



St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Virginia Beale

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Thursday 21st December 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have come to the end of a very fun-filled Christmas week and everyone feels very festive! We all want to wish you a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2024. The term starts for all the children and staff on **Monday 8th January 2024 at 8.40am.**

Open the Book Christmas Puppet Show.

We were entertained by some beautiful puppets depicting the Story of Christmas called 'A Birthday with no Presents?' The characters in the puppet show realised and shared the message that we were the very best present that Jesus could have on His birthday and he does not need gifts.



Christmas Dinner

Christmas dinner was a busy event on Monday! Lots of children enjoyed pulling a cracker and wearing their party hats. Thank you to all the lunchtime supervisors and volunteers on Monday for ensuring that the meal went smoothly and the children enjoyed the delicious meal! Thank you to Black Pepper for providing the dinner and chocolate cake with sprinkles, which was a great hit!



Christmas Carol Service

The Carol Service was beautiful as usual. We shared the Christmas Story through a 'Rhyming Nativity' read by represent-



atives from each class from Year 2 to Year 6. The Year One children created a tableau as the rhyming story was shared.

Have a lovely 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



Santa Fun!

There was a real treat this week when Father Christmas visited St Matthias! He interrupted lessons to say hello to the children, he also gave them a little pre Christmas gift! Mr Thompson made a great Elf too! Every child received some great advice for Christmas Eve reminding them to go to bed and not wake up until it is morning! He then wished us all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Snowflake Competition Winner

Our Whizz Kids children took part in a 'Design a Snowflake' Competition for the New Elgar Court Care Home in St Andrews Road. Naomi Steward, their Home Services Advisor, invited a number of Malvern Schools to take part in the competition so they could bring some Christmas joy to the residents! All the snowflakes were judged by the residents and their regional manager.

To our surprise and great delight, Logan in Reception won the competition and was presented with a certificate and a delicious bag of Christmas chocolate goodies!

Congratulations to Logan!



Welcome to our new members of staff

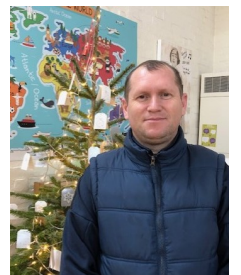
After Christmas we are welcoming some new members of staff to our St Matthias family.

Mrs Pullen has a number of years experience working in the Early Years. She enjoys furthering her knowledge and being creative. She prides herself on building relationships with children, staff and families which is essential when working in schools. We look forward to welcoming her in January. She visited our Early Years unit on Wednesday to meet the staff and children and start to get to know us and our routines!



We are awaiting confirmation of a start date for our new Teaching Assistant in Year 2 and will update you when we have more news.

Mr Lungu is joining our team as our new school caretaker. He has skills in the fire service, building, gardening and has met with Mr Rabin for a handover! He will ensure our school is safe, secure and opened and closed each day. You might not often see our caretaker but they do an important role in schools and we could not do without them!



I know we will all welcome our new comers with open arms, although we will be saying a sad goodbye to Mrs Lester, Mr Rabin and Mrs Bough who are all retiring; we send our thanks and appreciation to them all and wish them a very well deserved rest!

ATTENDANCE

82 pupils had 100% Attendance for December plus a further 11 pupils had between 96% and 99.9%. So 93 of our 173 pupils have attained the DFE target. Well done to you all.

The winner of the prize voucher for December is Pippa in Yr 3

15 Pupils had 100% Attendance this term from September to December plus a further 50 pupils had between 96% and 99.9%. So 65 of our 173 pupils have attained the DFE target. Congratulations.

The winner of the prize voucher for the term is Eva S in Yr R.

PUNCTUALITY

There have been 104 Pupils who have been on time every day this term. Well done and thank you for your punctuality. Thank you for arriving on time every day.

We are proud of you all.

THANK YOU!

Christmas Fayre Fundraising

Following our Christmas Fayre, Elfridges Present Room and Class Christmas gift fundraising, I am very proud to announce that we raised the huge total of **£1551.24**. This is just amazing and we want to thank Mrs James and all the Friends of St Matthias who made this happen by donating much of their time and energy to this event. Thank you also to the parents who donated items and spent their money in order to raise this super amount. The money always goes back to the children to benefit their education and provision. SO a big **"THANK YOU!"**

Important Building Work at St Matthias Commencing in January 2024

I would like to inform you all of an extension project that is commencing in January 2024.

The extension will be added onto the back of our Nursery and Year One area. This means that there may be some disruption to the running of the school day, the entrance where Nursery parents arrive and depart and some areas of school will be closed to children and all adults.



The contractors are keeping their equipment and resources in the KS1 enclosed area, so that part of the playground and the climbing frame will not be in use. Please do not allow your children to enter this area at collection or drop off time.

The Nursery gate will also be closed off to parents so Nursery parents must use the bottom KS1 gate to access to and from Nursery, as seen in this picture.



The first two weeks will have the most disruption as they remove the soil from the site of the build and transport it to the site of removal. A risk assessment has been completed, all work will stop across the playground when the children have their break times.

The Nursery and Reception area will be reduced in space, however they will have special barriers protecting them and keeping them safe in the area allocated for play.

Although, this will be disruptive for a short period of time, particularly for our Year One, Reception and Nursery classes, it is a necessary build and the younger children will enjoy watching the machinery at work at a safe distance.

We thank you for your support and vigilance during this period of work.



NOTICEBOARD



REMINDERS

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

New After School Activity Clubs will commence two weeks into the new term.

CLASS EVENTS

Reception Hearing Tests
Please complete the online NHS form.
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.

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

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

Womens Aid 24hr Helpline

0800 980 3331

Mens 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.