



# St Matthias Newsletter



**St Matthias Church of England Primary School**

**Headteacher: Mrs Virginia Beale**

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Website: [www.stmatthiasceprimary.co.uk](http://www.stmatthiasceprimary.co.uk)



**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Dear Parents, Carers and Children,**

***'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!'***

## **Christingle Service**

It was lovely to see so many parents in church on Wednesday for our very special Christingle Service. Thank you to our Worship Warriors for leading the service and explaining the significance of the Christingle, each part of the Christingle and bible quotations linked to Jesus the light of the World. The children sang beautifully as usual and the highlight of the service was when every Christingle was lit and we watched the candles flicker in the darkness. Thank you to Ness and Father James who also took part in the service, helping with the music and leading us in prayer! We look forward to our Carol Service next Wednesday.

Our Nursery children took part in their own special morning where they made their Christingles and shared in songs and learned about each part of the Christingle.



## **The Christmas Story.**

This week our Nursery parents, with their children, enjoyed watching a retelling of the Nativity Story through exploration, play and song, with the children being the main stars! Thank you to parents and grandparents for coming to watch the video; the children were so excited to see themselves on the 'big screen!' This was such a special event and a big thank you to the Nursery Staff for collating all the recorded clips through the last few weeks into a Nativity Film Premiere!



Reception and Year one also retold the Nativity Story through their little play. It was again lovely to see so many parents and family members attend the two performances. The children sang beautifully and we were treated to a solo from Imogen AKA Mary! There were some wonderful actors and actresses along with some great dancers! Thank you to the children and all the staff involved for the hard work over the past few weeks while putting this together!



**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.'*



### **Carol Singing in the community.**

Year 6 have been entertaining the community with their wonderful carol singing. They visited Morrison's twice this week to collect money for the Morrison's allocated charity and school. Thank you to the parents who supported us with encouragement while we sang in the doorway and also thank you to everyone who donated money to their charity and our school. We received lots of lovely comments about our singing and song choices and we certainly entertained the shoppers! Year 6 also visited a care home to brighten the day for the elderly residents and bring Christmas cheer. The residents of The Springfields Nursing Home enjoyed our Christmas Carols and the home spoiled us with squash and cake afterwards. Thank you!



### **Winter Water Safety Assembly**

On Tuesday, two swimming instructors visited St Matthias to discuss Winter Water Safety. They reminded the children of who to call if they or anyone else got into trouble in the water. Their messages about keeping safe near water, always being with an adult near water and also the reminder that the water can be extremely cold at this time of year. We also practised shouting for help, and using long objects to help stay afloat or get out of the water, if we accidentally fell in! Thank you Splash for sharing this important information!



### **Carol Service – Wednesday 20th December**

Reminder: We are holding a Carol service for Years Reception to Year 6 on Wednesday next week. 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.

### **Free School Meal Vouchers**

We have been asked to order Edenred Food Vouchers for eligible Free School Meal families for this Christmas holiday. The vouchers are for eligible pupils from Reception to Year 6. The vouchers will arrive **on Monday**, to the email address we hold on record at St Matthias. If you have not received them by Tuesday please speak to Mrs Beale or Mr Thompson by Thursday 21st December as we can't sort any issues once we have broken up for the Christmas break. The vouchers are only valid for 1 month so please make sure you use them.

If you need any support via the food bank, please send Mrs Beale a Dojo message.

### **Parent Questionnaire Feedback**

Thank you to all the parents who completed our parent questionnaire this term. We had 47 online questionnaires completed which represented 36% of our families. Here are the results...

98% agreed/strongly agreed that their child was happy at St Matthias, 2% were neutral = 100%

96% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias makes sure its pupils are well behaved = 96%

64% had not experienced bullying, 30% agreed/strongly agreed bullying was dealt with effectively, 4% were neutral = 98%

94% agreed/strongly agreed that they were aware of what their child was learning, 6% were neutral = 100%

100% agreed/strongly agreed that communication was effective = 100%

23% had no concerns and 77% agreed/strongly agreed that their concerns dealt with properly = 100%

96% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias had high expectations, 4% neutral = 100%

96% agreed/strongly agreed that their child did well at St Matthias, 4% were neutral = 100%

96% agreed/strongly agreed that the school lets me know how my child is doing, 4% were neutral = 100%

100% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias helped parents to support their child's learning = 100%

100% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias supported their child's wider personal development = 100%

100% agreed/strongly agreed that there was a good range of subjects available = 100%

100% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias prepared their child for the future = 100%

100% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias is well led and managed = 100%

100% agreed/strongly agreed that they would recommend St Matthias to another parent = 100%

26% of the questionnaires represented families with pupils with SEND and 100% of those agreed/strongly agreed that the school gives their child the support they need to succeed = 100%

34% of the families completing the questionnaire shared that it was important to them that their child attended a church school.

We were overwhelmingly grateful for the positive comments and suggestions we received and will take on board many of the suggestions to ensure that we continue to improve St Matthias for the good of your children. Thank you.

There is genuine care and nurture of each and every child and their family.

Fantastic school, they have supported my child to learn to focus and work hard in class, and helped develop my child's confidence. I would recommend this school to everyone. I think the staff here have done an amazing job at improving the school and encouraging the children to blossom.

Educational trips, enhanced experiences which compliment learning.

Fosters a caring environment where the children feel safe and able to learn. We love how the school celebrates achievement, including those of its teachers. The school provides fantastic role models for the children.

This school goes above and beyond for all its students. Thank you for being a kind and lovely school, my child absolutely loves it here.

Friendly staff who are highly approachable and helpful.





### 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. Noah, 1. Zoya, 2. Nicolas, 3/4. Jacob B, 5. Lily, 6. Shiv.

**Value Leaf for showing Peace:** R. Caelyn, 1. Kendall, 2. Kyle, 3/4. Evie, 5. Ledjana, 6. Lexie.

**Spotted (Improve Spelling & Editing):** R. Paula, 1. Heidi, 2. Isaac, 3/4. Charlotte, 5. Megan, 6. Kayleigh.

**Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times):** Coby Yr5

**Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside):** Elliana Yr1

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



### 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!

**Mr Salmon**, for achieving a personal best in his latest 10 Kilometre competitive race in Telford in 34 minutes and 41 seconds! We are very proud of you.

**Tyler** Yr 5, for learning how to roller skate. Well Done!



### **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 was discussed and agreed at a 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.**

### Attendance Slips & Lateness Slips— Next Week 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a school, we have a legal duty to keep you informed of your child's attendance. We are now near the end of this term, so next week every child in school will bring home a slip with their attendance percentage on and the number of school learning days they have missed.

We will also send out slips with the amount of "Lates" each child has had in the register and how many minutes of learning this has resulted in them missing.

These slips are not intended to cause offence, they are merely there to keep you up to date with your child's progress so far this school year. We understand that in most cases we have had valid reasons for these absences.

At St Matthias we believe that good attendance and punctuality are vital for a child to progress to the best of their ability. Even in the Nursery and Reception classes, regular absence causes a rift in the child's education and can also disrupt their friendship groups. Arriving late for lessons also has a negative impact on their learning.

Our expectation is for every child to have an attendance of 96% or above even in our Nursery class. To achieve 96% attendance children from Years R to 6 should have **7 or less days off over the whole year.**

Good punctuality and regular attendance get a child into good habits for their future school and work life.

Please only keep your child at home if they are genuinely ill. If a dose of Calpol or similar will keep them ticking through the day, then please send them to school. Thank you for your support in this matter.

### Attendance The table below shows class attendance statistics for this year so far.

The certificate will be given on Monday.



	Percentage	Days Missed		Percentage	Days Missed
Nursery	86.3%	94	Year 3/4	91.8%	177
Reception	91.6%	140	Year 5	94.8%	110
Year 1	91.8%	111	Year 6	95.3%	76
Year 2	93.2%	122	Whole School	92.2%	833
There are two sessions in every day, am and pm. All children from Yrs R - 6 attend 10 sessions per 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.**



# NOTICEBOARD



## REMINDERS

### WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

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

Activity Clubs ended on  
8th December.  
Please collect your child at  
3.15pm every day.

### 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](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 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.

## 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](https://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](http://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](http://www.findyourcreditunion.co.uk) or

[www.findingfinance.org.uk](http://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

**Beefeater**For £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.