am hoping she will be able to attend one of our church services to say a proper goodbye at Christmas. She has dedicated 29 years of her life to being a lunchtime supervisor at St Matthias. This is an incredible amount of time and she will have seen and helped thousands of children during lunch times. A HUGE thank you from us all and wish you all the best and a relaxing retirement!



Have a lovely 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

Christingle Service– Wednesday 13th December 9.15am

We have our beautiful Christingle Service for Years Reception to Year 6 next week on Wednesday 13th December. This is a celebration of Jesus being the light of the world and our Worship Warriors will lead the service. Each child will make a Christingle out of an orange and be able to take it home after the service. During the service, the Worship Warriors will talk about each important part of the Christingle, then the candle will be lit and there will be a magical moment in the church of stillness and reflection whilst watching the candle light. Through the service there will be singing, reflection and prayer. Parents are welcome to be part of the service.



Our Nursery children will hold their own Christingle celebration in class where they can hold battery candles and sing songs.

Carol Service– Wednesday 20th December

We are also holding a Carol service for Years Reception to Year 6 on the last Wednesday of term. Parents are welcome to join us in singing Christmas Carols and listening to the children share the story of the Nativity. The Year 1 children will create the tableau during the retelling of the Nativity from the other classes.



Celebrating Christmas Jumper Day

We loved wearing Christmas Jumpers to school yesterday in aid of a very good cause. Thank you for all the donations which will go to Save the Children Fund.



Our School Family Christmas Trees

The prayers have started to arrive on our Christmas Tree in our school hall and the decorations on our trees outside. It is so lovely to see the decorations appearing on the trees as children bring them in. Don't forget a photograph opportunity by the tree! It is always very special when the prayers arrive on the tree in the hall. We love reading them out during worship time. Here is a prayer from Daisy in Year 2 "Dear Lord, Please help those who are poor and don't have a home or food.' Amen.



Special Educational Needs message from Mrs Joyce (SENCO)

Sensory Boxes- With money raised by you through events such as the summer fair, each class have a new sensory box full of sensory resources for use in the classroom. These resources can calm and relax children, supporting them to stay regulated, supporting their mental health and wellbeing. The use of these resources can also improve concentration, alertness and calmness. Many of our children in school have already benefitted from the selection of fidgets, fabrics, stress balls and visuals. Thank you for supporting the school at fundraising events allowing for resources such as these to be introduced supporting every child across school from Nursery to Year 6!



SEND parent voice questionnaire

Thank you to all of those parents who completed the SEND parent questionnaire. We had double the amount of parents taking the time to complete this compared to last year's questionnaire. We are very grateful for all of the feedback received, which helps school to ensure parents feel supported with regards to their child and their Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

We had hugely positive feedback from parents and had a positive response to the termly SEND parent meetings held with teachers to co-produce documents in place to support your children and their special educational needs- thank you to all of those parents who attended these meetings last half term.

A couple of things came up as a result of the SEND parent questionnaire-

The majority of parents were aware of who to speak to if they needed support or advice regarding their child's special education need. For those who don't, here are some key people in school who can offer support and advice with regards to SEND.

Mrs Joyce- School SENCo. Can be contacted via the school phone or admin email address admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk **Mrs Joyce** is also available on ClassDojo for all parents of children from nursery to year 6.



Mr McEvilly- Trust SENCo who works closely with Mrs Joyce and is regularly in school to support SEND.



Katie Felton- School speech and language assistant. Katie is in school every Wednesday afternoon to support staff and children with speech and language needs. If you have any concerns regarding your child's speech and language needs you can contact Katie Felton by emailing k.felton@nhs.net or the school office admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk or ringing school, 01684 574984, on Wednesday afternoon.



If you have any concerns or queries regarding your child's special educational needs, please speak to your child's teacher in the first instance who can advise you on who to speak to for further support

Some parents were unsure of where to find the school's SEND policy and information report. Both of these reports can be found on our school website under the tab 'Key information- SEND.'

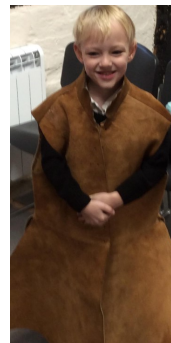
Year 1 History Trip

Year 1 had an action-packed day at The Commandery in Worcester on Thursday! We travelled back in time and experienced what it would be like to be a soldier during the Civil War. Children were invited to hold the weapons which Muskets and Cavaliers would have used (they were extremely heavy), look at the clothing they would have worn in battle and also tested out the helmets!! One of the helmets had a dual purpose for the soldiers and if they turned it upside down, they used it as a cooking pot!!

We then held a real pike and looked at (blunted) spears, it took a few children to hold it! To prepare for battle, we had a training session in the Great Hall and practised commands by counting the beats of the drum, to hold our very own pikes and stand in formation! All children followed the instructions brilliantly and amazed staff by their listening skills.

Next, we learnt how to fire a cannon and worked in teams! Each child had a special role. We learnt that soldiers were not called by their Christian name but by their job! We had Officer Worm, Officer Wet Mop, Officer Dry Mop, Officer Powder Monkey, Officer Ram-driver, Captain and the Fire Master!

Finally, we walked up to the top of Fort Royale Hill and were taller than some buildings! At the top, we saw three cannons and had a great view of Worcester Cathedral.



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!

Logan H Y3– for attempting his first climb up Snowdon in Wales! I hear it was a little bit cold and there might have been a bit of snow too! Well done a great achievement!



Dealing with Ice, Snow & Prolonged Winter Weather

If the weather is very frosty or snowy, the caretaker and I will assess whether the access to school is safe enough for adults and children to use the usual entrances and whether the playgrounds are safe enough to cross. Worcestershire County Council have circulated their recommendations which I discussed and agreed the following at recent **Governors' Meeting**.

It is recommended, for best effect, to salt our school front entrance only prior to freezing conditions. We will close all other access routes on bottom playgrounds and all children will enter by the main entrance. All adults and children are asked to be extra careful to avoid slipping and be aware that the entrance will be congested and everyone needs to help each other by not rushing and making sure they wait in a sensible way. I'm sure that you will all be patient and kind to each other.

Please note we are not allowed to clear pavements or roads so you need to take extra care.

We will text all staff and parents at about 8.15am if we are going to close the gates by the church path.



School closures due to severe weather

During periods of severe weather such as heavy snow or flooding, or any other circumstances beyond our control we may need to close the school at short notice.

We will obviously do everything we can to keep the school open and will only make the decision to close the school if we have no other choice and there are serious health and safety issues. Should we need to close the school we will let you know by **text message**.

Free Radio (previously known as Radio Wyvern) and Radio Hereford and Worcester will also list all the schools closed each day.

Please assume the school is open unless we inform you otherwise.

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. Amelia, 1. Kyra 2. Leonardo, 3/4. Ella, 5. Jamie, 6. Sam.

Value Leaf for showing Peace: R. Nevaeh, 1. Imogen 2. Charlie P, 3/4. Jasmine, 5. Lilly, 6. Jayla.

Spotted (Improve Spelling & Editing): R. Cooper, 1. Hunter, 2. Harry, 3/4. Logan H, 5. Poppy M, 6. Lily P.

Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times): Leo Y2

Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside): Elsie-Ann YR



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

69 pupils had 100% Attendance for November plus a further 4 pupils had between 96% and 99.9%. So 73 out of 173 pupils have attained the DFE target. Well done to you all.
The winner of the prize voucher for November is Brae in Yr 5

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			Year 3/4		
Reception			Year 5		
Year 1			Year 6		
Year 2			Whole School		
There are two sessions in every day, am and pm. All children from Yrs R - 6 attend 10 sessions per week.					

Attendance data will be completed next 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 Peace

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Hebrews 12:14 "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone"

Dalai Lama "Do not let the behaviour of others destroy your inner peace"

Gandhi "The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will have peace".

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.

Teachers will be on the look out this half term for children who are really trying hard to be peaceful and to make peace with the children and adults in their lives.

Heavenly Father, We lift up all those who are facing various illnesses. Give them the hope and courage they need today and every day. Comfort their pain, calm their fears, and surround them with Your **peace**. **Amen**.



Useful Information



Worcester City (Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 11am—2pm) 0808 2082138
7 Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester
WR1 2RS, UK

Droitwich (Tues 1pm—3pm & Fri) 07532 130604 / 07532 130604
Droitwich Baptist Church, Ombersley Street East, WR9 8QS

Redditch & Bromsgrove (Mon—Thursday 11am—2pm & Fri 10am—1pm) 01527 69161
Number 24, Church Green East, Redditch, B98 8DE

Food Banks

Malvern Hills Foodbank (Mon—10.15am—12.30pm, Tues 1pm—3.15pm, Thurs 10.15am—12.30pm) 07529 322985
Unit 4, Spring Court, Spring Lane South, Malvern, WR14 1AT

Pershore (Tues 11am—1pm, Fri 1pm—3pm) 01386555347
St Andrews, Church Walk, Pershore, WR10 1BH

Kidderminster (Mon, Wed & Fri 12:30pm—3pm) 015262 916555
Unit 9, Swan Shopping Centre, Blackwell Street, Kidderminster DY10 2DP

Money Helper



Where to get free debt advice

If you're struggling with debt, it can be hard to know where to turn. But with lots of free advice services available across the UK, you can find help in a way that's best for you.

Free Debt Adviser, [click this link](#) above and search for support in your local town.

Help For Houses

- Income Support
- Energy Bills—Cost of Living Payments
- Childcare Costs
- Household costs
- Childcare Costs
- Finding Work



costoflivingsupport.campaign.gov.uk

provides access to contacts who can provide support for households.

Visit [‘Energy Saving Tips’](#) Find out what actions you can take to get ready for winter and save money on your energy bills.

<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>



Act On Energy

We encourage energy conservation by providing free and impartial advice to householders and small businesses in Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Coventry, Solihull, Birmingham & the wider West Midlands

Household Support Fund

For those who have previously received funding from the Household Support Fund prior to 30th September 2022 you can now re-apply for funding – subject to the conditions.

<https://www.actonenergy.org.uk/project/worcestershire-hsf/>

SHOP SMART NOT SHARK

RED FLAGS

- ▶ A loan – with no questions asked
- ▶ Huge amounts of interest
- ▶ No paperwork or receipts
- ▶ Threats to you and your family
- ▶ Forced to hand over valuables as security

Report Today
0300 555 2222

IT COSTS A LOT MORE THAN THE PRICE

TAG WHEN BORROWING FROM A

LOAN SHARK

STOPLOANSHARKS

Intervention Support Education

#shopsmartnotshark

www.stoploansharks.co.uk

Think smart, not shark when it comes to Christmas shopping this year. Shop around, there are many deals and offers out there. Be wary of any new friends offering to help you out quickly, know the signs and get the right help and support you need. We know Christmas can be hard, and if you're looking for a loan there are places you can go other than a bank. Visit www.findyourcreditunion.co.uk or

www.findingfinance.org.uk

For help and support with a loan shark @StopLoanSharksEngland is here to help, contact them today on 0300 555 2222

Kids Eat for ...For free at **TGI Fridays**

Breakfast for Free at

BeefeaterFor £5.99 at **Table Table**

Breakfast for free and 3

course meal for £4.99 at **Brewers Fayre**For £1 at **Bella Italia****Too Good To Go. Waste Less and Spend Less.**

Not only is the Too Good To Go App are fighting waste, this is a opportunity to rescue unsold food from restraints and super-market for a low cost.



[Join Our Food Waste Movement - Too Good To Go](#)

Women's Aid 24hr Helpline

0800 980 3331

Male Domestic Abuse Helpline (24Hrs)

0800 014 9082



Malvern Hills

Malvern Cube Projects

Games and craft activities galore, plus the opportunity if you prefer to just relax with friends new and old. A hot meal will be provided by Bennjos to all who attend.

Age: 10-16

Contact: youthmanager@malverncube.com, 07483126534

Worcestershire Cricket

The week will provide opportunities for children to improve their skills and knowledge in many different sports, games and physical activities - all in a friendly and safe environment.

Age: 5-11

Contact: elsa-marie.evans@wccc.co.uk, 07392 085764

Hello,

Merry Christmas! Please read the information carefully for information on the Christmas HAF programme.

Who can participate in HAF?

HAF is a government funded programme for children and young people aged 5-16 in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals.

Can my non-FSM child participate?

In line with Department for Education guidelines, the HAF Programme is primarily for children in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals.

Some providers have a limited number of places available for non-FSM children who would otherwise be considered vulnerable however **these places are not guaranteed** and must be requested with providers to review and accept. Where activity clubs are fully booked by FSM eligible children, there will not be any additional spaces for non-FSM eligible participants.

'My child is too young for activities'

If your child is younger than 5, we can not guarantee them places.

The programme is designed for children and young people aged 5-16. Some providers let younger children take part, however this is not the norm.

'My pending requests have not been accepted'

As is stated on the website, non-FSM children are not guaranteed places. If you would like to discuss your pending request, you will need to contact the club directly.

For more information around activities for non-FSM eligible children with SEND, please visit the [Short Breaks information page](#).

'Where is my HAF code?'

For booking activities outside the HAF website, you will most likely be asked for a code. This can be found under the child's name in the 'My Children' section.



NOTICEBOARD



REMINDERS

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

Please read the
Christmas Events Diary
sent with
Newsletter 13
for a full list of our
exciting
Christmas Events.

After School Activity Clubs
end today.

CLASS EVENTS

Reception Hearing Tests
Monday 18th January 2024.

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 or 2nd hand Uniform; 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 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.

HALF TERM BREAK Saturday 10th to Sunday 18th February 2024.

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE Friday 22nd March 2024 at 3.15pm.

Summer Term 2024

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